



# Newsletter



O.I.C. Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture  
December 2001

No. 56

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**The Seventeenth Session of IRCICA's Governing Board held in Istanbul**

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**Kazakhstan ~ cultural statistics**

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

December 2001, No. 56

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My opening words for this issue are warm greetings to our readers for Eid al-Fitr, Christmas and the New Year and the wish, certainly shared by all, that the times ahead may lead intellects and spirits to converge in what could be a basic condition of their coexistence: universal understanding between peoples.

"Understanding" as is meant here implies respect of the values and merits of each culture and concern for its preservation. In the present environment where cultural diversities have become key determinants of international relations, fulfilment of this need puts a major challenge on policy makers. By the same token, the platforms where different cultures meet – either permanently within the framework of institutions or recurrently in organised encounters - promise to be increasingly instrumental in creating objective grounds of understanding between them.

The Organisation of Islamic Conference, representing fifty-seven countries with predominantly Muslim populations and diversified cultural traditions, has always given due emphasis to the cultural aspects of international relations. From the early 1970s, the OIC formed its structure in a way to convene forums whereby its member countries would cultivate cultural as well as other forms of cooperation. This aim materialised in the establishment of IRCICA, its subsidiary research centre, which undertook to build cultural links among member countries and also with other countries and communities across the world. IRCICA serves as a common international platform for studying the Islamic civilisation and presenting it to the world at large, and thus serves the cause of promoting understanding between cultures. The Centre's activities are defined and planned in a realistic, foresighted, and also resilient manner, to be adjusted to future requirements if and when necessary.

The Governing Board of IRCICA, at its 17<sup>th</sup> session held in presence of His Excellency Dr. Abdelouahed Belkéziz, Secretary General of the OIC, frequently referred to the above facts while examining the Centre's work plans and projects. H.E. the Secretary General and the members of the Board, all of whom are distinguished scholars and cultural figures from the member countries, made observations on the present state of inter-cultural relations and their consequences

for the Muslim world. They devoted a notable portion of their talks to an evaluation and appraisal of the Centre's role in this respect. The Board expressly underlined the need to support and amplify the Centre's activities relating to that aspect of its mission which consists of representing the Muslim world in the world cultural arena.

We were most honoured to receive H.E. Dr. Belkéziz at IRCICA. This first visit of the Secretary General to the Centre and his participation in the closing session of the Board's meeting will always be remembered as memorable events in the Centre's history. On behalf of my colleagues and myself, I would like to reiterate our gratitude to H.E. the Secretary General for the support he has extended to IRCICA since he took the office at the head of the OIC, his encouragement of our activities, and in particular, for visiting the Centre, honouring with his presence the Governing Board's meeting and contributing to its proceedings.

I would like to mention, last, that one of the OIC's periodical forums of cultural cooperation, namely the Conference of Culture Ministers of the OIC Member States, held its third session in Doha, Qatar, on 29-31 December, just as the present issue was put to press. We shall include information on this conference in the next issue of the Newsletter, but I would like to take the present opportunity to express my gratitude and appreciation to the Ministers of Culture for having re-affirmed their support to IRCICA, during our bilateral meetings as well as in the conference sessions. We look forward to further expanding and diversifying our cooperation with the Member States' Ministries, academic and research institutions.

We hope that our readers interested in arts and handicrafts will be pleased to find in this issue the announcement of the international congress on "Islamic Arts and Crafts" to be organised by IRCICA jointly with the Ministry of Culture of Iran, in Isfahan, next October. Last but not the least, I am pleased to inform you that we have included detailed information on this and all other projects of IRCICA in our newly re-arranged and expanded web site. We invite you to visit it.

*Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu*

## H.E. DR. ABDELOUAHED BELKEZIZ, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANISATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE, VISITED IRCICA

H.E. Dr. Abdelouahed Belkéziz, Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, paid a full-day visit to IRCICA on 19 October 2001. It was a most memorable day for the Director General and his colleagues: the Secretary General saw the Centre's activities on the spot and participated in the Seventeenth Session of IRCICA's Governing Board.

Before coming to Istanbul, the Secretary General of OIC made a series of official visits in the capital Ankara, where he was received by H.E. Ahmet Necdet Sezer, President of the Republic of Turkey, H.E. Mr. Bülend Ecevit, Prime Minister, and H.E. Mr. İsmail Cem, Minister of Foreign Affairs. The Secretary General's program of meetings in Istanbul was made up mainly of his visit to IRCICA and his participation in the Board's meeting. The Secretary General was accompanied by Ambassador Ahmad Ali Ghazali, Assistant Secretary General, Ambassador Dr. Saadeddine Tayeb, Counsellor, and Mr. Bilal Sousse, Protocol Officer.

Director General Prof. İhsanoğlu welcomed H.E. Dr. Belkéziz at the main gate of Yıldız Palace and guided him to the research departments in the Yaveran building, where the staff in charge presented their projects and showed samples of publications, data banks and documents relating to their activities. Each of the departments and sections of the Centre were presented to H.E. the Secretary General, including the photographic archive and laboratory. The Secretary General gave his opinions. Fruitful conversations were held in each office. Then followed a visit to the library located in the Çit Qasr building. Books focusing the history, the arts and the languages of OIC member countries were on display in one of the rooms. The Secretary General visited an exhibition of paintings on the "History of the Exodus from Palestine" by Ismail and Tamam Shammout which was arranged in the exhibition and conference hall. The same day, Secretary General Dr. Abdelouahed Belkéziz participated in the Seventeenth Session of the Governing Board of IRCICA. Before the Board's closing session, the Director General invited the Secretary General and his assistants to meet with the members of the Board and the staff of the Centre assembled in the conference hall. This coming together of IRCICA's larger family reflected a sense of togetherness and a shared feeling of pride in IRCICA's accomplishments. It was a memorable occasion for everyone present, and an unforgettable moment for the staff





members who were meeting the Secretary General for the first time. Following the Director General's welcoming address, the Chairperson of the Governing Board H.R.H. Princess Wijdan Ali took the floor and expressed her pleasure, on behalf of the Board and herself, that this session of the Board was being held in presence of H.E. the Secretary General. She outlined the proceedings of the working sessions and described the increasingly important mission IRCICA is fulfilling in the cultural field. Prof. Dr. Abdul Hafiz Helmy Mohammed, Vice-Chairperson of the Board spoke of the achievements of IRCICA and praised the steady progress it has managed to achieve from its establishment until now. H.E. Dr. A. Belkéziz, Secretary General of the OIC delivered an address, highlighting the salient traits of IRCICA's cultural mission and expressing his appreciation of its performance. The texts of these addresses are given below.

### **WELCOMING ADDRESS OF PROF. DR. EKMELEDDİN İHSANOĞLU, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IRCICA**

I am honoured to welcome you, the Secretary General of OIC H.E. Dr. Belkéziz, the distinguished members of IRCICA's Governing Board, and my colleagues. It gives me great pleasure to be speaking on this very auspicious occasion, where for the first time in IRCICA's history, three components of the OIC's structure came together, namely, the Secretary General, the members of the Governing Board, and the Centre's staff. I consider this moment as a memorable, pleasant and rare one in the Centre's history. Certainly, this has been made possible after H.E. Dr. Belkéziz's taking the office at the head of the OIC at the beginning of this year and thanks to the ambitious and enthusiastic efforts he has launched in order to bring a dynamic and faster progress to the Organisation and enable it to keep up with the requirements of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In the present period when peoples of the world face hard circumstances, the OIC's role as an organisation representing one and half billion people and 57 countries acquires even greater importance. These countries possess a wealth of cultural resources and heritage. We ought to make it known to the whole world that we are not consumers of the contemporary civilisation; on the contrary, we are one of its producers.

H.E. the Secretary General's visit to our Centre this morning gave us great honour and happiness. During the two-hour visit, we tried to present some of our activities. My colleagues were delighted to meet H.E. the Secretary General and explain their studies and projects to him. I believe that under the direction of H.E. Dr. Belkéziz, a new period will begin in the Centre's advancement. On behalf of the staff of IRCICA and myself, I once more welcome and express my greetings to H.E. the Secretary General and the Governing Board's Chairperson and members on the occasion of the closing session of the Board's meeting. (Original: Arabic)

**ADDRESS OF H.R.H. PRINCESS WIJDAN ALI, CHAIRPERSON  
OF THE GOVERNING BOARD**

On the occasion of the Board's seventeenth session where we are honoured to welcome H.E. Dr. Belkéziz, we would like to congratulate him for his noble mission. We hope that the existing cooperation between the General Secretariat and IRCICA will be maintained and joint activities will be undertaken, especially to fight the difficulties that Islamic civilisation and Muslims are facing in the present time when misunderstandings between civilisations are growing against the will and without the involvement of Muslims, so as to lay stable bases for a dialogue between civilisations and give continuity to the efforts of IRCICA, which is the most active cultural centre of the Muslim world and which gives the best answer to attacks directed at the Islamic civilisation. The Centre's activities, its programs aimed at preserving the cultural heritage and its publications on various aspects of Islamic civilisation are highly important, because they are introducing these to the whole world, including the Muslims themselves. It is a pity that we, as Muslims, are unaware of our own and of others' achievements; for example, peoples in the Balkans, the Middle East or Africa are not informed of each other's endeavours. We hope that IRCICA's activities will progress with the support and encouragement of H.E. Dr. Belkéziz, and we are all at the service of IRCICA. We are ready to contribute, from various parts of the world, to the work that IRCICA undertakes in its fields of specialty. I thank the members of the Board for their contributions to the present meeting.

I shall soon meet Mr. Ismail Shammout and Mrs. Tamam Al-Akhal Shammout in Amman. I would like to thank them for taking it as their duty to tell the whole world what happened in occupied Palestine and to do it by way of arts and culture and in the language of painting, which everybody understands. I wish to thank, in particular, Prof. Dr. İhsanoğlu, for his continuous endeavours at the Centre and for directing it. I also express my thanks to the staff of the Centre for their loyal and diligent efforts, which constitute the main pillar of the Centre's success. (Original: Arabic)

**ADDRESS OF PROF. DR. ABDUL HAFIZ HELMY MOHAMMED,  
VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF THE GOVERNING BOARD**

One of the many reasons of our happiness and pride today is that it has been possible to have H.E. the Secretary General of OIC participate in the sessions of this meeting. The Secretary General has also seen the Centre's operations on the spot: the "factory" and its staff. I believe the Secretary General appreciates this Centre, and that the latter, with its full efficiency, succeeded in attaining a privileged place in his mind, which led him to give it care and attention. We pray to God that He may help the Centre, strengthen it and grant it success.

IRCICA's research projects are long-term: the preparatory phase is followed by the actual implementation and it is finalised with a publication. The latest such product is in our hands today: a book containing the proceedings of a symposium on carpets in the Muslim world, which comprises 65 papers by specialists from the East and the West, from within and outside the Muslim world. IRCICA's researches cover a wide area from Southeast Asia to North Africa and the Balkans. The Centre did remarkable works in Bosnia and Herzegovina and helped to save its architectural monuments from destruction by acting promptly. For the future, the Centre plans to diversify and increase its activities, in order to highlight the noble civilisation and the humanitarian principles of Islam. The attacks targeted at Islam, aimed at dimming its light, are rooted in ignorance, enmity or extremism; therefore, their perpetrators include people from various backgrounds. IRCICA tries to make known the exemplary features and the valuable tenets of Islam by means of scholarly studies. It is this kind of an endeavour that the Muslim world needs in the present time. My intention is not to list and describe the Centre's activities but only to illustrate the width of their time frame and geographical scope. Realising these large-scale projects and obtaining their results depends on perseverance and patience, on monitoring the needs and requirements. This stability was given to the Centre from the very start, since the OIC entrusted the task to a person who can best perform it. I am not saying this as praise; I would like to recall a saying of Prophet Mohammed, which means "Many earlier tribes disappeared, because they failed in telling the one who did good that he did good and the one who did wrong that he did wrong". Prof. İhsanoğlu is by nature a creative person well versed in many fields. He did postgraduate studies in science, particularly chemistry, specialised in history of science, and gained experience in humanities. He knows Turkish, Arabic and English perfectly well. I read the literary works he wrote in his youth, which reflect his correct views and perfect vision. He knows the methods suitable for cooperation with people from different milieus. He is capable of selecting the appropriate specialists to form the best team. It is so perfect a match that it is as if this person was created for this Centre and this Centre was created so that he finds his right place in it and deploys his capabilities. Continuity and foresight are brought by the stability of the Centre's administration and staff, whereas innovation is ensured by the periodical replacement of the Board members. (Original: Arabic)

**ADDRESS OF HIS EXCELLENCY DR. ABDELOUAHED BELKEZIZ, SECRETARY  
GENERAL OF THE ORGANISATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE  
AT THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF IRCICA  
ISTANBUL, 19 OCTOBER 2001**

I would like to express, first, my appreciation of the regularity of the Governing Board's work and of its meetings, as it convened annually since the Centre's establishment, which is an indicator of dynamism and continuity. I take this occasion to thank the Board's Chairperson, who is known for her involvement in cultural deeds and her knowledge of the Islamic culture, and all the members, and congratulate them. The activities undertaken by this Centre in the various fields of its mandate, covering the Islamic culture, civilisation and heritage, are a source of pride for us, and I wish all institutions attain a similar level of efficiency in their respective fields. I am saying this in all sincerity, and I said it before coming to visit this Centre. This visit will not remain in memories only; it has justified and strengthened the close support I shall continue to extend to its activities.

I congratulate every one of you for the efforts you are making in your respective fields of specialisation. The information I received this morning from the staff in charge of the different projects has convinced me and made me proud of this centre of the OIC. I would be happy to get the same impression when I visit the other centres. Yours is an exemplary and successful institution of the OIC. I hope you will continue to work in the same direction and to assist your distinguished Director General in his functions. He has won my full trust and I shall give my support to him. I have mentioned it to H.E. the President of Turkey and congratulated the Republic of Turkey for the performance of IRCICA. I also expressed the same thoughts to H.E. the Prime Minister and H.E. the Minister of Foreign Affairs. This is an objective and unexaggerated observation, and the publications and activity reports issued by the Centre confirm it. As known, the OIC has other centres working in different fields, including politics, economics, trade, etc. Our meeting here today is not only due to our recognising this Centre's capacities as a cultural institution; it is also due to its being a subsidiary of a political Organisation, which assumes immense responsibilities in the contemporary world and which is in need of the work of this Centre.

I would like to emphasise once more what I suggested this morning to the dynamic Director General: I suggested that under the hard conditions we are facing, it is not necessary to adopt a defensive approach in presenting the Islamic civilisation, because this civilisation does not need it, but what is necessary is to introduce it through the various media channels, particularly the Arab channels that could allow us to broadcast briefly on this subject, given that the Centre has the capacity to supply all the necessary information on Islam civilisation, its contributions to the progress of humanity and how the latter benefited from it. I reaffirm it to the Director General in the presence of the Board members that I am always ready to give my support and to do my best to enlist the assistance of any other party that could help the Centre. Before concluding, I would like to assure the Centre's employees that their future is in the hands of their Director General and their own, because what a Secretary General would do for such a useful and successful institution working under his supervision is but to support it and preserve it. You will continue to fulfil your tasks under the management of your Director General and hopefully, we shall meet again next year to dwell upon further positive developments. I wish you happiness and success. Thank you. (Original: Arabic)

## THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF IRCICA GOVERNING BOARD

The Governing Board of IRCICA held its seventeenth session on 18-19 October 2001, at IRCICA's headquarters in Yıldız Palace. The meeting was chaired by H.R.H. Princess Wijdan Ali (Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan), Chairperson of the Board in its fifth term, with the participation of the following members: Prof. Dr. Abdul Hafiz Helmy Mohammed (Vice-Chairperson, Arab Republic of Egypt); Prof. Dr. Günsel Renda (Republic of Turkey); Dr. Saad bin Abdul Aziz Al Rashid (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia); H.E. Ambassador Ahmad Ali Ghazali, Assistant Secretary General for Cultural and Social Affairs of the OIC, representing H.E. the Secretary General of the OIC; Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Director General of IRCICA.



H.E. Dr. Abdelouahed Belkéziz, Secretary General of the OIC, honoured the closing session of the meeting, where he delivered an address. At the opening, Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Director General of IRCICA, recalled that this was the first session of the Board to be held after the twentieth anniversary of the Centre. He said that during the commemoration of this anniversary, it was seen once more that IRCICA had earned recognition in the world as a centre of excellence and a promoter of Islamic culture and learning. He underlined that the Centre was expected to play an increasing role in the present period, where themes related to the dialogue of civilisations and relations between Islam and other religions and cultures acquire greater significance. He evoked the visit of H.E. the Secretary General of OIC to the Centre and the honour given by his participation in the closing session of the Board. The Director General said that the OIC had gained a new dynamism and a new impulse since the Secretary General's taking the office at the head of the General Secretariat. Then, H.R.H. Princess Wijdan Ali, Chairperson of the Board, gave an address, in which she made a reference to the present state of affairs facing the world in general and the Muslim countries in particular, recalling the negative biases that are often being directed at Islam and Islamic civilisation. She underlined the need to promote a better understanding between the civilisations. She underscored the importance of the Centre's role in this regard, stating that the Centre's action provides the best answer towards counteracting these negative currents. H.R.H. expressed the wish that the OIC strengthens its support of the Centre to help it perform its tasks effectively and to respond to such attacks in a scholarly manner through its activities in the cultural, intellectual and artistic fields. She said that IRCICA is considered as one of the most important and most successful cultural centres of the Muslim world.

H.E. Ambassador Ahmad Ali Ghazali, Assistant Secretary General of OIC, said that IRCICA was one of the most prominent and most important centres of the OIC and that it was accomplishing perfectly its tasks aimed at reviving the Islamic heritage, this rich heritage which remains incompletely known to Muslims as well as non-Muslims. Ambassador Ghazali thanked the Director General and the staff of IRCICA for the important efforts they were deploying to realise the Centre's tasks. He pointed out that the Islamic civilisation is a complete civilisation and that it is a source of rationalism and knowledge for mankind.

The Board held its sessions in the Centre's conference and exhibition hall at Çit Qasr, Yıldız Palace. The following members of IRCICA's Executive Committee also attended the meeting: Ms. Zeynep Durukal, Mr. Mohammed Tamimi, Mr. Nazih Maarouf, Mr. Ahmed Lajimi, Ms. Semiramis Çavuşoğlu, Mr. Acar Tanlak and Ms. Turuncan Kevser.



At the first working session, the Director General of IRCICA presented his report, comprised of two parts: a review of the implementation of the 2001-2002 work plan and an outline of the work plan for the activity year 2002-2003. He made a special reference to some activities realised since the 16<sup>th</sup> session of the Board, in particular the international symposium on Islamic Civilisation in Volga-Ural Region, held in Kazan, on 8-11 June 2001 under the patronage of H.E. Mintimer Shaimiev, President of the Republic of Tatarstan and in cooperation with scholarly institutions of Tatarstan and the Russian Federation, and also the Centre's participation in a number of conferences and meetings convened by the OIC, as well as the architectural workshops "Mostar 2004" which were organised by IRCICA in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Director General also mentioned the books published last year, including those concerning the history of Muslim nations, the history of science and the history of arts in the Muslim world. He spoke of the projects envisaged for the coming period, especially the international symposia to be organised in the member countries, including a congress on the centuries-long

contributions of Islamic civilisation in building universal civilisation, and the symposium on Islamic arts to be held in Isfahan, Iran in October 2002.

The Board noted with appreciation that the Centre implemented many projects in cooperation with cultural and scholarly institutions in the Member States and other countries. It underlined the need to foster relations between the Centre and the focal points in the Member States, in particular the Ministries of Culture, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, as well as the libraries and other cultural institutions. The Board members also expressed their appreciation of the Centre's activities in the scholarly, cultural and instructional fields, in preserving the monuments of Islamic heritage, and also in providing an exact presentation of Islam, its radiant tenets and accomplishments, which will continue to flourish despite all the negative prejudices targeted at them either purposefully or by ignorance. The Board took note that the Centre participates actively in the implementation of the project initiated by the OIC for the preparation of a draft Universal Call for Dialogue Between Civilisations. Another observation of the Board was related to the support extended by the Foundation for Research on Islamic History, Art and Culture (ISAR) to the Centre in the implementation of a number of research and publication projects. Finally, the Board praised the efforts deployed by the Director General of IRCICA and IRCICA staff which they qualified as "efforts reflecting a creative spirit and a perfect civilisational style".

The presence of H.E. Dr. Abdelouahed Belkéziz in the Board's session, combined with the latter's coinciding with a period marked by extraordinary circumstances in international relations, gave this meeting a special significance. The talks underscored some aspects of IRCICA's mission that are geared towards meeting the new challenges that face peoples of the world in the cultural fields of their relations. This meeting will remain as a most memorable one for IRCICA and its Governing Board.

## CULTURAL DATA ON OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES

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

### KAZAKHSTAN

#### Summary information\*

Population	17,150,000 (1999)
Population density	6.11 per sq. km. (1998)
Av. annual rate of pop. growth	3,65 %
Share of urban population	60 % (1998)
Share of Muslim population	60 %
Language	Kazakh, Russian
Adult literacy rate	99 %
School enrolment ratios (1996)	First level: gross: 98 %; Second level: gross: 87% Third level: gross: 33.3
Expenditure on education as % of Government budget	4.8 % (1997)
Expenditure on education as % of GNP	4.1 % (1996)
Expenditure on R&D as % of Government budget	0.33 %
Radio receivers per 1000 inhabitants	395 (1997)
TV receivers per 1000 inhabitants	237 (1997)
Number of public libraries	7,351 administrative units with 15,055 service points (1998)

#### Cultural institutions

Soros Foundation – Kazaghestan c/o resource center  
Box 254, central post office  
Almaty 480000  
Kazakhstan

The Center of Oriental Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan  
Cos nas rk  
Almaty 480100 Pushkina street 111/113  
Kazakhstan

\* Sources: IRCICA, UNESCO, World Bank, OIC/SESRTCIC

## CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

The present section briefly introduces two institutes in Albania - the *Central State Archives* and the *Albanian Academy of Sciences*, both based in Tirana - and also, two European academic institutions working in the field of Islamic studies: the *Centre of Arabic, Islamic and Mediterranean Culture* of the University of Algarve, Portugal, and the Middle Eastern Studies program of the University of Bergen, Norway. The information below is compiled from their publications.

### The Central State Archives of Albania

The Central State Archives is the main institution where basic documents concerning the history of Albania and the Albanian nation are stored and used. The nucleus of this institution was set up in 1948 within the Institute of Studies and endowed with an important quantity of historical documents, which were kept before in Government offices or in private hands. It acquired its present status as the Central State Archives in 1949 and assumed its functions under the General Directorate of Archives, at the core of the archival network that includes regional and local archives and those of the various State offices. Taking into consideration the quantity and the dates of its collections, this institution is the country's principal archival organ. Its staff includes 35 archivists, 10 laboratory technicians and 12 archive administrators. The documents in the collection are registered with complete information on their origin, type, date and place of production, and contents. Among them are found documents of "national historical importance", that is, those issued by State authorities, non-governmental organisations and legal persons from all fields of activities within and outside the country, from ancient times until the end of World War II, and those produced by central State organs since then. The oldest document in the archives is dated 1443. It is related to the immigration of families from Gjakove and their settlement in Nderfane de Zadrime, north-west of Albania. The majority of the documents are in the Albanian language, but there are also many in Latin, Arabic, old and modern Greek, old and modern Turkish, English, German, French, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, and particularly Italian. These documents are important sources of information on the history of the Albanian people, its struggle for independence, protection of its territory, its national and political causes, and also on such subjects as the standardisation of the Albanian alphabet, and domestic political, economic, cultural and social developments. Some of the collections are important for world culture and civilization; e.g. the series of

approximately 100 codices dating from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, the statutes and codices of craft unions of the 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries, among others. The archive also contains documents related to various international organizations and some figures of world history, politics and culture, such as Justin Godard, Gustav Mayer, Edith Durham, Franz Lizst, the leaders of the Young Turks movement, copies of the correspondence between Napoleon Bonaparte and Ali Pasha of Tepelene, etc. The total number of documents contained in the archive is more than 12,000,000. The documents dating from ancient times until 1912 (proclamation of the Independence), together with those that come from central and local State organs, number approximately 6,660,000; on the other hand, the number of documents that were produced since 1944, mainly by the State organs, are in the number of 5,340,000. An average of 65,000 documents are added to the collection every year, coming from State departments, various public and private parties within and outside the country. In addition to the above, the archive also has a collection of 80,000 photographs and transparencies, around 6,000 sound recordings and video cassettes, and 20,000 musical records.

Classification of the documents is carried out regularly, manually and on computer. Detailed catalogues of the collections are available. Strict measures were taken from the 1950s onwards to introduce modern techniques and create a suitable in-house conditions for the cleaning, preservation and wrapping of the documents. In 1994, the entire archive was put up in a new preservation centre suitable for the purpose, in the outskirts of Tirana. This centre has two buildings and three storehouses established on an area of 2,208 sq. m. The planned reconstruction of the preservation units in the main building, as a joint project and with the assistance of the Swiss Federal Archives, will introduce new facilities and systems of air conditioning and fire-alarms.

The Restoration and Microfilm Laboratories are equipped with the necessary techniques of lamination, measurement of acidity and de-acidification. 27,440,000 sheets were microfilmed until 1998; it is thus possible to avoid utilization of the original documents in meeting about 60% of the requests for access. The average annual number of readers having worked in the reading hall since 1995 is 160. In 1998, the readers used 30,000 sheets, 70% were microfilms. In recent years, a remarkable increase has been observed in the number of citizens applying for personal motives related to matters of nationality,

property and years of employment. The documents contained in the Central State Archives have served as basic references for numerous scholarly works relating to Albanian political, intellectual and literary history and for studies on some important institutions and marking figures. The archive administration has done and published a number of researches based on unpublished documents which shed light on previously unknown aspects of history. The archive's collections are made known to the wider public through the documentary exhibitions held from time to time and articles published in the press.

### The Albanian Academy of Sciences

The Albanian Academy of Sciences is the most prominent scientific and scholarly institution of the country. Established in 1972, it flourished continuously, mirroring the inherent interest of Albanians in science and culture. As known, the Albanian humanists, contemporaries of the European Renaissance, were distinguished in various fields of science. Later, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, during the period when modernization began, the conditions of scientific research were mostly unfavourable, but from then on, a new impetus was given to intellectual and scientific activity in all fields of knowledge, in particular on the history, the language and culture of the Albanian nation. The foundations of the first scientific research institute in Albania were laid in 1946; it was named the Institute of Sciences. It had three sections: language and literature, history and sociology, natural and biological sciences. The country's first higher institutes were opened during the late 1940s and 1950s: the Higher Teacher Training Institute, the Higher Agricultural Institute, the Polytechnical Institute, the Institute of Economics, the Higher Institute of Medicine. The Institute of History and Language was set up in 1955. The founding of the University of Tirana was an important milestone in the country's educational history. The Institute of Sciences was incorporated in its system.

theoretical and practical problems and linking research work with practice, carrying out studies and research in various fields of knowledge, overseeing the opening of new fields of study, encouraging the participation of scientific societies and foundations in scientific activities, and organizing scholarly activities on national and international levels. The academy maintains relations of cooperation with similar institutions in other countries.

The research institutes and centers of the Academy of Sciences are divided into two sections: humanities and science. Those in humanities are the Institute of History, the Institute of Language and Literature (both founded in 1972), the Institute of Folk Culture (founded in 1979), the Centre for Archeological Research (founded in 1976), and the Centre for Arts Studies (founded in 1984). Institutes of science are: the Institute of Nuclear Physics (founded in 1971), the Institute of Informatics and Applied Mathematics, the Centre of Geographical Research (both founded in 1986), the Centre of Biological Research (founded in 1978), the Institute of Hydrometeorology (founded in 1962), the Seismological Centre (founded in 1972), the Laboratory of Hydraulic Research (founded in 1968) and the Centre of Scientific and Technical Information and Documentation (founded in 1981, serves in all scientific and technical fields). All the institutes, departments and sections of the academy publish their own periodical bulletins beside publication of the faculty's research works.

The address of the academy is: Academy of Sciences, Square "Fan Noli", Tirana, Albania; tel. and fax: 355 42 27476, e-mail: esulstar@akad.edu.al

The establishment of the Academy of Sciences responded to the requirements of the time, in order to raise the management of studies and research to a higher scientific level. It was founded by merging some scientific institutions and departments which were affiliated with the University of Tirana. It has the functions of representing the nation's scientific activity, unifying research institutes and centers, solving

## Centre of Arabic, Islamic and Mediterranean Culture, University of Algarve, Portugal

Algarve is Portugal's region where Arab rule lasted the longest, "leaving behind a memory of refinement and culture unknown in any other part of Europe" reads the university's instructive brochure, "Al-Andalus brought to Europe a cultural dimension absolutely unknown at the time and also the rediscovery of the ancient authors translated into Arabic or to Christian languages – some famous translation schools, such as Toledo, were established in Spain. The Arabs also transmitted the legends and the folk tales which are now part of our imagination and we cannot forget the introduction in Europe of new games, such as the game of chess ...".

The University of Algarve has taken the initiative to develop studies connected with Arab and Islamic cultures. With this objective, it has created the Centre of Arabic, Islamic and Mediterranean Culture and assigned it a wide scope of activities, covering all cultural, scientific and socio-economic aspects of the field. The aims of the Centre are:

- To develop various activities connected with the transmission of Arabic and Islamic culture in Portugal and Portuguese culture in Arabic and Islamic countries
- To organize in common projects of research, cooperation and development connected with culture, agriculture, environment and management of natural resources
- To organize socio-economic partnerships and cultural or thematic networks of research and consulting
- To promote the exchange of researchers, scholars and students
- To provide facilities to outside researchers from different countries, in similar areas of study
- To organize colloquia, congresses, round-tables, conferences and seminars in these areas
- To organize language courses in Arabic and other languages of Muslim countries and post-graduate courses in collaboration with other universities and institutions.

Until now, the University of Algarve has organised the following activities relating to Islamic studies: a

Lectureship in Arabic Culture and Language, which was inaugurated in presence of the Ministers of Culture of Morocco and Portugal, with a Seminar; visits of the Ambassadors of Muslim countries in Lisbon to the university and exhibitions, on those occasions, of Islamic objects found in excavations conducted in Algarve, accompanied by presentations of the Centre's activities; an international colloquium on "Portugal, Spain and Morocco, the Mediterranean and the Atlantic", on 2-4 November 2000, which dealt with the identity and social reality of the Mediterranean, the reciprocal influences of languages and literatures, the effects of these cultural relations as reflected in archeology, architecture, art and music.

Following its official opening in October 2001, the Centre is offering facilities for studies in the areas of:

- archeology, arts and architecture
- literature, poetry and music
- history, and Al-Andalus
- society and communication
- agriculture and environment
- natural resources.

The Centre also has a program for M.Phil. in Arab and Islamic Civilisation in the Mediterranean.

The Rector of the University of Algarve is also the President of the Centre; presently Prof. Adriano Pimpao. According to its statute, the Centre has a President Responsible, advisors, an Academic Committee in charge of coordinating the scholarly activities, an Administrative Committee, and an Advisory Committee which includes delegates from Muslim countries' embassies in Lisbon and representatives of local, and regional institutions who are to collaborate with and contribute to the Centre in a consultative capacity.

IRCICA would like to thank Prof. Teresa Judice Gamito, President Responsible, for having introduced the University and provided the above information. The contact address is as follows: Prof. T. J. Gamito, Campus de Gambelas, Universidade do Algarve, 8000, Faro, Portugal; tel.: 351 289 800908, fax: 351 289 818560.

## Middle Eastern Studies program of the University of Bergen, Norway

The University of Bergen has one of the most advanced and most firmly established Middle Eastern studies traditions of the European scholarly environment. Early developments related to research on the Middle East at the University of Bergen were recorded in the 1960s and early 1970s, with the initiation of anthropological studies focusing on the Sudan and Iran. This research interest grew steadily afterwards. Two research centers were set up in the 1980s: the Centre for Development Studies (1986) and the Centre for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies (1988). The first one puts an emphasis on the Middle East although it covers all the developing countries. Today, the University's research milieu in this area is coordinated by the Middle East Centre (SMI). This Centre serves the members of the various departments in the faculties of Arts and Social Sciences who have an interest in studies on the Middle East and develops an inter-departmental circle for them. It also acts as a contact point between scholars and institutions around the world working in this field with their counterparts in Bergen.

Dr. Knut S. Vikor, Director of the Middle East Centre at the University of Bergen wrote, in the Centre's yearbook published in 2001, that Middle Eastern studies at the University of Bergen were traditionally divided geographically between a "southern tier" - Africa, in particular the Sudan, and a "northern tier" - Turkey, Iran, and the countries in Central Asia. Dr. Vikor underlines the University's special academic relations with the Sudan: they derive from the early times of Middle Eastern studies in Bergen, when several scholars did research in the Sudan and taught at the University of Khartoum. He says that these relations go beyond the arts and social sciences, and include academic cooperation in the fields of medicine, dentistry and other sciences. In later years, they have been boosted through the provision of scholarships for Sudanese researchers and the visits of Sudanese scholars. The second dominant regional focus is Turkey; interest is currently growing among historians and philologists for studies on Turkey, Caucasia and Central Asia. A third direction has been, over the last few years, the Indian Ocean as a medium of cultural and economic cooperation and the regions bordering it, from East Africa to Southeast Asia.

The staff members of the University whose research are fully or partly related to Middle Eastern studies come from the following departments: the Section for Arabic (Middle Eastern Languages and Cultures), the Department of Archeology, the Department of Culture Studies, the Department of Geography, the Department of Greek, Latin and Egyptology, the Department of History, the Department of the History of Religions, the Department of

Social Anthropology, the Museum, the Centre for Social Studies, the Centre for Development Studies, and the Centre for Middle Eastern Studies. Individual research projects are grouped under the following main themes: "The interaction of Islam with society", with projects on Islam and society in Africa, the Islamic intellectual tradition in Africa, Arabic literature of Africa, the Timbuktu manuscripts project - aimed at increasing the capacity of the "Institut des Hautes Etudes et de la Recherche Islamiques Ahmed Baba", named as such since July 2000, previously "Centre de Documentation et de Recherches Historiques Ahmed Baba" (introduced in IRCICA Newsletter no. 54, pp. 14-15) and undertaken jointly with CNRT Research Council, Bamako, Northwestern University, with funding from the Ford Foundation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway, the journal *Sudanic Africa* published annually; Muslims in Europe, comprising projects on Islam in Norway, religious movements and developments in the Middle East (in cooperation with the University of Oslo). By country of interest, the research projects and doctoral dissertations include inter-regional studies as well as specific studies on Caucasia and Central Asia, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Pakistan, Palestine, Sudan, Syria, Turkey, Yemen, East and South Africa and the Indian Ocean, the Gulf countries, Southeast Asia, among others.

The Centre has published a number of books and journals. Its books are organised in three main series: the "Bergen Studies on the Middle East and Africa", the "Nordic Research on the Middle East" (in its capacity as the host of the Nordic Society for Middle Eastern Studies involvingscholars from Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden) and "Sudanic Africa Texts and Sources". It welcomes visiting scholars from around the world. The Centre runs a rapidly expanding information service on the web. Its site receives around 2,000 visits a week to its pages. This archive is divided into four main groups of documents: those related to "Middle East Studies in Bergen", comprising lists of publications and catalogues of the Centre's library; the "Nordic Society" files, the "Sudanic Africa" files, and the Arabic Information Centre based on the Arabic, Persian and Turkish fonts which were created at the Centre by Dr. Vikor for transliterations on computer. Dr. Knut Vikor has also compiled a data base for cataloguing Arabic manuscripts, in cooperation with Al-Furqan Foundation (London). Those interested can obtain detailed information on Middle Eastern studies at the University of Bergen from the web site <http://www.hf.uib.no/smi/meb>.

## IRCICA ACTIVITIES

### INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON ISLAMIC ARTS AND CRAFTS

to be held in ISFAHAN, IRAN

4-9 October 2002

The Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) and the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Islamic Republic of Iran, are jointly organising an International Congress on *Islamic Arts and Crafts*, to be held in Isfahan on 4-9 October 2002.

The congress will project the Islamic culture through its arts and crafts by highlighting their beauty and value. In addition, it will suggest ways and means to create favorable conditions for artists and crafts people, conditions which are critical in encouraging them to continue their skills and to transfer them to the next generations. It is essential both for the preservation and the continuity of the cultural heritage of the Muslim world.

It is expected that the congress will discuss important issues related to design and methods used, technical cooperation and developing skills, exchange of practiced techniques, improvement of the quality of production, education and training of skilled artisans, financing, economy, marketing and the obstacles encountered, patronage and national policies. The major objective of this congress is to promote and assist the creation of an awareness of Islamic arts and crafts in the world. It is hoped that it will provide interesting new approaches and possible solutions to some of the major problems facing the future of Islamic arts and crafts development. The event will also be a good opportunity for assessing and determining the prospects of economic, social and cultural development of Islamic arts and crafts in various regions.

#### *Project concept*

Towards this end, scholars of history of art, experts, and institutions concerned with Islamic arts and crafts will be brought together in an international congress. This would provide them with the opportunity to pool their knowledge and experience in investigating and assessing the state of arts and crafts, the development achieved, and the methods adopted in different countries for the identification of pertinent issues, problems and prospects. This congress, apart from being a valuable forum for the sharing of experiences between relevant organisations and countries, will also address specific issues for future development in a wide variety of fields. The congress aims to explore major issues that will determine the future directions concerning creativity in Islamic arts and crafts.

#### *Major panels*

Over five days, a group of speakers and panels of eminent scholars and specialists in Islamic arts and crafts will present their findings. The congress will discuss the following 24 subject areas related to Islamic arts and crafts:

#### Main Topic

1- Islamic Arts and Crafts: Past, Present and Future

#### Sub-Topics

- 2- Philosophical interpretation of Islamic arts,
- 3- The role of arts in inter-cultural dialogue.
- 4- Islamic architecture: revival and re-use of the traditional patterns,
- 5- Arts in the Bazaars,
- 6- Illustration of artisans in Islamic traditional textiles,
- 7- Modern modes of education and training in embroidery,

- 8- Modern modes of education and training in the national costumes,
- 9- Art of calligraphy and future developments,
- 10- Rare manuscripts,
- 11- Creativity in miniature painting,
- 12- The art of marbling and paper making: today and future prospects,
- 13- Gilding and binding in the Muslim world,
- 14- The art of wooden works and its development,
- 15- Tiles and ceramics: developments through history and new applications,
- 16- Creative Islamic ornaments on metal craft-works,
- 17- Carpets and "kilim"s and role in the cultural and economic life of Member States,
- 18- The influence of Islamic arts and crafts on European art,



#### Islamic Arts and Modern Technology

- 19- Limits that Islamic traditional arts can come across in its interaction with modern technology?
- 20- Introduction of Islamic arts and crafts into outside the Muslim world,
- 21- Technical cooperation for developing skills and exchange of applied techniques,
- 22- Role of Government and private agencies for exploring opportunities of growth and preservation of traditional arts and crafts,
- 23- Changing perspectives of Islamic arts in new economic realities: economic and financial factors,
- 24- Marketing difficulties in the field of Islamic arts and crafts.

Paper presentations will be followed by brief reports by countries and specialists and a general discussion.

#### *Aims*

The Congress aims to realise the following targets:

- To assess the present state of Islamic arts and crafts in the Islamic world and to determine the economic, social and cultural measures that need to be taken for the future development of this field;
- To discuss measures that can be taken to guard against the loss of Islamic values and traditions with a view towards maintaining the uniqueness of Islamic arts and crafts heritage;
- To encourage young artisans to produce new works;
- To develop a strategy for global cooperation on this subject area.

#### *Expectations*

The publication and dissemination of the proceedings of the congress report in English, Arabic, and Persian is expected to be the tangible product and result of the meeting as an immediate contribution. Regional comparative overviews of the state of arts and crafts development are expected to be the output of this meeting. The collection of data and information and the issues, problems and prospects to be highlighted would provide the base line data to develop programs of action and technical assistance in fostering a dynamic strategy for the rehabilitative commercialisation of arts and crafts. Furthermore, an effort will be made to follow up those proposals for the development of arts and crafts to emanate from the congress.

#### *Participation*

Participation will include: OIC Member States, international organisations and institutions working in this field, universities, academicians, scholars of history of arts, policy-makers, planners, arts administrators, artisans, and specialists dealing with these arts, and artisans who will display their own works.

### *Modes of implementation*

Each participating country will nominate one art specialist to present a paper on the present state of the sector. The delegates are required to prepare a country report, which will form the basis of general discussions and provide input for the congress sessions. In addition, each member country will nominate two master artisans along with tools, workshops and exhibits, to be displayed within the activities of the congress. Each country will also contribute color slides, photographs, posters, brochures, books and other materials related to the traditional arts. These materials will constitute the nucleus of a special exhibition of publications on Islamic arts and crafts.

### *Language*

The papers of the congress will be presented in English, Arabic and Persian.

### *Special Program*

The Congress will include, besides other attractions:

1- An International Walk of the participants including the artisans under a slogan entitled: 'Revival and Preservation of the Islamic Cultural Heritage'.

Friday, 4 October 2002, Imam Naghsh-e Jahan Square

The main aim is to create an international awareness of the importance of this heritage, as well as highlighting the kinds of danger it faces which affects its existence and necessitate an international collaboration for taking urgent measures to safeguard these important monuments in the world.

2- Exhibition of a set of masterpieces of Islamic arts and crafts

This exhibition will display pieces of excellence in the field of Islamic arts and crafts presenting different types, designs and styles applied in various regions of OIC countries.

3- Artisans as at Work and Pavilions

Artists, skilled crafts people will display their skills and products through country pavilions of arts and crafts - a craft Bazaar to provide interaction between crafts commerce and production. Master artisans from the member states of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) will display their skills, techniques and the excellence of their work in specially designed exhibition pavilions.

Pavilions each of 12x10 feet space is proposed to be provided for participating individual artisans, while pavilions of 10x36 feet each could be provided to country pavilions.

4- Site visits to the workshops of Artisans

The program will include site visits to see artisans-at-work in Isfahan. Master artisans will display skills, techniques, various designs and products of their art works.

5- Exhibition of cultural publications and relevant materials

Other display stalls will include cultural productions, audio and videocassettes, multi-media publications and books on Islamic arts and crafts.

6- A program of cultural tours

Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Islamic Republic of Iran, will organize trips to the historical and monument places in Isfahan and some other further sites.

*Accommodation*

Delegates and participants will be accommodated at major hotels in Isfahan. The organisers will be pleased to assist in bookings. The Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance of the Islamic Republic of Iran shall extend certain facilities for those participants who wish to attend on their own by offering them special discounts and rates in various hotels in Isfahan.

*Local transport*

The organisers will provide free local transport to all delegations including transport from and to the airport along with transport between the hotel and the congress venue.

*Travel discounts*

The Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Islamic Republic of Iran will undertake the necessary contacts and arrangements with Iran Air for providing a special discount to all delegations in all destinations where it operates flight schedules.

*Applications and deadline*

Each completed registration form must reach the International Coordinator by *30 April 2002* at the latest.

*Congress Coordinators*

<p>International Coordinator            Dr. Nazeih Taleb MAAROUF            Head, Crafts Development Program            IRCICA,            P.O.Box 24, Beşiktaş 80692,            İstanbul, Turkey            Fax: 00-90-212-2584365            Tel: 00-90-212-2591742, Ext.: 115            00-90-212-2605988/89</p>	<p>National Coordinator            Mr. Hassan AMINIAN            Advisor to the President            Head of Bureau of International Organizations            Organization of Culture and Islamic Relations            P.O.Box 15815-3516            Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran            Fax: 0098-21- 8833029            Tel: 0098-21-8153526,            Mobile: 0098-911-2308314</p>
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You may wish to visit IRCICA's renovated and expanded web site:  
<http://ircica.org>

Starting from the next issue (no. 57), the *Newsletter* will be disseminated on-line in the above web site and distributed by mail to subscribers only.

THE UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO CONFERRED  
THE HONORARY DOCTORATE UPON PROF. EKMELEDDİN İHSANOĞLU



*Prof. Dr. Boris Tihi, President of the University of Sarajevo, presented the Honorary Doctorate to Prof. Ihsanoğlu*

Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Director General of IRCICA, was conferred an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Sarajevo. At a ceremony held on 9 October 2001 in presence of H.E. Dr. Saffet Halilović, President of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Prof. Dr. Boris Tihi, President of the University of Sarajevo, presented the degree, stating that it was an expression of appreciation for the special care and attention Prof. Ihsanoğlu had devoted to the study, protection, preservation and development of the cultural, scientific and architectural heritage of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Among those present at the ceremony, there were the Minister of Culture of Bosnia and Herzegovina Prof. Dr. Demirović, the Minister of Education Dr. Fahrudin Rizvanbegović, the former Ministers of Culture and Education, as well as Reis-ul Ulama Mr. Mustafa Cerić, the Ambassador of Turkey and other members of the diplomatic corps in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and many scholars, professionals and specialists who had worked on the preservation and restoration of the country's cultural heritage since the 1990s. Following the speech of Prof. Dr. Boris Tihi, President of the University of Sarajevo, the scholar and former Minister of Culture Prof. Dr. Enes Karić spoke of the various contributions of Prof. Ihsanoğlu towards highlighting the multicultural character of Bosnia and Herzegovina, his initiating and coordinating a variety of programs and projects within the framework of IRCICA's work plans, concerning various aspects of the written and architectural heritage. Then, Prof. Ihsanoğlu conveyed his impressions and his personal experiences related to Bosnia and Herzegovina. He reviewed the progress of his working relations with the Presidency, the Government authorities, the educational, cultural and media institutions and various personalities in Bosnia since the early 1990s. He recalled his visits to Bosnia, in particular his first visit, in

1995, during the war. He said that this relationship had created in him a feeling of affection for and solidarity with this nation and this country and a serious concern about its cultural heritage. His personal relationship with Bosnia and Herzegovina was one of a volunteer representative of the country. He recalled that IRCICA's studies on the history and cultural heritage of Bosnia and Herzegovina had started before the war; former President Alija Izetbegović's visit to the Centre in 1991 had been a milestone in this process. The activities were intensified and laid out in the form of work plans immediately after the beginning of the war. IRCICA was one of the first international institutions to take steps and organise a multinational effort towards raising public awareness on Bosnia and Herzegovina and mobilising assistance for the restoration of its assets.

The previous day, 8 October, another scholarly meeting took place at the Bosnian Academy of Arts and Sciences, for the promotion of the Bosnian language edition of IRCICA's book *The West and Islam. Towards A Dialogue* (original English edition published in 1999). The following three leading figures of the cultural circles promoted the book: Prof. Dr. Mohammed Mraharović, Director of Al-Kalam Publishers, Prof. Dr. Mirko Pejanović, a well-known intellectual, and Prof. Dr. Mohammed Filipović, Vice-President of the Bosnian Academy of Arts and Sciences. After their speeches, Prof. Ihsanoğlu gave a lecture entitled «A Simplistic Stereotype Versus the Complex Reality: Is Islam A Threat to the West?»<sup>9</sup> In this lecture, he reviewed the major political and cultural trends observed on the world political arena and the developments related to international power balances in the post-Cold War era, with special reference to the aftermath of the 11 September attacks on the USA. He dwelt on the

cultural dimensions of these global trends and their possible implications for, and repercussions on, the relations between peoples of different cultures. He pinpointed those factors and issues involved in this process which bear particular relevance to the prospects of establishing understanding and dialogue between civilisations in the context of globalisation. In this lecture, Prof. İhsanoğlu elaborated upon some of the themes covered in the book *The West and Islam. Towards A Dialogue*, in the light of recent events and developments.

Sarajevo University's conferring the Honorary Doctorate to Prof. İhsanoğlu and the meetings and the lectures held in this connection were covered by the press. *Business Week Bosnia and Herzegovina* published by Futura Media wrote that

"In this way, Bosnia and Herzegovina honoured and expressed its gratitude to a man who has been a sincere friend of the country over the last ten years". An article by Dr. Ekrem Dupanovic, Director and Editor-in-Chief of *Business Magazine* and author, titled "A Man with Bosnia in His Heart" published an extensive review of Prof. İhsanoğlu's services as a promoter of cultural cooperation, particularly as an organiser of international assistance for the implementation of IRCICA's activities towards rebuilding the country's cultural heritage. The article outlines the lecture delivered at the Bosnian Academy of Arts and Sciences and underlines its parts relating to the cultural implications of the recent political developments.

## Public lectures

Public lectures are given at IRCICA on Saturdays twice a month, from October to June both inclusive, and also at other times on the occasion of visits of scholars, researchers, artists etc. from abroad who are specialised in the Centre's fields of activities. These lectures address a wide range of themes related to culture, art, history of art, history of science, language, literature, the Muslim world, Islamic studies, and connected subjects. They are recorded on cassettes and serve as reference materials. Following are the titles of lectures given recently:

- Dr. Engin Yenal, "Attempts of Museology Towards Reviving Tradition", 8 September 2001
- Dr. Necati Aktaş (Asst. Director, Directorate General of State Archives), "Re-organisation of the Ottoman Archives", 22 September 2001
- Arch. Dr. Ümit Elgin, "The Maiden Tower", 6 October 2001
- Mr. Coşkun Yılmaz (researcher, author), "An Ottoman – İbrahim Müteferrika" [founder of the first printing house in the Ottoman State], lecture and exhibition of books printed by Müteferrika
- Dr. Sitare Turan (Mimar Sinan University, Dept. of Traditional Arts), "Tile Works in the Damascus Style", 3 Nov. 2001
- Prof. Dr. Mehmet İpşirli (Fatih University, Dept. of History), "The Ottoman *İlmiye* Class", 29 December 2001

## Art exhibitions

### Exhibition of Contemporary Iranian Painters



Paintings by nine contemporary Iranian artists were presented to the visitors in IRCICA's exhibition hall, from 21-30 September 2001. The works were selected from the collections of the Museum of Contemporary Arts of Iran and previously exhibited in museums of Zagreb. The participating painters were: Fereshteh Yamini Sharif (b. 1960, Tehran), Masoumeh Mozaffari (b. 1958, Tehran), Rozita Sharaf Jahan (b. 1962, Tehran, BA in Painting, MA in Research of Art), Reza Bangiz (b. 1937, Tehran, doctorate-level degree in Fine Arts), Manijeh Sehhi (b. 1955, Tehran, MA in Painting), Karim Nasr (b. 1953, Rasht, MA in Painting), Mehrdad Mohebbali (b. 1960, Tehran, graduate of the Faculty of Fine Arts, Tehran University), Hossein Moradnejad (b. 1964, Kerman, MA in Painting).

### Painting exhibition: "The Exodus from Palestine"



Paintings of the Palestinian artist Ismail Shammout and his wife and partner Tamam Shammout (Al-Akhal) were exhibited at IRCICA from 15-24 October 2001. For the last four years, the two painters have unified their careers in a long-term project, which consists of relating the plight of the Palestinian people, which they are part of, by the medium of paintings. Their elaborate depictions of scenes of destitution, separation and exile on wall-sized panels of canvas reflect sentiments of despair, suffering and longing, but also hope, attachment and ambition. Each of the painters has a different style and a different emphasis on themes, thus complementing

each other. The couple previously exhibited their works on a number of occasions around the world. This exhibition at IRCICA was organised thanks to the cooperation extended by the

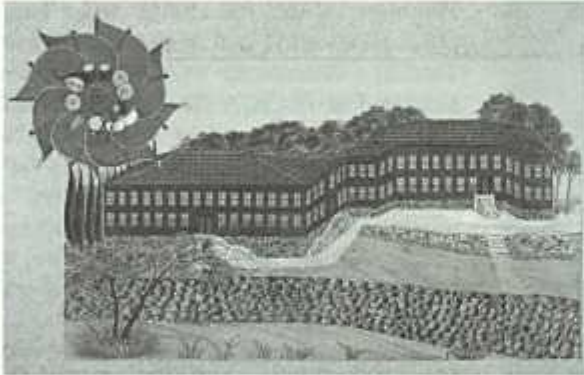
Embassy of Palestine in Ankara, Turkey. It is to be noted that a beautiful album titled *Palestine. The Exodus and the Odyssey*, in English and Arabic, and comprising the reproductions of their paintings, was published in 2000. It has an Introduction by Mr. Abdul-Qader Daher and an article "Nights of Agony" by Prof. Emanuele Minardo in the English part. As for the Arabic part, it has an Introduction by H.R.H. Dr. Wijdan Ali, President, Royal Society of Fine Arts, Jordan, and the Arabic text by Islamil Shammout and Tamam Al-Akhal. The album can be requested from: Ismail Shamout, P.O. Box 1487, Post Code 11953, Amman, Jordan.

**Dr. Savaş Çevik's exhibition "Calligraphy with New Interpretations"**

Dr. Savaş Çevik, professor of graphic design at Mimar Sinan University and calligrapher, opened his 15th individual exhibition at IRCICA, on 15 November 2001. For a period of two weeks, the exhibition was visited by a great number of art lovers, particularly lovers and students of Islamic calligraphy. While he pursued an academic career in graphic design, Dr. Çevik developed at the same time an expert knowledge in calligraphy. He was trained by the eminent masters of this art, such as the late Hamid Al-Amidi (Aytaç), and Prof. Dr. Ali Alparslan; he learnt the history and techniques of calligraphy, as well as binding and graphics, from the late Prof. Dr. Emin Barın. Dr. Savaş Çevik has a number of publications on graphical and calligraphic arts. He won international and national awards, including a First Prize in the "taliq" style and two mentions that he received in the First International Calligraphy Competition that was organised by IRCICA in 1986.



**Miniature paintings of Mevlevi lodges, by Ülker Erke**



Mrs. Ülker Erke's miniature paintings showing Mevlevi (dervish) lodges are not only beautiful art objects but also visual documents depicting the structure and activities of the lodges. The Mevlevi order, which was structurally organised after the death of Mevlana Celaluddin by his son, who is known by the name of Sultan Veled, used to carry out educational activities in various arts and crafts, including calligraphy, gilding, marbling, painting, miniature painting, book binding, wood carving, carpentry, music, etc. Lodges were set up in major provinces and cities of the Ottoman Empire, starting from the Central Anatolian city of Konya and gradually expanding throughout the territory. The majority were closed and demolished; some

were transformed into museums, mosques and schools. The only lodge that remains to our day is the one known as the "Galata Mevlevihanesi" in the Galata district of Istanbul. Mevlevi traditions are still displayed in this lodge as spectacles offered to visitors. Thirty-six lodges were presented in Mrs. Erke's exhibition.

**Sıdıka Şanal's exhibition of paintings of old houses**

This exhibition comprised more than 30 paintings of old houses and Bosphorus mansions depicted in relief.

The artist Mrs. Şanal received extensive training in the technique of painting in relief and held four exhibitions before this one, all in major cultural centres. Her exhibition at IRCICA ran from 26 October to 11 November 2001.



## Demise of Professor Anas Baqi Khalidov, a leading scholar of Tatarstan and specialist of Islamic cultural history



IRCICA learnt with deep sorrow the demise of Professor Anas Baqi Khalidov, on 1 December 2001 in Kazan. An eminent specialist of Islamic manuscripts and of the medieval Arab culture in Russia and Eastern Europe, Prof. Khalidov was known world-wide, particularly in Arab countries. For more than thirty years, he was the Head of the Arabic Department of the Institute of Oriental Studies, Academy of Sciences of USSR, and of the Department for Middle East of the Leningrad Branch of the same Institute. For the last two years, he was teaching at the Institute of Oriental Studies of Kazan State University.

Born in 1929, Anas Khalidov graduated from the Department of Arabic Philology of Leningrad State University in 1946 and obtained his PhD degree in 1955. He joined the Arabic Department at the Leningrad Branch of the Academy of Sciences, where he worked on contemporary Arabic literature, classical Arabic literature and Arabic manuscripts. He coordinated the compilation of the catalogue of the Arabic manuscripts in the Oriental Institute. Khalidov became Professor in 1987. He is the author of around 120 publications including books and articles, critical editions and translations of classical works of Islamic culture. His students are teaching in St. Petersburg, Kazan, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and also in Syria, Vietnam and the USA. A few of his publications were prepared jointly with his father Prof. Baqi Khalidov, who was a disciple of the early 20<sup>th</sup>-century Islamic scholar Musa Djarullah Bigui. Prof. Anas Khalidov considered the translation of the Quran into Tatar language his major task in life. He accomplished it during 1997-2001 and also prepared an Arabic-Tatar lexicon. Khalidov had contributed a valuable paper entitled "The Problems of Tatar Translation of the Quran" to the international symposium on Islamic Civilisation in Volga-Ural Region which was organised by IRCICA and the academic institutions of Tatarstan and Russia in June 2001.

*The above text is based on a comprehensive biographical article on Prof. Khalidov written by Dr. N. Galaeva. IRCICA is thankful to Dr. Galaeva, and to Mr. Suleyman Rakhimov from the Department of Social and Historical Research, Kazan Council of People Deputies, for providing the article together with supplementary information.*

## CULTURAL EVENTS

### **"Riches of the Manuscripts" Exhibition held in Bamako**

An exhibition entitled "Riches of the Manuscripts" was opened in the Congress Hall of Bamako, Mali, on 25 June 2001. The exhibition presented manuscripts chosen from the archives of the "Institut des Hautes Etudes et de la Recherche Islamiques Ahmed Baba", named as such since July 2000 and previously "Centre de Documentation et de Recherches Historiques Ahmed Baba" (introduced in IRCICA Newsletter no. 54, pp. 14-15) of Timbuctu. The objective of this activity was to make known that part of the Islamic cultural heritage which is contained in the manuscripts and preserved by the Timbuctu Institute. The latter undertook the mission of contributing in safeguarding this heritage, an aim which is translated, among others, into its project titled ARELMAT (electronic archiving of the manuscripts of Timbuctu), which is carried out by specialists of the study, cataloguing, classification, as well as the binding and wrapping of manuscripts. The project has engaged computerized archival equipment together with facilities for the restoration and protection of the documents. The number of manuscripts contained in the Institute's archive is approximately 20.000, representing only a small percentage of the manuscripts found in Mali.

This exhibition brought together manuscripts relating to all fields of learning from literature to natural sciences, including philosophy, Islamic studies, theology, law, history, astronomy, mathematics, medicine, and music. The works date from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries and include all types of documents such as scientific and scholarly research, letters, legal documents, etc. Beside the richness and variety of the themes, the manuscripts are also remarkable for their calligraphic styles, decorations and bindings. Among them are important historical works such as the famous

*Tarikh es Sudan* (history of Sudan) by Abdramane Saadi, a letter by Al Haj Umar al-Futi to the people of Macina, contracts related to the trade of gold, salt, and also slaves, and legal decisions and decrees on various subjects. The «Institut des Hautes Etudes et de la Recherche Islamiques Ahmed Baba» published press bulletins and highly informative pamphlets on the occasion of this exhibition which contributed in promoting public awareness on the country's and the region's written cultural heritage.

### **Symposium on "Documents on Arab History in World Archives" to be held in Abu Dhabi**

The Research and Documentation Centre affiliated to the Court of His Highness the President of the United Arab Emirates will hold its 2002 annual meeting on 1-7 March, under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Mansur bin Zayed al-Nahayan, Head of the Office of H.H. the President. On this occasion, the Research and Documentation Centre is organising, in cooperation with the Arab Regional Branch of the International Council for Archives, an international symposium on "Documents on Arab History in World Archives", to be held on 2-4 March 2002. The aims of this symposium are: to assess and make known the sources and documents on Arab history found in archives outside the Arab world, to find ways to obtain and collect their copies in order to make them accessible to Arab researchers and historians, to benefit from the experiences of archive authorities and institutions in other countries in the preservation of documents, to contribute to re-writing Arab history with an original scholarly approach and producing reliable scholarly reference works based on sources found in the Arab world and abroad. A number of specialists of archives, researchers, as well as diplomats and representatives of international organisations from around the world will participate in the symposium.

**“The Future of Islam in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century Hijra”: Al-Albait Institute’s international symposium in Amman**

Al-Albait Institute for Islamic Thought (previously Al-Albait Foundation for Islamic Civilisation Research) in Amman, Jordan, will hold its Twelfth Annual Congress in July 2002. Within the framework of the congress, the Institute will organise a large-scale international symposium on the theme “The Future of Islam in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century Hijra”. The main sub-themes of the symposium will be as follows:

- Advancements in communications in the 15<sup>th</sup> century Hijra and their place in the Muslim world
- Technological advancements in the 15<sup>th</sup> century Hijra and their place in the Muslim world
- Extremism in Islam, the clash of civilisations, and introduction of secularism in the Muslim world
- Teachings of the Quran and the Hadith on the 15<sup>th</sup> century Hijra and the end of time.

Following the promulgation of the Decree stipulating its new name and status, the Institute has laid the foundations of its permanent headquarters and plans to complete them and put them to use by mid-2002.

**Conference on Manuscripts of the Quran, in Bologna next year**

The “Centro interdipartimentale di scienze dell’Islam Re Abdulaziz” (King Abdulaziz Interdepartmental Centre of Islamic Sciences) of the University of Bologna, Italy, will host an International Conference on “Manuscripts of the Quran” on 26-28 September 2002. The aim of the conference is to throw light on the history of the handwritten copies of the Quran which is still not completely known. The conference outline indicates that historical studies in the field of arts are numerous, but most of them focus on the richly illuminated and/or artistically written copies; however, copies other than those which were hitherto produced for wealthy patrons are equally part of the Islamic heritage and deserve to be assessed and studied. Papers are invited on the following three topics: the origins of the handwritten transmission and the possible influences of other contemporary scriptural traditions; the uses of manuscript copies of the Quran in the Muslim world; and, features of illuminations on copies of the Quran. Correspondence regarding the conference can be sent to: Dr. François Déroche, EPHE-IVe section, 45 rue des Ecoles, 75005 Paris, France.

**Executive Council meeting of the International Union for the History and Philosophy of Science (IUHPS) held in Istanbul**

The International Union for the History and Philosophy of Science (IUHPS), Division of History of Science (DHS), held its Executive Council meeting under the Chairmanship of Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, IRCICA Director General, with the participation of the following scholars who currently bear office in IUHPS/DHS: Prof. Vladimir Kirsanov (Russian Academy of Sciences, Institute of the History of Natural Sciences and Technology, Moscow), First Vice-President; Prof. Juan Jose Saldana (National Autonomous University of Mexico, Faculty of Philosophy and Letters), Secretary General; Dr. Fabio Bevilacqua (Head of Department, Assoc. Prof. of History of Physics, Università di Pavia, Italy), Assistant Secretary; Dr. Efthymios Nicolaidis (Director of Research, National Hellenic Research Foundation, Athens), Treasurer. The Council reviewed the reform plan which was prepared under the direction of the President and presented by him, with the aim of improving the activities of IUHPS/DHS and carrying it to the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Council also examined the reports of the Secretary General and the Treasurer on the past year’s activities. It discussed on how to give a new impetus to the Union in order to successfully meet the requirements of scholarship in the present environment, where social studies on science, just as science itself, are characterised by intensive specialisation coupled with increasing interdependencies both within and between the various disciplines.

After having served as IUHPS/DHS's Vice-President for four years, Prof. İhsanoğlu was elected President in July 2001, during the 21<sup>st</sup> International Congress on History of Science which was held in Mexico City. The congress was on the theme "Science and Cultural Diversity". 900 historians of science from 50 countries participated in it. Prof. İhsanoğlu will hold the Presidency for a term of four years. He is the first Muslim scholar to be elected to this post. The International Union for the History and Philosophy of Science (IUHPS) has two divisions: the Division of History of Science (DHS) and the Division of Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science (DLMPS). The Union is a member of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU, founded in 1931), which is a partner of UNESCO. The previous Presidents, all eminent historians of science, were: Ch. Singer (UK), G. Sarton (USA), L. De Broglie (France), R. J. Forbes (Netherlands), V. Ronchi (Italy), I. B. Cohen (USA), J. Needham (UK), R. Taton (France), A. T. Grigorian (USSR), E. Hiebert (USA), P. Galluzzi (Italy), W. Shea (Canada), R. Fox (UK), B. V. Subbarayapa (India).



*Congress on History of Technology: at right: Prof. Dr. Ergun Türkcen, Vice-President of TÜBİTAK*



*Prof. Dr. Erdal İnönü, professor of physics and ex-Vice Prime Minister of Turkey, with Prof. İhsanoğlu during the Congress on History of Technology*

It is noteworthy that besides addressing matters related to the Union's internal mechanisms, Prof. İhsanoğlu has taken initiatives to diversify and expand its regional focuses, as was exemplified recently in the Union's participation in the Congress on History of Technology held in Istanbul (15-17 November 2001) as one of the organizing bodies, jointly with the following institutions: Turkish Society for History of Science, Istanbul Technical University, the Turkish Scientific and Technological Research Institute (TÜBİTAK), ISAR Foundation, Istanbul Water and Sewage Administration, the Water Foundation, and the Turkish Chemistry Society. The congress brought together historians of the various fields of science and technology, including those specialized in engineering, archeology, anthropology, sociology, economics, military history, among others.

**European Science Foundation's workshop on "Science and Human Values"  
organised jointly with IRCICA and the Turkish Society for History of Science**

The European Science Foundation organised its workshop on "Science and Human Values" in cooperation with IRCICA and the Turkish Society for History of Science on 6-7 October 2001, at IRCICA's headquarters. The workshop was co-chaired by IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu and Prof. Dr. John Hedley Brooke from Oxford University. Participants from China, England, Germany, Italy, Spain and Sweden and the U.S.A. gave papers on the history of scientific and cultural encounters as they took place between civilisations of the West, the Middle East and the Far East over the past centuries. They discussed each civilisation's reception and accommodation of scientific advances. The Foundation plans to publish the papers as a book.

## Distinguished visitors at IRCICA

### The Centre received the Minister of Education and Culture of Kyrgyzstan



\* IRCICA was most honoured to receive Her Excellency Camilla Sharshekeeva, Minister of Education and Culture of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, at its headquarters on 13 November 2001. The Director General and his colleagues briefed H.E. the Minister on the work carried out by the Centre's departments. They took note of her views and ideas on some of the research themes, particularly those concerning the relations between cultures and civilisations, as well as the information she provided on some aspects of educational and cultural development in Kyrgyzstan.

The Minister's opinions on the Centre, recorded in the Visitors' Book, were as follows: "I am greatly impressed by what I have seen and learnt at IRCICA. It is a push for me to encourage my people to be involved in the advanced research for the benefit of the whole world."

### The Vice-Minister of Culture, Information and Public Accord of Kazakhstan at IRCICA

\* An honourable guest from Kazakhstan, His Excellency Mr. Duysen Kasseinov, Vice-Minister of Culture, Information and Public Accord of the Republic of Kazakhstan, visited IRCICA on 13 November 2001.

The Vice-Minister received detailed information on the various programs and projects of the Centre. He took note, in particular, of the present state and future possibilities of the cooperation between the Centre and Kazakh cultural institutions and the rates of participation, recorded until now, of scholars, librarians, artists and other interested parties from Kazakhstan in the congresses, training courses and art competitions organised by IRCICA.



Following are H.E. Mr. Duysen Kasseinov's impressions on the Centre recorded in the Visitors' Book: "You are making immense contributions to the Islamic culture. I wish the best success to the specialists who are working in this field."

### Visit of the Chief Imam of Mecca to IRCICA

\* Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Abdulaziz Al-Sudeysi, the Chief Imam of the Holy Mosque of Mecca, visited IRCICA on 19 September 2001. On this memorable occasion, Director General Prof. İhsanoğlu and his colleagues presented the distinguished guest with an overview of the activities undertaken by the Centre, with an emphasis on the goals

and objectives assigned to it in its capacity as the subsidiary of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference entrusted with cultural studies. Sheikh Al-Sudeysi expressed his



*From the right, Mr. Mustafa Mubarak, Consul General of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Istanbul, and Sheikh Abdulrahman bin Abdulaziz Al-Sudeysi, the Chief Imam of the Holy Mosque of Mecca*

appreciation of the results obtained and the progress achieved by the Centre in fulfillment of its mission. His opinions and impressions recorded in the Visitors' Book, are given below: "God allowed me to visit the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture, on Wednesday, 2.7.1422 H / 19.9.2001, where I met H.E. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Director General of the Centre, as well as his colleagues, and saw samples of the Centre's works. All this gave me happiness, because I see that this Centre is an expression of civilization in a nutshell and constitutes a base of documentation which contributed and continues to contribute in building bridges between the Islamic civilization and the other civilizations of the world in accordance with the universality of Islam. I thank H.E. the Director General and all the staff of this Centre for their great contributions and unflinching efforts aimed at making the Islamic culture better known. I pray to God that He may help them so that they could continue their course in the same path and that the Centre may fulfill its assigned tasks."

### **A delegation from the Encyclopaedia Islamica Foundation, Iran, at IRCICA**

A delegation from the Encyclopaedia Islamica Foundation, Tehran, Iran, visited IRCICA on 20 September 2001. The delegation comprised the following scientific staff of the Foundation: Dr. Hadi Alemzadeh (head of the group), Eng. Hasan Taromi (Scientific Vice-President of the Foundation), Mr. Ali Talebi (researcher in Turkish culture at the Foundation), Dr. Soleyman Heshmat (Director of Philosophy Dept.) Ms. Leyla Houshang (researcher in Islamic jurisprudence), Ms. Safoura Houshyar (Director of "Entries" Dept.). Their visit to IRCICA was part of a program of organised visits to be made to scholarly and cultural centers, libraries, museums and historical monuments in Turkey. Dr. Mohammed Bagheri, Director of the Foundation's History of Science Department, had carried out the contacts with IRCICA Director General and the collaboration with the Centre in arranging some aspects of the program. It was a pleasure for IRCICA's staff to meet them and inform them on the Centre's research projects and publications.



*Visit of the group of officials and researchers from the Encyclopaedia Islamica Foundation, Iran*

## BOOK SURVEY

**Arts & the Islamic World**, No. 36: Al Muharraq: Architecture of a Traditional Arabian Town in Bahrain, Special Volume, London, 2001

*Arts & the Islamic World*, the London-based biannual journal, has published this special volume on the town of Al Muharraq in the State of Bahrain. The study included in it is mainly based on J. R. Yarwood's Ph.D. thesis titled "Al Muharraq: Architecture, Urbanism and Society in a Historic Arabian Town" which he earned from the University of Sheffield in 1988. Essentially, this study gives a description of the layout and building design of the town. Al Muharraq appears as the only remaining traditional city on the southern part of the Arabian gulf- if we do not consider the "museum buildings" and small quarters built in the twentieth century.

This is the first detailed study of Al Muharraq. The study begins with a description of the urban pattern of the city. A historic description of Al Muharraq is given along with its historical growth, physical description and the social pattern. The survey also looks into the matters of construction and different types of decorative design and architectural crafts such as wrought iron, carving and fretwork, stained-glass fanlights and plasterwork. The author has distinguished four periods in the historical analysis of Al Muharraq. These are: the early period (up to 1850), the transitional period (1850-1890), the middle period (1890-1930) and late period (1930-1940). Certain building characteristics associated with each period are also described. This study gives a detailed description of the buildings in Al Muharraq. In the last chapter the author focuses on the Suq. The three main building types in the Suq are retail warehouses, khans and other living apartments and unit shops and workshops. Finally, twelve Suq buildings are described. The study has a glossary and a bibliography at the end. The text is enriched with figures and illustrations. It will be of interest particularly for architects and art historians.

**Katalog Arapskih, Turskih, Perzijskih i Bosanskih Rukopisa** (Catalogue of the Arabic, Turkish, Persian and Bosnian Manuscripts), Tome VIII; prepared by Mustafa Jahić. Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation London; Riasat (Chairmanship) of Islamic Community in B & H, Sarajevo; Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation, Catalogues of Islamic Manuscript Series: No 32; London-Sarajevo, 1421/2000, xix + 564 p.

This catalogue is the product of the cooperation between Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation and the Presidency of the scholars in Islamic studies in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Al-Furqan Foundation is working to serve and preserve Islamic cultural heritage, in particular the historical manuscripts. It has also exerted great efforts to preserve the Gazi Husrev-Beg Library in Sarajevo. The Library was provided with the necessary shelves; the electronic apparatus needed to digitize its manuscripts on CD Rom were purchased. At present nearly all the Library's collection of manuscripts has been microfilmed and work continues to complete the project. The previous volumes of the catalogue were published on the following dates: volume IV in 1419 H/1998 AD, volume V in 1419 H/1999 AD, volume VI in 1420 H/1999 AD and volume VII in 1420 H/2000 AD. Volume VIII of the Catalogue of Arabic, Turkish, Persian and Bosnian Manuscripts in the Gazi Husrev-Beg Library mainly comprises the manuscripts 4755 to 5255. A total number of 503 codices were included in this volume: 1,013 works under 304 titles. In regard to the contents of this volume, most of the manuscripts catalogued in it concern the Arabic grammar. It also includes a number of manuscripts that deal with the Persian and Turkish languages, several manuscripts in Bosnian and one manuscript that is a translation of a Latin grammar into Turkish. This volume also contains several rare manuscripts and some works by Bosnian authors.

**1896 (Hicri 1314) Kosova Vilayeti Salnamesi (Üsküp, Priştine, Prizren, İpek, Yenipazar, Taşlıca)** (1896 -1314 H. Yearbook of the Kosovo Province), Publication of the Cultural and Solidarity Association of Rumelian Turks no.: 3, Istanbul, 2000, xx + 382 p.

The original Yearbook of the Kosovo Province, which was published in 1314 H/1896 AD, is in Ottoman Turkish and consists of 753 pages. The yearbooks (*salnames*) provide important information about the military and economic structure, industry, commerce, education, population, agriculture and social structure of the period. According to the provincial division during the late Ottoman period, the lands of Rumelia were divided into 7 provinces. These were Edirne, Eastern Rumelia, Salonica, Monastir, Yanya (Janina), İşkodra (Scutari) and Kosovo. The province of Kosovo consisted of 6 *sancaks* (districts), i.e. Üsküp (Skopje) (the central *sancak*), Priştine, Prizren, İpek, Yenipazar (Novibazar) and Taşlıca. Detailed information about the towns and villages that were the subdivisions of these *sancaks* were also given in the *salname*. As it was customary, the first parts of the yearbook of the Kosovo province include the calendar and times of prayer, the rules of diplomatic correspondence with authorities of higher and lower rank, the forms of diplomatic address, the dates of birth and death of the sultans and their accession to the throne as well as information about the places where their tombs are located. In the following part there is information on the medals and decorations presented to military and civil high officials.

Following the information on the central and military organization of the province, the names, ranks and duties of all of the state officials in the *sancaks* that were divisions of the province are given in the form of tables. The yearbook of the Kosovo province also includes information about the consuls in the province. Following the tables, there is information on the geography, economic life, agricultural and industrial products as well as the exports and imports of each district. Following is an extensive section on the Albanians- the largest group among the Muslims, i.e. the majority of the people of the province. In the last part there is a table comprising the yearly incomes and expenditures of the province. This work, which includes the transcription of the original *salname* in Latin characters, also includes a glossary of words in Ottoman Turkish that appear frequently in the text. In view of the valuable information that it includes, this book is a basic source of reference for scholars and researchers who do research on this period.

*prepared by Semiramis Çavuşoğlu*

Ahmed-Chouqui Binebine, **Histoire des Bibliothèques au Maroc** (History of libraries in Morocco), Publication of the Faculty of Letters and Humanities, Mohammed V University, Theses and Memoirs Series no.: 17, Rabat, 1992, 256 p. (in French)

This valuable book resulted from the author's extensive research on the history of the libraries of Morocco. With its coverage, contents and methodology, it is much more than what its title suggests and goes far beyond the limits of a study of the libraries. The author, who is currently Director of the Royal Library in the Royal Palace, Kingdom of Morocco, has examined the subject in a historical perspective and from his standpoint as an experienced specialist of the collection and conservation of books. He studied the public and private libraries which were founded in different periods, their functions, and their use by various social and religious communities. Thus, the book mirrors a considerable part of cultural and social history and reflects the various trends and epochs marking the political, intellectual, scholarly and literary developments of the country. Within the history of culture, it is the first comprehensive study on the history of libraries, and therefore it fills a gap, given that Morocco has a rich, varied and old Arab and Islamic literary heritage which is preserved in the Royal Library, private collections, public libraries, libraries of mosques and religious schools. Dr. Binebine underlines in his introduction that the people of Morocco always gave a special and almost sacred place to books and texts, an attitude which was enhanced by the consideration that a geographical and cultural distance separated the Moroccans from the East, the land of the "Sources".

The book begins with Part I titled "Libraries in the cultural history of Morocco" which reviews the history of libraries from the spread of Islam until our time. In this part, the first chapter is on "The beginnings of libraries in Morocco (I/VII-V/XIst centuries)". The second chapter, on "The evolution and development of libraries in Morocco (V/XI-VII/XIIIth centuries)", reviews their progress under the Almoravid and Almohad dynasties. The third is on "The apogee of libraries in Morocco (VII/XIII-XIII-XIXth centuries)", a period where the country gave birth to illustrious authors and important works. The fourth chapter is titled "From the traditional library to the modern library". Part II of the book is entitled "Constitution of Moroccan libraries". Here, the first chapter deals with

the "Vicissitudes of the collections", where the author reviews the losses and damages in collections of manuscripts and documents which were due to human factors and natural causes, and efforts made to restore them. The second chapter is on the "Waqfs of manuscripts", i.e. the foundations which were the main agent in the establishment and conservation of library collections. The third chapter, entitled "Wiraqa and libraries", examines the developments relating to the art of the book and matters connected with librarianship and library sciences. Finally, the fourth chapter of Part II entitled "The manuscripts of Moroccan libraries" examines the characteristics of the library collections, past and present, and has a separate section on rare manuscripts, including copies of the Quran, autographs (original manuscripts), copies of manuscripts, unique and precious manuscripts (Royal texts, artistically written texts, manuscripts with very limited copies in the world), Greek and Latin manuscripts. In the conclusion, the author outlines the common features of the three main groups of libraries, (Royal, public and private), underlines the role of waqfs in the cultural history of the country and in the formation of its libraries, and emphasises the importance, richness and variety of the materials contained in these libraries. Besides being a complete scholarly study of the written cultural heritage preserved in Morocco, the book is also praiseworthy for its scholarly method.

**Catálogo de Publicaciones Periódicas de la Biblioteca Islámica "Félix María Pareja"** (Catalogue of the periodical publications of the Islamic library "Félix María Pareja"), Arab World and Islam series, Bibliography, Spanish Agency for International Cooperation, Madrid, 2000, 181 p. (in Spanish)

This catalogue is a complete record of the periodical publications that are part of the collection of the Islamic library "Félix María Pareja" which was previously affiliated to the Institute of Cooperation with the Arab World. This Institute was transformed into the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation in 1989 and attached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain. As to the library, it was established in 1954 with the aim of meeting the needs of the Spanish specialists and researchers of Arab language and literature. It has a valuable collection of periodicals specialised in Arab and Islamic studies. The collection grew continuously in time, to become the most comprehensive one of Spain in its own field. The recording on computer of the collection, which was started in 1995, culminated in the publication of this catalogue. It is hoped that this publication will help to increase communications and

cooperation between the library and its counterparts in various countries. It is published under the series titled "Editions Arab World and Islam, Bibliography".

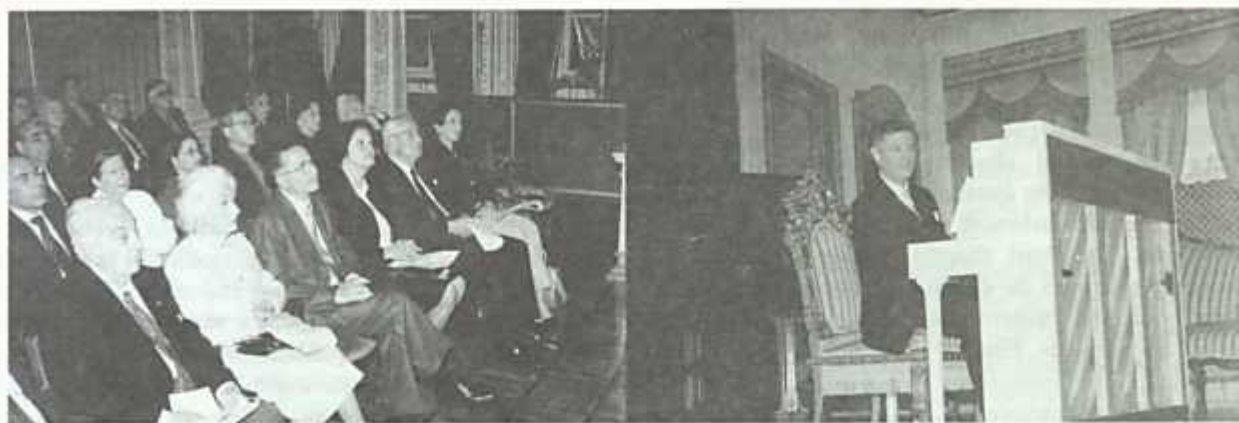
The book has a Foreword by Jesus Gracia Aldaz, Secretary General of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation. It contains bibliographic entries for 1257 titles of periodicals in different languages published in various countries. The entry for each periodical gives its title, the name of the editor, the place and date of publication, the language, the frequency, and the issues available. The catalogue is arranged in alphabetical order; the titles of the periodicals in Arabic are entered with their Latin transcriptions. An index of Arabic titles printed in Arabic script is added to the book. This catalogue comprises the periodicals which were acquired by the library until 30 June 2000. Those acquired later will be published in a revised and enlarged edition of the catalogue. Readers in Arab and Islamic studies will consult this book with profit.

*prepared by Ahmed Lajimi*

Attilio Petruccioli, **Der Islamische Garten. Architektur. Natur. Landschaft** (The Islamic garden. Architecture. Nature, Landscape), Deutsche Verlags-Anstalt, Stuttgart, 1995, 273 p. (in German)

This interesting and elegant book consists of articles by sixteen scholars who are specialists on the Islamic garden. It is intended to serve as a short history and reference on the subject. Professor Attilio Petruccioli points out in the Introduction that the first scholarly studies on this subject began to appear in the first quarter of the 20th century. In the pre-Islamic period, the Arabs, Persians and Turks built the first examples of what was to become the Islamic garden. This book looks into the different characteristics of the Islamic garden regarding the architecture, nature, landscape and spatial arrangement. It underscores the function of the garden as a place of leisure and enjoyment. Moreover, it depicts the Islamic garden as a reflection of the paradise in the sense revealed in the Quran. Another important point stressed in the book is the harmony between the garden and the land on which it is arranged. This harmony is significant from an esthetic point of view. Moreover, thanks to this harmony, the garden and the land constitute a complex, which is an essential element of the living environment. The book includes a glossary and a bibliography, which is arranged according to subjects. It is an instructive source for both professional and general readers.

*prepared by Mihin Lugal*



*Recital by the late Pianist Vedat Kosal at the Yıldız Palace Theatre*

**Vedat Kosal, Osmanlı'da Klasik Batı Müziği**  
(Classical Western music in the Ottoman [realm], Eko publishers, İstanbul, 2001, 144 p.

This book by the late Vedat Kosal, a multifaceted musicologist and pianist, is the expanded Turkish version of his book entitled *Western Classical Music in the Ottoman Empire* published in 1999. The present book contains greater number of documents than the English version. Following a foreword by Prof. Dr. Metin Sözen and an introduction by the author, the book deals with the first contacts of Ottomans with Western classical music, which began in the sixteenth century and developed in the nineteenth century. In the following pages one finds a detailed examination of the subject which includes the place of Western classical music, and particularly the piano in Ottoman literature; the recent history of Western classical music in the Ottoman Empire during the reigns of Mahmud II, Abdülmecid I, Abdülaziz, Murad V, Abdülhamid II, Mehmed V and Mehmed VI (Vahideddin), and the caliph Abdülmecid II; the musical activities of the members of the Ottoman dynasty; Muzika-i Hümayûn and finally, the activities of European musicians in Turkey. At the end of the book one can find the biography of the late Vedat Kosal. The work is based on extensive research and documented with illustrations such as photographs of sultans, engravings, musical notes of compositions by the sultans and members of the Ottoman dynasty dating from the nineteenth century, i.e. the last century of the empire. It underlines an important aspect of the Ottoman sultans, which was hitherto not much known: it shows that the sultans were lovers of Western classical music as well as being composers and virtuosos. Not only the sultans but also their children actively engaged in music. This remarkable interest in music and this active engagement in musical performance during the Ottoman period were among the themes underscored by IRCICA within the framework of its international congress on "Learning and Education in the Ottoman World" organised on 12-15 April 1999 on the occasion of the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the

foundation of the Ottoman Empire. In this context, IRCICA also had the pleasure of helping promote Mr. Kosal's book in public opinion.

Vedat Kosal was born in İstanbul in 1957. At the age of ten, he began to take piano and composition lessons. In 1972 he performed with an orchestra, which was followed by a series of recitals. He participated as a soloist in several concerts and made radio and TV broadcasts. In 1975 he was awarded the Philharmonic Prize in İstanbul. He graduated from the German School and İstanbul State Conservatoire and became a student of Hugo Steurer at the Munich Music Academy. He obtained his Master's Degree in 1982. He received international renown and won several prizes. He played in concerts in Europe and appeared as a soloist in many festivals. He became a Steinway artist in 1988. He is one of the signatories of the 500,000th Steinway piano at Carnegie Hall. One of his major fields of interest was Western classical music in the Ottoman Palace including the compositions by sultans, princes, and princesses and by the commanders of the *Muzika-i Hümayûn* (Imperial Orchestra) He gave conferences and published articles on musicology, literature and history. Vedat Kosal went to the United States and Germany to be treated for a brain tumor, which was diagnosed in September 2000. In the meantime, since he was paralyzed on the left-hand side, he practiced the works, which the reputed composers of the period composed for the right hand. These compositions were included for the first time in the literature of piano to be played by the right hand. He passed away on 3 June 2001. Within the framework of the cultural and social activities related to "The International Congress on "Learning and Education in the Ottoman World" (12-15 April 1999) the late Turkish musicologist and pianist Vedat Kosal performed a piano recital and gave a conference on "Classical Western music in the Ottoman state" (pls. see IRCICA Newsletter, Special Issue, no. 48, April 1999, pp. 40-41).

*prepared by Semiramis Çavuşoğlu*

CD-ROM: **Hagia Sophia from Konstantinoupolis to Istanbul with Lord J. J. Norwich**,  
produced by Metropol Multimedia Ltd., Istanbul, 2001

This CD-ROM tells the story of Hagia Sophia, a great church of Byzantium which was turned into a mosque under the Ottoman State and then into a museum. The monument symbolizes a bridge between different cultures and beliefs. It has always been of immense importance architecturally as well as politically and religiously. The CD-ROM, produced by Metropol Multimedia company of Istanbul, is an Emma Awards Nominee 2000 and has won the New Media In Vision 1999 Silver Award. It gives complete information on the monument's history, past and present structure. Lord Norwich, who guides the viewer through it, is the author of many publications on Byzantine history and Honorary President in England of the World Monuments Fund.

The CD has many parts. The part entitled "Hagia Sophia Chronology" cites all the important events the monument witnessed throughout its history. One of the most fascinating parts is the map of the area surrounding the museum, where one can get information on some important monuments and places. Another highly interesting and informative section is related to the tales and stories about Hagia Sophia. The CD also has a section on Ottoman and Byzantine music where the viewer finds excerpts from religious songs and prayers performed in churches and mosques. Still another section gives comprehensive information on the tiles and mosaics ornamenting the building. A glossary of architectural terms is also added to the CD. This is a good quality and well-organised reference which will benefit viewers from all cultures both intellectually and esthetically. It can be requested from Metropol Multimedia, tel.: 90 212 2103966, fax: 90 212 2103968; the web site is at: [www.metropolmultimedia.com](http://www.metropolmultimedia.com).

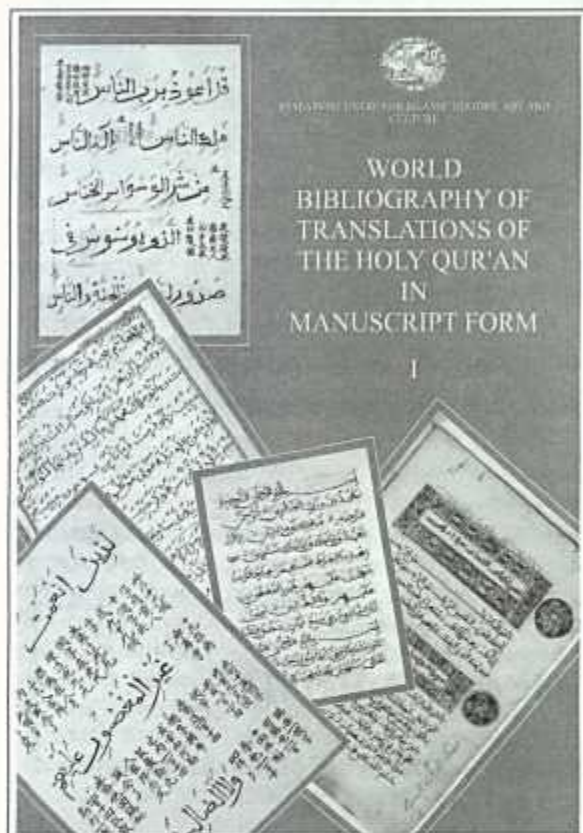
prepared by Acar Tanlak

## IRCICA Publications available on CD-ROM

The Centre produced revised and updated CD-ROM copies of its following publications which are now out of stock:

- \**International Directory of Islamic Cultural Institutions* (fourth edition published in 1991)
- \**Ottoman Yearbooks (Salnames and Nevsals)* (published in 1982)
- \* the Guidebook to *Ottoman Archives* (published in 1986)
- \* *The Muslim Pious Foundations and Real Estates in Palestine* (published in 1982), and
- \* the issues no. 20 – 40 of the Newsletter.

CD-ROM copies of the above publications can be obtained at request from IRCICA for US\$ 10.- each.



**World Bibliography of Translations of the Holy Quran in Manuscript Form, Vol. I**, compiled and prepared by Dr. M. Nejat Sefercioğlu, edited and introduction by E. İhsanoğlu, Istanbul, 2000  
Price: US\$ 50,- post included

One of the major research projects of IRCICA is aimed at compiling and publishing bibliographic data on translations of the Holy Quran in all languages of the world. The project is carried out in three parallel sections, covering printed, manuscript and oral translations and interpretations of the Holy Quran. The first bibliography resulting from this project, the *World Bibliography of Translations of the Holy Quran. Printed Translations 1515-1980*, was published in 1986.

The Centre is most pleased and proud to be presenting the first volume of the *World Bibliography of Translations of the Holy Quran in Manuscript Form*. This volume contains the data and information that was collected and collated by Dr. M. Nejat Sefercioğlu, an eminent specialist and IRCICA's expert in bibliography.

On the whole, roughly 5,000 manuscript translations and exegeses of the Quran in 61 languages and dialects have been recorded until now within the framework of this project. This first volume contains bibliographic entries for 293 translations and exegeses found in manuscript form in 58 languages and dialects. Translations and exegeses in Persian, Urdu and Turkish are not included, because they are too numerous to fit into a single volume. The volume has indexes of personal names, book titles and place names. The second volume, planned to appear in 2002, will contain entries for 1,600 manuscript translations and exegeses in Turkish. It will be followed by a third volume to cover the manuscript works in Persian and Urdu numbering slightly more than 2,500 according to the present estimates.

## IRCICA PUBLICATION

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### THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON *LEARNING AND EDUCATION IN THE OTTOMAN WORLD*

**International Congress on Learning and Education in the Ottoman World. Istanbul, 12-15 April 1999, Proceedings** (papers in English), edited by Ali Çaksu, preface by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, *Studies and sources on Ottoman history series 6*, x+406 p., ill., Istanbul, 2001

Price: US\$ 30.- postage included

The international congress on "Learning and Education in the Ottoman World" was held in Istanbul, on 12-15 April 1999, on the occasion of the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the Ottoman State. Under the patronage of the President of Turkey H.E. Süleyman Demirel, the congress was organised by IRCICA with the cooperation of the Turkish Historical Society (Ankara) and the Turkish Society for History of Science (Istanbul). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Commemoration Committee of the Seventh Centennial chaired by the Ministry of State, gave support to the congress. One hundred and seventy-five scholars and researchers from twenty-eight countries actively participated in the congress. In addition, about one hundred interested researchers attended the sessions.

This volume contains the papers which were presented in the English language. Those papers in Arabic were published earlier, in a first volume dated 2000. A third volume, to contain the papers presented in Turkish, is in preparation. There are twenty-eight papers in total, contributed to the congress by scholars from around the world. The papers were revised by their authors before publication. Most of them deal directly with issues of education such as primary education, literacy, women's education, medical education, religious education, Sufi education, modern and secular education, educational reform as well as foreign schools in the Ottoman lands. Others address a wide range of topics including the Islamic lunar calendar, development of medical terminology, military education and technology. In the field of architecture, several aspects of Ottoman and pre-Ottoman architectures are studied. For instance, Ottoman architecture in different regions of the empire is examined. The relationship between mathematics and architectural design are explored. While some articles discuss Ottoman-European relations, some others examine relations between Ottomans and other Muslim lands. Apart from these, some others deal with various aspects of the relationship between religious or ethnic communities within the boundaries of the Ottoman State. A few articles study the influence of various ideas on Ottomans and their reaction to them. These ideas include constitutionalism, national identity formation, educational and administrative reforms.

These articles reveal many facts about the real nature and magnitude of the scientific, cultural and educational activities carried out during the Ottoman period. They give evidence to the richness and variety of the cultural heritage which was produced in the Ottoman realm. This richness and variety was created due to the fact that Ottoman civilisation assimilated elements from the cultures of peoples living in its lands and established a particular kind of active and dynamic cultural symbiosis. The study of this collective experience of the peoples in different regions of Ottoman territory contributes in highlighting many common elements of culture that link together the descendants of those peoples to each other and to the neighbouring civilisations.

The introductory article by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu is entitled "Modern Turkey and the Ottoman Legacy". It examines the roots and different aspects of the multi-faceted Ottoman legacy, the misinterpretation of this legacy on the basis of political and ideological interests as factors that contributed in creating international conflicts, the effects of the modernization process upon the worldview of Ottoman intellectuals, language as an important element of the Ottoman legacy, the problem of the transmission of the legacy of the past into posterity.

IRCICA has the pleasure to present this collection of valuable articles by scholars of Ottoman history from around the world.

## IRCICA PUBLICATION

**Traditional Carpets and Kilims in the Muslim World – past, present, and future prospects,** prepared for publication by Nazih Maaruf, Introduction by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Istanbul, 2001, 439 p., 196 colour photographs  
Price: US\$ 50,- post included



This book contains the papers which were presented during the international seminar on “Traditional Carpets and Kilims in the Muslim World”, which was held in under the patronage of H.E. Zine El Abidin ben Ali, President of the Republic of Tunisia on 19-25 November 1999. The seminar was organised in cooperation with the “Office National de l’Artisanat” of the Ministry of Tourism and Handicrafts, Tunisia with the collaboration of Mashareq international establishment, Jeddah, and the International Centre for the Development of Handicrafts (CIPA), Fez. The book is a comprehensive study of the carpets and kilims (rugs) sector as part of cultural, economic and social life. It illustrates the characteristics and the beauty of the carpets and kilims produced in the Muslim countries and other regions of the world, east and west. It looks into the raw materials, their treatment, and the traditional tools used in carpet-weaving. It deals with such particular, technical aspects of the subject as the use of natural dyes and the new methods used in analysing them chemically to determine the age of the carpets.

Some chapters deal with the motifs and designs applied on carpets, their symbolic meanings and interpretations, while other parts of the book are devoted to detailed studies on technical aspects of carpet weaving, such as the various types of looms, tools, inputs and methods used in carpet-weaving. The reader will also find in it reports on field surveys and statistical studies relating to the carpet and kilim markets, problems and challenges encountered, imports and exports of traditional carpets and their country-wise distribution, trends observed in buyers’ preferences, demand and supply, price trends, and many other aspects and issues relating to the crafts sector.