



Newsletter



OIC RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE

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The Custodian of The Two Holy Mosques King Abdallah bin Abdulaziz
and H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister of Turkey, visited
IRCICA together with members of their governments
10 August 2006**

**The 33rd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Harmony of
Rights, Freedoms and Justice) held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan
19-21 June 2006**

**Kyrgyzstan Cultural Week
at IRCICA
26 June-1 July 2006**

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on 1-3 September 2006 in Johannesburg
- * Third International Symposium on "Islamic Civilisation in the Balkans"
in Bucharest on 1-5 November 2006
- * Agreement for Cooperation between ALECSO and IRCICA signed in Istanbul
- * Cooperation with the Gulf Cooperation Council: joint activities planned
 - * Cooperation Agreement with ISESCO, Rabat
- * Visit of H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Selman bin Abdulaziz, Secretary General of
the Supreme Commission for Tourism, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Second
Preparatory Meeting of the First International Congress on "Tourism and
Traditional Crafts" to be held in Riyadh (7-14 November 2006)
- * "Prince Faisal bin Fahd Award for the Preservation of Islamic Architectural
Heritage" competition in progress
- * Russian edition of the "History of the Ottoman State and Civilisation" published

Museums

**Specialised museums of Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan:
The State Historical Museum of the Kyrgyz Republic,
Memorials of Ancient Turkic Stone Sculpture;
The Azerbaijan State Museum of Arts, Carpet and Applied Art;
The Azerbaijan State Theater "Jabarly" Museum**

Book Survey

Newsletter



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Book Survey

Editorial

Several momentous occasions marked IRCICA's activities this Summer: we were most honoured to receive Heads of State and Government from the Member States on our premises, to see new avenues open for some of our activities and strengthen our international cooperation networks. This issue of the Newsletter covering the last three months will highlight these events and developments: first and foremost, the visit of The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdallah bin Abdulaziz, and H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of Turkey, to our Centre, on 10 August 2006, accompanied by Ministers and high officials from their respective Governments, in the presence of H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC. The Custodian of The Two Holy Mosques' visit to IRCICA took place within the framework of His official visit to Turkey as the invitee of the President of the Republic of Turkey H.E. Ahmet Necdet Sezer. Following the contacts and meetings held in the capital city of Ankara, King Abdallah and his entourage, together with Prime Minister Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, and Foreign Minister and Vice Prime Minister Dr. Abdullah Gül, carried on with the Istanbul part of the program. We were greatly honoured that the invitation by the Secretary General of OIC Prof. İhsanoğlu and myself to visit IRCICA was so graciously accepted. This first visit of The Custodian of The Two Holy Mosques King Abdallah to our Centre was an excellent opportunity to present Him the results of our research programs and samples from the collections of our library. Prime Minister Erdoğan had honoured us with visits to our Centre on several occasions earlier, the last time on 23 November 2004, and this time we had the chance of outlining the recent progress in our work. Dr. Abdullah Gül, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, had visited our Centre earlier, the last time on 5 August 2005. Furthermore, on 26 August, we were honoured by the visit of H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Selman, Secretary General of the Supreme Commission for Tourism, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, for a working visit relating, among others, to the preparations for the First International Congress on "Tourism and Traditional Crafts" to be held under the patronage of The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdallah, in Riyadh on 7-14 November 2006. This support expressed by the Heads of State and Government, and governmental authorities of the OIC Member States, is of utmost importance for IRCICA's success.

A remarkable cultural activity held at IRCICA this Summer was the Kyrgyzstan Cultural Week. We were honoured to receive a group of eminent scholars and cultural authorities from Bishkek on this occasion. It was a highly instructive event. Our readers will remember that IRCICA had held an Islamic Countries Cultural Week, in November 2005, with the support of the Metropolitan Municipality of Greater Istanbul and the valuable contributions of many Member States, in commemoration of IRCICA's 25th anniversary. Taking into consideration the success

of that program, we planned to organise similar cultural weeks to be devoted to individual countries or specific cultural regions in the Muslim world. The Kyrgyzstan Cultural Week has been an excellent beginning for this program. It also contributed, to an equally important degree, to our studies on Islamic archaeology, because it was also the first meeting to highlight country studies in archeology. The lectures and exhibitions were followed with interest by a large audience, also by some researchers from abroad who were visiting Istanbul or specifically IRCICA during that period and were thus able to visit the exhibition and attend the panel conference; some said they were fortunate to have had this opportunity. We are grateful to our distinguished colleagues from Kyrgyzstan for this exemplary cooperation and joint activity.

Meanwhile, as the present issue of the Newsletter is being put to press, we are completing the international symposium on "Islamic Civilisation in Southern Africa" organised under the patronage of H.E. Thabo Mbeki, President of the Republic of South Africa, jointly by the National Awqaf Foundation of South Africa, the University of Johannesburg, and IRCICA. This was the first cultural event of the OIC and IRCICA to be held in cooperation with South Africa or any other country in the region of Southern Africa. We will highlight the symposium proceedings in the next (December) issue of the Newsletter. Also to appear in the next issue, there are two other congresses, to be held in November, on the following themes, respectively: "Islamic Civilisation in the Balkans" (third symposium) and "Tourism and Traditional Crafts". Furthermore, I have the pleasure of announcing that we have agreed with the Institute of Oriental Studies, Ministry of Education and Sciences, Republic of Kazakhstan, to jointly organize an international symposium on "Islamic Civilisation in Central Asia" on 4-7 September 2007, in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Soon after it, we will have an international congress on "Egypt in the Ottoman Era", to be organized jointly with the Supreme Council for Culture of Egypt, in Cairo, on 3-5 November 2007. The series of symposiums on Islamic Civilisation, focusing on the history and present heritage of Muslim nations and cultures in specific regions of the world, have proven to be highly useful, since by nature of their themes they bring together interdisciplinary groups of specialists, and contribute in establishing studies on particular culture zones as distinct fields of research.

This issue also includes a section on Museums – a frequent feature of the Newsletter. After the article on the Turkish-Islamic Arts Museum, Istanbul, published in our No. 67, we introduce this time some museums of Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan chosen for their museology aspects; the theme reappears in the Book Survey section in relation with some Egyptian museums.

Thank you for your interest,

Halit Eren

A memorable day in IRCICA's history: The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdallah bin Abdulaziz and H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister of Turkey, visited IRCICA together with members of their governments 10 August 2006

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdallah bin Abdulaziz al-Saud and H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of Turkey, visited IRCICA together on 10 August 2006, accompanied by H.E. Dr. Abdullah Gül, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey. Several high-level state officials from both countries accompanied them. That was another memorable day in the history of IRCICA, carrying an expression of support and encouragement from leaders of the OIC Member States - a much-needed stimulus for the Centre's work.

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdallah visited Turkey at the official invitation of the President of the Republic of Turkey H.E. Ahmet Necdet Sezer. The King was accompanied by a royal delegation comprising Foreign Minister H.R.H. Prince Saud al-Faisal bin Abdulaziz, the Head of the Intelligence Organisation H.R.H. Prince Migrin bin Abdulaziz al-Saud, the Secretary General of the National Security Council H.R.H. Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz and a number of officials and members of the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The first part of the visit to Turkey was in the capital city of Ankara, where working sessions were held with delegations representing various governmental and private sector

institutions relating to the different areas of cooperation between the two countries. The second part of the visit involved series of contacts and meetings in Istanbul, where The Custodian of The Two Holy Mosques King Abdallah and Prime Minister Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan were met at Istanbul airport by the Governor of Istanbul H.E. Mr. Muammer Güler and the Secretary General of the OIC H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu. As part of the intensive work program which included meetings with the business and industry circles, King Abdallah and Prime Minister Erdoğan paid a visit to IRCICA in the afternoon of 10 August.

The entourage of King Abdallah in this visit included: H.R.H. Prince Migrin bin Abdulaziz, Head of the Intelligence Organisation; H.R.H. Prince Faisal bin Abdallah bin Mohammed al-Saud, Vice-Head of the Intelligence Organisation; H.E. Dr. Ghazi al-Gosaibi, Minister of Labour; H.E. Dr. Ibrahim bin Abdulaziz al-Assaf, Minister of Finance; H.E. Dr. Iad bin Amin Madani, Minister of Culture and Information; H.E. Mr. Mohammed al-Tobaishi, Head of the Royal Protocol. On the Turkish side, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey Dr. Abdullah Gül and the Governor of Istanbul Mr. Muammer Güler accompanied Prime Minister Erdoğan during the visit.



The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdallah and the Prime Minister of Turkey Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan examined a hand-drawn Ottoman map showing the Gulf region

The Secretary General of the OIC Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu and the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren received the distinguished guests at the entrance of Çit Qasr, the building where Ottoman sultans who lived and worked at Yıldız Palace used to receive foreign statesmen and which houses the Centre's library and conference hall today.



The first part of the visit was a tour in the library's various sections, where King Abdallah also received information on developments relating to the Centre's activities. Some rare historical and particularly significant books were shown to the distinguished guests, whereby Professor İhsanoğlu and Dr. Eren highlighted the particular traits of the library collection. This was followed by a 5-minute power point presentation on IRCICA's first twenty-five years of activities.

Following this presentation, The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdallah offered IRCICA a piece from the curtains of the Holy Kaba bearing an embroidered inscription, and a model of the Kaba sculpted in mother-of-pearl. As a souvenir of this visit, Prof. İhsanoğlu presented King Abdallah a reproduction of a historical document the original of which is in the archives of IRCICA: the letter which was sent by Fahrettin Pasha, the Ottoman Commander in Medina, to King Saud in 1919. Director General Dr. Halit Eren Presented King Abdallah with a 1x1.25 m. plate bearing the attributes of God written in calligraphic writing.



King Abdallah and members of His Government, together with Turkish Prime Minister Erdoğan and Foreign Minister Gül, the Governor of Istanbul Mr. Güler and all the distinguished guests, saw a power point presentation on IRCICA's activities.



The Thirty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Harmony of Rights, Freedoms and Justice) held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan 19-21 June 2006

The Thirty-Third Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Harmony of Rights, Freedoms and Justice) was held in Baku, capital city of the Republic of Azerbaijan, on 19-21 June 2006. The session was inaugurated by H.E. Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, with a comprehensive address.



H.E. President Ilham Aliyev opened the session with a comprehensive address. At right, OIC Secretary General Prof. İhsanoğlu presents his report to the conference



The session heard the addresses of H.E. Dr. Abu Bakr Abdullah Al-Qirabi, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Yemen and Chairman of the 32nd Conference, H.E. Mr. Hamid Albar, Foreign Minister of Malaysia, representing the Chair of the 10th Islamic Summit. The Conference unanimously elected H.E. Mr. Ilmar Mammad Yarob, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as Chairman of the 33rd Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

In his report on the activities of the General Secretariat realised since the previous Conference, the Secretary General of the OIC H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu reviewed the various initiatives and reforms which were introduced in the internal work of the General Secretariat and the laying of bridges with international and regional organisations around the world. He underlined the appropriate timing of the conference in the environment created by the Mecca extraordinary session of the Islamic Summit (Dec. 2005) and the Ten-Year Programme of Action it adopted. He reviewed the programme components achieved and those that are in execution.

In its deliberations and resolutions, the Conference reiterated that the cause of Al-Quds Al-Sharif is the central cause of the Muslim world and stressed the necessity of countering the perils of judaisation to which the sacred city is subjected as a consequence of the policies and measures carried out by the Israeli occupation authorities aimed at isolating Al-Quds Al-Sharif from the rest of the occupied Palestinian territories by building the racist Separation Wall, confiscating lands, demolishing homes and expanding colonies around the Holy City. The Conference invited the Member States to support and strengthen the steadfastness of Palestinian citizens in the occupied City of Al-Quds. The Conference affirmed

its full support and backing for the Palestinian people in strengthening their national unity and unifying their internal front. The complete text of the extensive resolution on Al-Quds and Palestine and all the other resolutions of the conference, as well as the addresses and communiqués, can be accessed at www.oic-oci.org.

Relating to political issues, the Conference took resolutions on the situation in Iraq, Somalia, Sudan and other member countries, as well as on the problems of Muslim minorities in other countries, including the Muslim Turkish Cypriots and the Muslim minority in Greece among others. It expressed its support for the ongoing peace process between Pakistan and India, for the stability process in the aftermath of the presidential elections in Afghanistan. It conveyed its full solidarity with the Sudan in establishing the foundations of peace and stability all over the country and achieving national reconciliation.

Debating on global issues, the Conference expressed its deep concern over the growing phenomenon of intolerance and discrimination against Muslim communities in non-Islamic countries, particularly in the West, and called on the United Nations Human Rights Council to formulate an internationally binding document to promote global respect for all religions and cultural values and prevent intolerance, discrimination and instigation of hatred against any group or followers of any religion.

The Conference emphasised that terrorism contradicts the teachings of Islam which urge tolerance, mercy and non-violence. It also condemned any connection between terrorism, race, religion and culture. It renewed the call for an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to define terrorism and to distinguish it from the struggle of people to gain their national independence. It also called for a high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly to affirm international consensus on developing a comprehensive strategy to combat this dangerous phenomenon.

The Conference declared the Year 1427H as the "Year of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH)" and recommended organising cultural events which will enhance cultural and humanitarian bonds among human societies.

Relating to the implementation of the Ten-Year Programme of Action adopted by the Third Extraordinary Islamic Summit Conference (Dec. 2005), the Conference decided to make the subject a permanent item on the agenda of the Summit and Foreign Ministers' Conferences as well as those of the three Standing Committees of the OIC - COMCEC, COMIAC and COMSTECH. It called upon Member States to provide political, financial and moral support to implement the programme.

A large number of resolutions were taken in the economic field. The fundamental importance of expanding intra-OIC trade

was underlined. The Conference called for speedy accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO). It reiterated its appeal to the WTO to strengthen the development dimension in the various multilateral trade agreements through a wide range of measures, including the application of the provisions on special and preferential treatment for the developing countries and due consideration to the special needs of Least Developed Countries.

Relating to international economic issues, the Conference called on the world community to put an end to agricultural subsidies, which are detrimental to producers in developing countries. It underlined the necessity of taking all possible measures within the OIC to support the least-developed cotton-producing countries in their legitimate demand for greater value-added in the processing of this product.

The necessity of accelerating the implementation of the OIC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among Member States was stressed. The Conference noted with satisfaction that the First Round of the Trade Negotiations under the Trade Preferential System among OIC Member States was concluded successfully, that the Protocol on the Preferential Tariff Scheme, which includes specific targets and a time-frame for tariff reduction, was adopted by the COMCEC and presented to the member countries for signing/ratification, and that the trade negotiations will continue. Furthermore, the Conference stressed the role of the private sector in stimulating intra-OIC economic and commercial cooperation and further emphasized the role of the small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the industrial development of Member States. It noted in this connection the progress made by the OIC Task Force on SMEs in working on a strategy for the development of these enterprises.

The Conference took a number of resolutions on cultural subjects. Relating to the "cultural aspects of the phenomenon of globalisation", the Conference expressed its thanks to ISESCO (Rabat) and IRCICA (Istanbul) for preparing in-depth studies aimed at protecting Islamic culture and heritage against the negative impacts of globalisation and requested the Member States to submit their observations to the General Secretariat on these two studies in order to prepare the final study. Another theme discussed was "The Universal Declaration on Dialogue among Civilisations". The Conference called on the General Secretariat of the OIC, ISESCO and IRCICA to continue to organise specialised forums on these themes.

The Conference welcomed and supports the initiative of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev on convening the Congress of Leaders of Divine Religions, and invited the Member States to encourage contribution and participation of their respective religious leaders in the work of the Congress.

The Conference deliberated and took resolutions on: the protection of the Islamic holy places, with reference to the destruction of Babri Mosque in Ayodhya, India, Charar-e-Sharif Islamic Complex in Kashmir, Islamic historical and cultural relics and shrines in the occupied Azerbaijan territories, holy tombs, sites, mosques and houses of worship in Iraq.

An extensive resolution on social issues addressed subjects relating to: women and their role in the development of

Muslim society, child care and protection, welfare of orphans and minors in Islamic states affected by wars and disasters, education and rehabilitation of Muslim youths, cooperation on drug and psychotropic substance abuses and their illegal production, processing and trafficking, controlling epidemic diseases affecting man, fauna and flora, global cooperation in the polio eradication programme among OIC Member States, and ways and means of resolving problems relating to environment and health.

The Conference reviewed the activities of the universities affiliated with the OIC: the Islamic University in Niger, the Islamic University in Uganda, the International Islamic University Malaysia, the Islamic University in Bangladesh, the proposed project of Zeitouna University in Tunisia, and the King Faisal University in N'djamena, Republic of Chad. The resolution on the "Islamic cultural institutions, centres and institutes" reviewed the activities of and invited the concerned institutions of the Member States to establish technical and academic cooperation with: the Regional Institute of Islamic Studies and Research, Timbuktu, Mali, the Regional Institute for Complementary Education (RICE), Islamabad, Pakistan, the Islamic Centre in Guinea-Bissau, the Islamic Institute of Translation in Khartoum. Within its resolution on Palestinian affairs, the Conference formulated a number of measures to support the Palestinian universities in the occupied territories, with regard to provision of scholarships to students, twinning them with universities in OIC Member States, etc.

In its resolution on IRCICA, the Conference

1. Expresses its appreciation of the accomplishments of the Centre and commends the progress made in the fields of research, publication and promotion of scholarly studies on various subjects, holding a number of scientific symposia, cultural lectures, exhibitions in fields of its concern in the Centre's headquarters and in the Member States; notes with appreciation that the Centre realised many projects in cooperation with cultural and academic institutions in the member states and worldwide;
2. Notes with appreciation the decision taken by the Coordination Meeting of the OIC Institutions for the Implementation of the OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action held in Jeddah on 5 March 2006 which requests IRCICA to continue deploying efforts to activate dialogue among civilisations through its research, publications and congresses and by emphasizing the values of Islam; organise cultural forums and participate in regional and international activities towards promoting the collective interests of the Muslim world; actively participate in the collaborative projects aimed at revising the European textbooks with regard to their treatment of the histories of Muslim nations;
3. Expresses its gratitude to the OIC Member States for having taken part actively in the "Islamic Countries Cultural Week" which was organised by the Centre on the occasion of its 25th anniversary, on 22-28 November 2005, with the support of the Municipality of Istanbul, and lauds the multifarious events which made of it a cultural festival of the Muslim world as well as the introductory publication which was issued on this occasion;
4. Commends the project of IRCICA to organise a Conference on the waqf institution which would not only deal with

historical aspects of the waqf but also the concept itself in light of contemporary needs and explore the possibility of its application in the modern world;

5. Underlines the importance of the Centre's efforts in defining new horizons for its future activities, in particular with respect to correcting the accusations associating Islam and the Muslim world with violence and terrorism, and requests the Centre to take up this issue and make every effort to improve the image of Islam in the West and cooperate with other international organisations around the world to organise activities such as symposia directed to this aim; and commends in this regard IRCICA for drawing up a study centred on the protection of Islamic culture and heritage against the negative effects of globalization and the presentation of the Islamic view of cultural diversity;

6. Welcomes the new project of the Centre aimed to publish a critical edition of the Mushaf (Quran copy) that is attributed to the third caliph, Othman bin Affan, and points out the importance of surveying and compiling bibliographies of translations of the meanings of the Holy Quran that are found in the form of manuscript and printed copies;

7. Commends the efforts taken by IRCICA to conduct a feasibility study aiming to document and classify archaeological and historical Islamic sites and monuments in the Member States, build a data bank of these sites and monuments, and invites the Member States and the private sector to extend possible means for financing the project;

8. Praises the initiative of the Centre in establishing the "Prince Faisal bin Fahd Award for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage" dedicated to the memory of the late Prince Faisal bin Fahd bin Abdulaziz and for having launched the first competition which is devoted to architectural heritage and entitled the "Prince Faisal bin Fahd Award for the Preservation of Islamic Architectural Heritage";

9. Praises the launching by IRCICA of a comprehensive program of seminars and workshops to be devoted to the cultural and architectural heritage of Al-Quds and Palestine to be organised jointly with the University of Al-Quds, as well as the convening of the Advisory Committee of experts which met on 20-21 February 2006 and drew the program guidelines and calendar, and the preparations to hold the first symposium of the program in November 2006;

10. Lauds the continuation of the efforts made within the Crafts Development Program conducted in various OIC countries in terms of seminars and exhibitions, aimed at raising awareness on this important development sector, and commends the steps taken until now by IRCICA and the Supreme Commission for Tourism in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to organise an International Conference on Tourism and Handicrafts in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, between 16-23 Shawwal 1427H (7-14 November 2006) which will cover a variety of different relevant topics along with live performances of artisans of the Muslim world and exhibitions of masterpieces of handicrafts;

11. Takes note with appreciation of IRCICA's project to organize an International Symposium on "Islamic Civilisation in Southern Africa" in cooperation with the National Awqaf Foundation of South Africa and the University of

Johannesburg, on 1-3 September 2006, which will be the first of its kind to be held in the region;

12. Welcomes the project of the Centre to organise the third symposium on "Islamic Civilisation in the Balkans" in Bucharest, Romania, in cooperation with the University of Bucharest, on 1-5 November 2006;

13. Notes with appreciation the Centre's project to hold the First International Symposium on "Islamic Civilisation in Central Asia" in Kazakhstan, in cooperation with the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan, in 2007;

14. Welcomes IRCICA's proposal to organise a second International Symposium on "Islamic Civilization in West Africa" in cooperation with the Republic of Mali under the high patronage of H.E. President Amadou Toumani Toure;

15. Welcomes the announcement of the seventh international calligraphy competition organised in the name of Iraqi master of calligraphy Hashim al-Baghdadi (1917-1973) with a ceremony held during the Second Sharjah Calligraphy Biennale, under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Sultan bin Mohamed Al-Qassimi, Ruler of Sharjah, in the presence of H.E. the Secretary General of the OIC;

16. Praises the initiative of IRCICA towards the Süleymaniye Book Hospital Project as a joint project of the Centre, UNESCO and the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism, for which a further follow-up process was undertaken during the UNESCO Executive Board Meeting held in Paris between 3-7 April 2006, which comes within the context of the cooperation of IRCICA with the international agencies in its capacity as a focal point for OIC-UN cooperation in the field of arts, crafts and promotion of heritage;

17. Takes note of the successful organisation of the second international symposium on "Islamic Civilisation in Volga-Ural Region" in Kazan, Republic of Tatarstan, on 24-26 June 2005, under the patronage of H.E. Mintimer Shaimiev, President of Tatarstan, jointly with academic institutions of the Russian Federation and Tatarstan, and other contributions of the Centre to the 1000th anniversary of Kazan city, and expresses its appreciation of the medal presented by the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tatarstan to the Director General of IRCICA in recognition of these contributions;

18. Takes note of the successful organisation of the international congress on "Bilad al-Sham during the Ottoman Period" which was held in Damascus, Syria on 26-30 September 2005, under the patronage of H.E. Dr. Bashar Al-Assad, President of the Syrian Arab Republic;

19. Expresses its thanks and appreciation to the host country of IRCICA (the Republic of Turkey) and all the Member States, particularly the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (host country of OIC) for the material and moral support they are extending to IRCICA, thus enabling it to fulfil its mission;

20. Expresses its thanks to the Member States which regularly pay their contributions to IRCICA's budget and invites the other countries to do so and settle their arrears to IRCICA's budget.

The 34th Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers will be held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

Kyrgyzstan Cultural Week 26 June–1 July 2006

A Kyrgyzstan Cultural Week was held at IRCICA from 26 June–1 July 2006. This large-scale event was organised in cooperation with a group of cultural authorities and scholars from Kyrgyzstan. The program of the Week included an exhibition reflecting the authentic archaeological and architectural heritage, the arts and the handicrafts of Kyrgyzstan, and a panel conference comprised of a series of lectures on Kyrgyz cultural history and heritage.

Exhibition of the culture of Kyrgyzstan

This exhibition was opened on 28 June 2006 by IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren jointly with Mrs. Baktygul Dakenova, Consul of the Kyrgyz Republic, Prof. Asan Ormushev, Rector, Mahmud Kashgari Eastern University, Bishkek, Prof. Erkin Murataliev from Kyrgyz State University, Faculty of History, Dept. of Archeology, Bishkek, and all the other members of the Kyrgyz delegation. A large number of visitors were present on the occasion.



Opening of the exhibition, officiated by Mrs. Baktygul Dakenova, Consul, Consulate General of Kyrgyzstan



The exhibition consisted of the photographs of samples of archaeological riches of Kyrgyzstan. Among the exhibited items, there were: the famous map drawn by Mahmud Kashgari, Balbal (stone sculptures) from the Karakhanid period from Burana, Chui Valley, Tokmok; gravestones; minarets; ceramic water pipes (10th-12th century) from Burana Museum; villages and districts of historical importance, ceramic jars, jugs and dishes from various regions.

Pictures of the architectural and archaeological riches were displayed, together with numerous objects representing the cultural and craft heritage.

At left, jug (10-12th centuries, Talas Valley), Kyzyladir Kirov High School Museum; at right, jug (10-12th centuries), Burana Museum



Burana Minaret (11th century), Tokmok

Panel conference

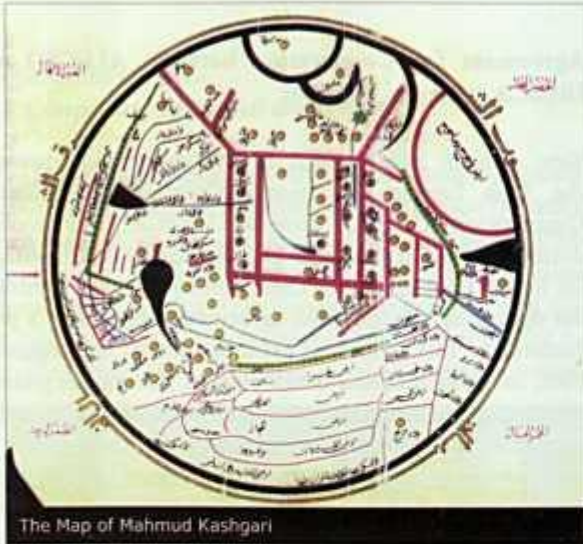
The panel conference took place on 1 July 2006, in the presence of H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC, with the participation of scholars, cultural personalities, and an interested public. In his opening speech, Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, pointed out that after having organized the "Islamic Countries Cultural Week" on its 25th anniversary, the Centre planned to hold cultural weeks for the various Muslim countries. He said that the Kyrgyz Cultural Week is the first of them. He expressed his thanks and appreciation to Ms. Kishimjan Eshenkulova, a Kyrgyz historian of science who studied at Istanbul University, for her great efforts in coordinating the Kyrgyz Cultural Week.

Dr. Jumali Momunkulov, Director of the State History Museum, delivered a lecture on the "Archaeological collections in the History Museum dating from the Karakhanid Period". He stated that the State Museum of History in Kyrgyzstan houses a rich collection of works that are part of the cultural and historical heritage of this country. The Karakhanid State was established during the second half of the 10th century and the nomadic and settled cultures were intermingled in this state. Ancient Turkic stone sculptures (Balbals) dating from the 6th-10th centuries are important sources for studying the history of the ancient Turks. Dr. Momunkulov said that information is available today about 600 stone sculptures. They are mainly

found in Naryn and Issyk-Kul regions, in Kemin, Chui and Talas valleys. Dr. Momunkulov informed the audience about the collection of the State Historical Museum of the Kyrgyz Republic. The acquisition of this collection has started in 1940s and is being continued now; big merit in this work belongs to archaeologists A.N. Bernshtam and D.F. Vinnik. Among the stone sculptures of the Historical Museum are real works of art.

Prof. Jumamedel Imankulov, Director of Restoration, Head of the Department of Historical Architectural Buildings at KGUSTA University, delivered a lecture titled "Architectural Works Dating from the Karakhanid Period in Kyrgyzstan". In his lecture, Prof. Imankulov pointed out that Central Asia is an important cultural center and a meeting point of eastern and western civilizations. Central Asian architecture also influenced Islamic art but its influence on contemporary art has not been studied sufficiently. The importance of this architecture increased during the Karakhanid period (10th-12th century). The transition from early feudal social structure to settled society was completed and trade, arts and crafts and architecture developed in this period. The Karakhanid cities such as Balasagyn, Kashgar, Uzgen and Barskan became scientific and artistic centers. Prof. Imankulov then focused on the development of Islam during the Karakhanid period as it is





The Map of Mahmud Kashgari

observed in architectural works. He stated that the mosque became a symbol of tolerance and dialogue among the people and strengthened the respect felt for the ancestors. He pointed out that the preservation and restoration of monuments dating from the Karakhanids is an issue of primary importance. He also suggested that IRCICA could contribute to the restoration of these monuments.

Ms. Jipara Tokgazieva, researcher at the State History Museum, delivered a lecture titled "Archaeological Research on the Buildings and Ceramics of the Karakhanid Period". Ms. Tokgazieva stated that economic life prospered during the Karakhanid period. As a result, new big cities were formed as centers of arts, crafts and trade. Ms. Tokgazieva stated that the towns consisted of three parts during the Middle Ages. These were: the fortified part where the soldiers and administrators lived; the Rabat where the craftsmen were located and the Shehristan, namely that part of the city which was reserved particularly for men of religion and tradesmen. Archaeological excavations yielded finds dating from 10th-12th centuries.

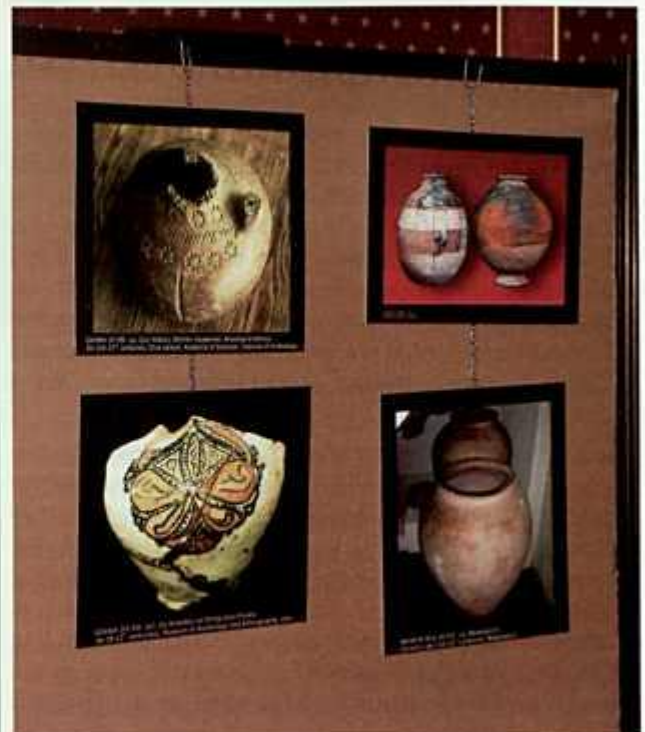
She informed the audience about the major cities of the Karakhanid period such as Balasagyn, known for its well-protected buildings and minaret, and Uzgen. One finds information about these cities in some manuscript sources in Arabic. The historian Muqaddasi states that there were about 40 towns and villages in Farghana.

Prof. Erkin Murataliev from Yusuf Balasagun Kyrgyz National University delivered a lecture titled "Researches on the Old Town Koshay Kurgan". He first presented a brief history of this city which flourished during the Middle Ages. In the 6th century Turkish tribes settled in this town which is also known as Atbashi. The presence of numerous graveyards attests to this settlement. It was during the Karluk and the Karakhanid period that the first settlements appeared in this region. Prof. Murataliev pointed out that Russian scholars and travelers discovered several archaeological finds in Atbashi during the second half of the nineteenth century. Barthold, who is one of the first scholars to undertake research on this city, provided

information on the basis of Arab sources. The city existed during the Mongol period as well.

Prof. Asan Ormushev, Rector of Mahmud Kashgari Eastern University, enlightened the audience about cultural developments during the Karakhanid period, and showed a documentary film on Mahmud Kashgari. Prof. Ormushev spoke of the importance of Kutadgu Bilik by Yusuf Has Hajib and Divan-i Lugat et-Turk by Mahmud Kashgari. These works mark the zenith of Karakhanid culture during the 10th century. Divan-i Lugat et-Turk contains more than 400 proverbs and idioms in Turkish. It has chapters on various subjects such as daily life, hunting, and weapons of the Turkish warriors. It was translated into various languages and is still being translated. Prof. Asan Ormushev also informed the audience about Islamic studies conducted in their university in Bishkek. He said that at present 500 students are learning Arabic language, Islamic civilisation and culture there. He pointed to the possible areas where projects could be developed jointly with his university on one hand and IRCICA and the universities of Istanbul on the other, such as congresses and publications.

Director General Dr. Halit Eren thanked all participating scholars and stated that the organisation of the Kyrgyz Cultural Week was a first large-scale scholarly activity within the framework of the cooperation between Kyrgyzstan and IRCICA. Dr. Eren also underlined the importance of publishing the texts of these lectures which were delivered by eminent Kyrgyz scholars as a book in English, for wider dissemination in academic circles and to the interested public.



The International symposium on Islamic Civilisation in Southern Africa (Johannesburg, 1-3 September 2006)

As the present August issue of the Newsletter goes to press, the International symposium on Islamic Civilisation in Southern Africa is held in Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa, being organised jointly by the National Awqaf Foundation, the University of Johannesburg and IRCICA.

The symposium will take place under the patronage of His Excellency Thabo Mbeki, President of the Republic of South Africa. H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC, will be present. It is organised under the direction of Dr. Halit Eren, Director General, IRCICA, Mr. Zeinoul Abedien Cajee, National Coordinator, National Awqaf Foundation of South Africa (Awqaf SA), and Prof. JFJ van Rensburg, Chairperson, Centre for Islamic Studies, University of Johannesburg.

This symposium, the first of its kind, brings together scholars and researchers from twenty countries – in Africa, Europe and the USA – and South Africa itself. Sixty-six papers are contributed to the symposium over twenty-one sessions. The themes of the symposium are: History, Community-State Relations, the Socio-political Contribution of Muslims, Islamic Education and Intellectual Development, Socio-Economic Development, Spread of Islam in Southern Africa, Islam and Economics.

Third International Congress on Islamic Civilisation in the Balkans to be held in Romania, on 1-5 November 2006

IRCICA and the Center for Turkish Studies, University of Bucharest, will jointly organise the Third International Congress on Islamic Civilisation in the Balkans on 1-5 November 2006 in Bucharest, Romania. The congress will focus on "The Ottoman Legacy in Europe" with an interdisciplinary and comparative approach. It will examine the evolution and the spread of the Ottoman-Islamic civilisation in South East and Central Europe, covering the economic, political, juridical, institutional, artistic, linguistic, cuisine and other aspects as well as the formation and evolution of this heritage, its present state and prospective contributions to a positive cultural dialogue among the peoples of the region. At the same time, it will be an occasion to assess the state of research on the Ottoman legacy in the Balkans and the neighbouring regions.

The co-Presidents of the congress are Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, and at the same time a specialist of the history of Muslim culture and late Ottoman history in Southeast Europe and the Balkans, and Prof. Dr. Mihai Maxim, Director of the Center for Turkish Studies, University of Bucharest, and Director of the Romanian Cultural Institute "Dimitrie Cantemir" in Istanbul, a leading expert of the field, well known for his contributions to the promotion of research, teaching and international academic cooperation. 124 researchers from 13 countries including Romania itself, will participate in the congress.

Agreement for Cooperation between ALECSO and IRCICA signed in Istanbul

New avenues have opened in the cooperation between the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO - Tunis) and IRCICA. Talks were held during the visit of ALECSO Director General Ambassador Dr. Mongi Bousnina to the Centre on 2 June 2006, leading to the signing of a cooperation agreement followed by a press conference. This agreement expands the first one, signed in 2002, in the light of new developments. Among the planned joint activities are congresses and publications aimed at promoting acquaintances between peoples of the world by the medium of their cultures, some of which are to be conducted in cooperation with other institutions and organisations in various regions of the world including Europe, North and South America, Central Asia, Eastern and Southeastern Asia. Cultural themes of common concern for the OIC and the Arab League, such as projecting correct images of the Arab and the Islamic cultures and civilisations to world opinion and combating attitudes reflecting an "Islamophobia" vis-à-vis Islam and the Muslim world, among others.

IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren opened the press conference at Çit Qasr with a welcoming address, expressing the importance the Centre attaches to cooperation with ALECSO given that the fields of interest and the membership of the two institutions intersect, which is an advantage for success of the activities. He briefed the audience on the planned joint activities.



ALECSO Director General Dr. Mongi Bousnina said that their relations with IRCICA are deep-rooted. The new agreement is a new stage in the relationship: it is supplemented with an implementation plan comprising various types of activities. Within this framework, the two organisations will collaborate in convening scholarly meetings and invite each other to participate in their respective congresses, particularly on subjects concerning inter-cultural relations. They will also cooperate in scholarly activities such as studies on Islamic manuscripts and the written Islamic cultural heritage in general.

Cooperation with the Gulf Cooperation Council develops

H.E. Dr. Abdurrahman al-Attiyah, Secretary General, Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (Riyadh), visited IRCICA on 13 June, accompanied by a group of his colleagues, and Mr. Ibrahim Zavi, Consul, from the Consulate General of the United Arab Emirates in Istanbul. On this first visit to IRCICA the Secretary General was briefed by Director General Dr. Halit Eren on the Centre's activities.



Dr. Abdurrahman al-Attiyah and the accompanying distinguished guests were met by Dr. Eren

The meeting then centered on the cooperation between the two institutions. Extensive talks were held on the common areas of study. It was agreed that contacts and meetings will be pursued in order to implement joint activities, such as symposiums and publications, to study the cultural aspects and the international cultural relations of the Gulf Cooperation Council member countries, all of which are also OIC member countries. Following the visit to IRCICA,

the Secretary General Dr. Attiyah delegated Dr. Maziad A. al-Maziad, Manager of the Cultural Department at the General Secretariat



Dr. A. al-Attiyah saw unique samples from the library. Here, Dr. Hidayet Nuhoglu shows the book of Katip Çelebi on navigation, Tuhfetü'l-Kibar fi Esfarü'l-Bihar, which is one of the first books printed at the first printing house in Istanbul, in the 1730s.

of the Gulf Cooperation Council, to visit the Centre. Starting from 24 July, working sessions were held to draft a proposed plan for a symposium to be organised jointly by the Gulf Cooperation Council and IRCICA. This and other projects are under consideration by the two parties for their implementation in the near future.

Cooperation Agreement signed with ISESCO, Rabat



ISESCO Director General Dr. A. Al-Tuwaijri and Dr. Eren signed the cooperation agreement

IRCICA and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO), a specialized institution of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, have signed a Cooperation Agreement which formalises the working relations and cooperation between the two bodies thus paving the way for more intensive exchanges and joint activities in future. The agreement was signed at ISESCO headquarters in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco on 11 July 2006, during the visit of IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren to ISESCO Director General Dr. Abdulaziz bin Othman Al-Tuwaijri for the purpose of this agreement.

By this agreement, the two bodies agreed to cooperate in research and studies; to publish books and references dealing with Islam, its history, civilisation and culture; to hold symposia and lectures; to organise exhibitions and cultural gatherings/meetings; to study the Islamic heritage by scientific and scholarly means and disseminate the results of these studies with the aim of better introducing the riches of Islamic civilisation. The two institutions also agreed to support efforts directed to dialogue among different civilisations and cultures; provide assistance to researchers and initiate incentive awards to encourage innovative research efforts in the fields of Islamic history, art and culture.

Visit of H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Selman, Secretary General, Supreme Commission for Tourism, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to IRCICA, and Second Preparatory Meeting of the First International Congress on "Tourism and Traditional Crafts" (Riyadh, 7-14 November 2006)

IRCICA was honoured to receive on its premises H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Selman, Secretary General, Supreme Commission for Tourism of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 26 August 2006. The visit took place within the framework of the Prince's visit to Istanbul with family members and advisors. The distinguished guests were received at the entrance of Yıldız Palace by the Secretary



General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, who was in Istanbul in that period, and the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren. The first meeting at the General Directorate was an occasion to brief Prince Sultan bin Selman on recent developments and future prospects regarding the Centre's activities. Then, the distinguished guests were guided to the various research departments and the photograph archive, where they saw samples of the reference materials contained in the collections. The program of the visit continued with power point presentations on the activities of IRCICA over its first twenty-five years, and the Centre's Data Bank of Islamic Heritage launched this year. During the visit, Dr. Halit Eren presented H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Selman with a souvenir photograph album containing pictures of H.R.H. the Prince's first visit to IRCICA on 21 October 1985 and the meeting held when Dr. Eren was received by Prince Sultan in Riyadh, on 10 May 2005.

Relating to the First International Congress on "Tourism and Traditional Crafts" to be held under the patronage of The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdallah and organised jointly by the Supreme Commission for Tourism, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and IRCICA, in Riyadh, on 7-14

November 2006, the visit of Prince Sultan bin Selman was preceded by the arrival, a few days earlier, of Dr. Ali bin Brahim al Gabban, Advisor to H.R.H. Secretary General for Culture and Heritage, to hold the Second Preparatory Meeting of this congress with Dr. Nazeih Maarouf, Head, Crafts Development Program, IRCICA, and international coordinator of the congress.

The congress on "Tourism and Traditional Crafts" will be the first of its kind; it will discuss tourism, cultural, and heritage aspects of the theme. It will also discuss the ways and means of making better use of the traditional handicrafts sector in the tourism field, and explore the potential revenues that can be obtained by connecting the tourism sector to the traditional heritage and handicrafts. The congress partially focuses on the possibility of restoring some heritage sites and reviving them as specialised handicraft villages, to provide artisans with suitable display areas. Connecting tourism with handicrafts can revitalise the architectural monuments through the artisans who will produce and display their traditional masterpieces to the tourist and the local customer. Such a progress will ensure a continual development process and benefit different sectors of economy and society. The congress will also study the experiences of some countries which successfully restored their heritage buildings and made of them attractive must-see places for tourists. All issues related to the development of the tourism and handicrafts sectors will be discussed, with due focus on the present state of traditional handicrafts in the Muslim world and the various styles, designs, raw materials, techniques, etc. in use, and the influences of Islamic traditional designs on European art. The congress will be accompanied by a handicrafts exhibition with country stands. These stands will form a craft village of the Muslim world that will display not only the craft items but artisans as at work with their tools



and techniques. The associated activities can be grouped as follows:

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

* International Award for craft innovators in the Muslim world.

The objectives of the congress are:

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

The main topics of the congress will be:

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

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

Economic and Financial Aspects:

- 5- The economic and financial aspects of developing traditional handicrafts in the Islamic world,
- 6- The size of investments in the handicrafts sector,

7- The role of traditional handicrafts and tourism in contributing to the national income of OIC member countries,

- 8- The role of traditional handicrafts in promoting the female labor force especially in remote villages,
- 9- The importance of periodical exhibitions in promoting handicraft products and using them for attracting tourists,
- 10- Determining the budget allocations for exhibitions, promotion, and advertisement.

Marketing and Seeking New Opportunities:

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

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

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

Education, Training, and Upgrading Artisans' Qualifications:

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

Patronage and Governmental Efforts:

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

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

- 20- Experience of the OIC member countries in establishing craft villages as a heritage platform and tourism monuments,
- 21- Studying the experience of certain countries which succeeded in utilizing heritage and handicrafts within the tourism sector,
- 22- Role of the traditional handicrafts in the tourism sector and in introducing images of the Islamic cultural heritage,
- 23- A comparison of the sites frequently visited by tourists,
- 24- The media's role in organizing public awareness campaigns about the importance of traditional handicrafts and tourism sector.

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

The accompanying activities:

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

Each participating country will be invited to send samples of its traditional masterpieces to be displayed in the country pavilion. The country representatives will be expected to provide information about the tools, techniques, raw material, colors and designs of each piece. Private collectors are also welcome to display any of their collections.

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

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

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

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

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

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

For further information, please contact the Coordinators:
International Coordinator, Nazeih Taleb Maarouf, Head, Crafts Development Program, IRCICA, P. O. Box 24, Beşiktaş 80692, Istanbul, Turkey; Fax: 00-90-212-2584365, Tel: 00-90-212-2591742, email: nazeihmaarouf@yahoo.com;
National Coordinator, Engineer Saeed Awad al-Qahtani, Supervisor, Handicrafts Program, Supreme Commission for Tourism, P. O. Box 66680, Riyadh 11586, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Fax: 00966 1 4804693, Tel: 00966 1 4808855, email: saqsct@yahoo.com

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

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

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

In this competition, a total of \$ 30.000 US will be awarded as three equal prizes. Since the success of a winning project may be the product of efforts by diverse individuals, groups, and organisations, the Jury will apportion prizes among the contributors - architects, other design and construction professionals, craftsmen, clients, and institutions - whom it considers most responsible for the success of each project. An exhibition of the participating projects will be held and a catalogue of this exhibition may be published.

The submission of documentation for the entries is expected to be completed by the end of October 2006. The Master Jury will conduct on line work during February - September 2007 and have its final meeting in October 2007.

Russian edition of the *History of the Ottoman State and Civilisation* published in Moscow

The Russian edition of the book titled *History of the Ottoman State and Civilisation* has been published in Moscow, after having been edited by scholars from Moscow State University. The two-volume edition is a complete translation of the original book. It is expected to reach a wide readership in the vast Russian-speaking world. It provides an objective record of the Ottoman period on the basis of archival sources, and existing research. The first edition was published in Turkish, during 1994-1997. Arabic and English editions followed. A Bosnian edition was published in 2005. Editions in other languages are planned.



Above, from the left: Mr. Kamil Ishakov, Prof. Michael Meyer, Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Amb. Kurtuluş Taykent, Ambassador of Turkey in Moscow, Dr. Halit Eren. At left, Prof. Rostislav Ribakov speaking.

A book launching ceremony was held at Moscow State University on 5 June, in presence of: H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC, who is the Editor of the original edition; H.E. Mr. Aslambek Aslankhanov, Advisor to President Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation; H.E. Mr. Kamil Ishakov, Advisor to President Vladimir Putin for the Eastern Regions of Russia; H.E. Mr. Timour Akoulov, State Advisor for International Affairs to President Mintimer Shaimiev, President of Tatarstan, and a large audience of historians and faculty members. The ceremony was opened by Prof. Michael Meyer, Director of the Institute of Asian and African Studies, Moscow State University, who is the Editor of the Russian edition. Then, Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu briefed the audience on the methodology and other characteristics of the book. Dr. Halit Eren, IRCICA Director General, said that the Russian edition is another concrete result of the cooperation established between the academic circles of Russia and IRCICA. He expressed his gratitude to Prof. Meyer and all authorities and scholars who contributed to the Russian edition. Mr. Aslankhanov, who is also in charge of relations between the OIC and the

Russian Federation, underlined that the book will play an important role in making known the history of Turkey and its neighbouring countries to the Russian people and promoting international relations and cooperation. Mr. Aslankhanov qualified the book as a masterpiece and expressed pride and pleasure of the Russian scholars' contributions in realising the Russian edition. Mr. Timour Akoulov said, in his address, that it is not possible to have a complete knowledge of one's history without knowing that of one's neighbours, and that this book corrects the traditional image of the Ottoman state as a generally belligerent empire by reflecting its numerous other aspects and the fact that it was a land of civilisation. Prof. Rostislav Ribakov, Director General of the Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences, pointed out the pertinence of the book in making known the Muslim world in Russia which is very useful for the Russian public since the latter is aware of the importance of Islam and the Muslim world within global community. The Russian translation of the book was made by the late Mrs. Vera Feonova. The edition has been printed by Vostochnaya Literatura, the publishers of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Honorary doctorate of Kazan State University presented to the Director General of IRCICA

Director General Dr. Halit Eren was presented an honorary doctorate by the Institute of History of the Academy of Sciences, Republic of Tatarstan. The doctorate certificate was presented at a ceremony held at the University on this occasion on 9 June. The ceremony was officiated by H.E. Mr. Timour Akoulov, State Advisor for International Affairs to H.E. Mintimer Shaimiev, President of Tatarstan, H.E. Dr. Raphael Khakimov, State Advisor to the President of Tatarstan on Political Affairs and Director of the Institute of History at the Academy of Sciences, and H.E. Mr. Faris Kharisov, Minister of Education of Tatarstan.

During the period of his visit to Kazan, Tatarstan, Dr. Halit Eren met separately with Dr. Raphael Khakimov, State Advisor, Mr. Timour Akoulov, State Advisor, and H.E. Mr. Yury Kamaltynov, the Head of the Administration at the Presidency of Tatarstan. The meetings covered specific themes of common interest and subject to ongoing cooperation. The Director General also visited the Russian Islamic University which is established in Kazan.



The honorary doctorate certificate was presented by Dr. Raphael Khakimov

Distinguished Visitors

* H.E. Mrs. Zilya R. Valeeva, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Culture of the Republic of Tatarstan, visited IRCICA on 1st June. The Minister and her entourage received first-hand information from the Director General on the projects and programs of the Centre. They visited the



The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Culture of Tatarstan (on the right) and her entourage in the courtyard of Yildiz Palace



The Minister was accompanied by the following officials: Mr. Rinat Zakirov, Head of the Executive Committee of the World Tatar Congress, Mr. Ayrat Zapparov, Deputy Minister of Culture, Mr. İlfak İbragimov, President of the Writers' Association of Tatarstan, Mr. Ravil Fayzullin, Editor-in-Chief, "Kazan Utları" magazine, Mr. Almaz Monasipov, composer and conductor, Mrs. Asiya Rahimova, Chair of the Department of Turcology, Kazan State University, Mr. Damir Shakirov, Director of the Printing House of Tatarstan Republic, Mr. Ramis Aymetov, Director of Tukay Museum in Kazan.

library and examined the book collections. The program of the visit continued with a power point presentation on the Centre's activities during the first 25 years of its existence.

* The Centre was honoured to receive Prof. Dr. Syed Mohammed Khamanei, President of Professor Molla Sadra Institute, Tehran, Iran, at its headquarters on 2 June 2006. The distinguished guest was accompanied by Mr. Seyid Farhad Palizdar, Counsellor for Culture, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ankara, Turkey, Director General Dr. Halit Eren received the guests in his office and briefed them on the past and present activities of the Centre. He then guided them to IRCICA library and also to the conference and exhibition hall for a brief power point presentation on the activities of the Centre during its past 25 years.



* The Centre was honoured to receive at its headquarters H.E. Dr. Nabil Sha'ath, ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Palestine, on 10 June. Director General Dr. Halit Eren, together with Dr. Nazeih Marouf, Head of the Craft Development Program, briefed Dr. Nabil Sha'ath on the activities of the Centre, especially those relating to the preservation of the cultural



and architectural heritage of Al-Quds and Palestine, with a focus on the Architectural Program "Al-Quds 2015" being launched by the Centre, and the Data Bank on Architectural Heritage which will include the monuments of Al-Quds and Palestine. The distinguished visitor saw samples of the Centre's publications, visited its research departments and library, and watched a power point presentation on the activities of the first 25 years.

* On 6 July the Centre received a large group of Muftis of Albania who were visiting Turkey within the framework of the joint program organised by the Presidency of Religious Affairs of Albania and the Presidency of Religious Affairs of Turkey. The Director General of IRCICA briefed the guests on the aims and activities of the OIC and its cultural organ IRCICA, with a focus on the congress and other activities implemented by IRCICA in Albania jointly with the country's governmental and academic institutions.

* A group of ten Muftis from Macedonia, accompanied by the Mr. Hüseyin Kayalar, Director of the Pendik Education Centre of the Presidency of Religious Affairs, visited IRCICA



on 14 June. Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of the Centre, briefed the visitors on the activities of the Centre, its research and publications, with an emphasis on the Centre's efforts to coordinate restoration and conservation activities of the Islamic cultural and architectural heritage in Eastern and Southeastern Europe and the Balkan region.

* A delegation of deputies from the Iraqi Parliament, chaired by Mr. Hemman Hammoudi, member of the Constitution Drafting Committee and of the External Relations



Commission of the Parliament, visited IRCICA on 28 July 2006. The delegation was accompanied by Prof. Ahmet Davutoğlu, Chief Adviser to the Prime Minister of Turkey on Foreign Policy. The guests were briefed by Director General Dr. Halit Eren on the objectives and activities of the Centre. Mr. Hammoudi underlined the need for the Muslim world to study and highlight the various riches of its own cultural heritage. He expressed, on behalf of his colleagues and himself, his pleasure to have seen the Centre and the results of its activities.

* The Centre was honoured to receive, on 8 August 2006, a large delegation from the Turkish-Libyan Friendship Association chaired by Dr. Adil Mish'al and including Dr. Abdulkarem Abushwereb and Ambassador Saadeddin Abushwereb, in the presence of H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC. The distinguished guests were briefed by the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren on the current activities and future plans of the Centre. It was an occasion to recall that cooperation between the cultural authorities and



Souvenir photograph in front of Çit Qasr, the building where the library and the conference hall are located

institutions of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on one hand and IRCICA on the other was deep-rooted, and was strengthened as of the first years of IRCICA, since H.E. Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Al-Sharif, Secretary General, International Islamic Call Society, Tripoli, represented Libya in the Governing Board of IRCICA from 1986 to 1994; further, the Society extended its support to the activities of IRCICA on various occasions, such as the symposium on Translations of the Holy Quran organized in Istanbul in 1986, the symposium on Islamic Civilisation in West Africa organised in Dakar in 1996, the publication of the proceedings of the 1986 symposium, among others. In June 2003 a Libyan Cultural Week was organised at the Centre's premises in Yıldız Palace, with concerts and exhibitions. After the meeting with the Director General, the distinguished guests visited the library of IRCICA.

Museums

Museums and museology are one of the most advanced cultural sectors in the countries of Central Asia and Caucasia.

Below is a brief presentation of selected museums from Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan, on basis of information obtained from their catalogues and brochures.

The State Historical Museum of the Kyrgyz Republic

Memorials of Ancient Turkic Stone Sculpture

The State Historical Museum of the Kyrgyz Republic, in the capital Bishkek, is one of the largest museums in Central Asia. It has a variety of unique collections representing the history of Kyrgyzstan and its region over the past millennia and tracing it back to its origins as a land along the Silk Route. The Museum was opened in 1927. The collections representative of Kyrgyz history and culture include over 80000 articles forming archaeological and ethnographic collections, and materials related to the economic, scientific and cultural developments of the Soviet period and the Kyrgyzstan Republic. Among the exhibits are paintings, drawings, sculptures, traditional textiles and costumes, coins and paper money. The museum functions not only as a venue for exhibitions but it frequently participates in exhibitions abroad; selections from its collections were displayed in France, Finland, Japan and Turkey, as well as in Moscow and St. Petersburg.

One special collection of the Museum is the stone sculptures. Dissemination of this art in the region dates back to the period of the Turkic khanates, during the 6th-10th centuries. Found mainly in the regions of Naryn and Issyk-Kul, in the Kemin, Chui and Talas valleys, they are similar to those of Altai, Mongolia and other regions of Central Asia. Studies on the stone sculptures help determine the borders of nomadic Turkic tribes, their ethnic characteristics, their clothes, decorations and other arts and crafts. The sculpting of stones into human figures stopped after the spread of Islam in the region in the 10th-11th centuries and the Mongolian conquest. The State Historical Museum's collection contains 50 stone sculptures displayed as an open-air museum.



Another major museum in Bishkek is the **State Museum of Fine Arts**. It presents outstanding collections of folk arts and modern works of fine arts. Especially noteworthy are the traditional handicrafts work. Among the other museums are the **Toktogul Museum of Literature and Art**, the **Mineralogy Museum**, and the **Museum of the Academy of Arts**.

The Azerbaijan State Museum of Art

Carpet and Applied Art Museum

The State Museum of Azerbaijan, located in buildings dating from the 19th century in Baku, has rich collections of pottery, copperware, jewelry, glasses, paintings, sculptures, etc., and unique ancient carpets. The collection of carpets, comprising over 10000 carpets and works of traditional applied arts, illustrates the traditional weaving techniques and artistic features of Azerbaijan carpets. In accordance with the Museum's policy to acquire carpets from all over the country, the collection has valuable items from Guba, Baku, Absheron, Shirvan, Gazakh, Ganja, and Garabakh, the main centres of weaving. With this collection the Museum has become a specialised centre for the study of traditional and modern carpet-making. The carpets are arranged according to the main techniques and the zones of weaving. Among them are examples of famous designs woven during the 17th-20th centuries. Newer carpets representing new



designs combined with traditional themes and forms are also included. The visitor can admire the multitude of motifs applied: medallions, rosettes, stylized human and animal figures, and scenes from social life. Samples of fine Azerbaijan carpets are found in the collections of the world's largest museums - the Hermitage Museum, St.-Petersburg; Victoria and Albert Museum in London, the Textile Museum in Washington, D.C., the Louvre Museum in Paris, the Topkapı Palace Museum in Istanbul, among others. Azerbaijan has been an exporter of carpets starting from the Middle Ages.

The Azerbaijan Carpet Museum now features a Festival of Costume depicting the Azerbaijani costumes over different epochs. The most glamorous epoch in Azerbaijani costumes was the 16th and 17th centuries. Samples from this period can be found in the museums of Europe, Russia, Turkey and USA. The Festival is planned with the objective of making these costumes known under their functional and aesthetical aspects, but in due relation with their social environment,



Pictures of carpets reproduced from the pamphlet entitled "Azerbaijan's Missing Cultural Property" published with the support of UNESCO, which contains the pictures and descriptions of some of the 100 000 objects that were stolen from 26 museums and galleries in the territories of Azerbaijan which were subject to military actions and occupation by Armenia since 1988. Above, a carpet from the Shusha Historical Museum, at right, another one from the Kelbajar Museum of History and Local lore.

indicating the clothes and colours that were used on particular occasions. The Festival includes an exhibition of historical photographs of Azerbaijani people from various social strata depicting their original clothes and fashion styles.



The concert given by the Ancient Musical Instruments Ensemble of the State Museum of Azerbaijan Musical Culture on 26 November 2005, within the framework of the Islamic Countries Cultural Week marking the 25th anniversary of IRCICA: the musicians costumes were tailored according to their medieval originals.

The Azerbaijan State Theater "Jabary" Museum

Another special museum from among the numerous museum institutions of Azerbaijan, is the Theater Museum named after the illustrious playwright Jafar Jabarly.

Founded in 1934, by the patron of theatrical arts Agakarim Sharifov, who was its first director, the Museum has today around 120 000 articles of materials displaying the history of this art over more than a century. Here the researcher and the interested public will find comprehensive information on the evolution stages of the theater, the teachers and actors recognized for their services, the plays performed, the actors, the costumes.

The materials in the collection include posters, manuscript drafts, correspondence, directors' and actors' notes, photographs, drawings of costumes, puppets, the majority of which are originals. Programs of plays written on pieces of silk cloth or silk pillows, personal belongings of famous actors, musical instruments used in the early plays, documents and objects collected from local theaters of the country, draw great interest.



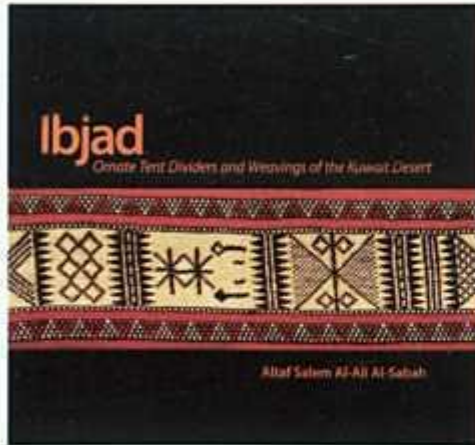
The informative illustrated introductory pamphlet of the Azerbaijan State Theater "Jabary" Museum

Book Survey

Books selected from IRCICA Library

Arts and Crafts

Altaf Salem al-Ali al-Sabah, **Ibjad. Ornate Tent Dividers and Weavings of the Kuwait Desert**, Al Sadu, Kuwait, 2006 (in English)



This beautiful album is a visual and descriptive study of the curtains and partitions produced and used by the Bedouins of Kuwait and its Hinterland. The author, archeologist Altaf Salem al-Ali al-Sabah, Head and Patron of Al Sadu Weaving Cooperative, has produced this comprehensive reference on that special craft for which "Ibjad" is one name. This craft is widespread all over Arabia, with some variations but with the same utilitarian and aesthetic functions.

The reader will find in it the history of weaving, its traditionally important role in Bedouin society as women's occupation, not a full time occupation, the author explains, but a critical skill that is performed daily by groups of women gathered for the purpose.

The technical information provided on the stages of manufacturing, as well as the loom, the dyes and the weaving materials of this authentic craft are particularly important. The chapter on Woven Textiles explains with drawings and illustrations the various parts of a tent, the use of the textiles to separate the rooms and constitute the roof, the various types of tent dividers.

The chapter on the designs and patterns informs us on the typical recurring motifs, the symbolic meanings of the designs, with comparisons of regional variations. The "Gallery" chapter presents beautiful pictures of a large variety of articles, with explanations on their materials, motifs and colours. The glossary is a most useful feature of the album.

Pauline Duponchel, **Textiles Bògòlan du Mali**, Collections du Mali no. 8, Musée d'Ethnographie, Neuchâtel, 2004, 333 p., ill. (in French)

Bògòlan textiles are produced in the lands dominated by the colours of the earth: this is a "mud cloth" painted with dyes made of humid mud mixed with plants, traditionally used to produce the wrapper cloth. This long established tradition belongs originally to the Mande-speaking (group of languages spoken by people of varying social practices spread all over West Africa) people of Mali, especially to the north of Niger River, to the north and north-east of Bamako. In recent years the cloth has come to be known and appreciated in the worlds of fashion and interior decoration, as well as through the organised efforts of craft specialists. Local production continues in the traditional style, mostly in the hands of women, since this is mainly a women's craft passed on from mother to daughter. The craft is far more than cloth weaving and dyeing; each motif has a meaning and the series/combination of motifs is a way of communication.

Though the artisan is free to innovate, certain forms and patterns have to be respected if a theme is treated. Weaving of the wrapper cloth and its "decoration", which is the meaning of the term Bògòlan, involves multiple stages, whereby the cloth is soaked in mixtures of the leaves of certain trees known for their dyeing properties (each plant being collected and prepared by special procedures and then left to dry in the sun, after which the mud, also collected and fermented by special methods, is applied to draw the motifs).



This book resulted from Pauline Duponchel's doctorate thesis at Sorbonne University. With the support of the Society of the Friends of the Ethnography Museum of Neuchâtel (Switzerland), she assembled a representative collection of these textiles during 1990-95, which was added to museum's collections. This collection of fifty-one articles is reproduced in the book. The first chapter has a thorough explanation of the techniques and know-how relating to each stage of production. The second chapter, "A second skin", is a fascinating review of the occasions on which and the needs for which the cloth is worn: on major events in one's life, to carry babies, as a sign of one's profession, etc. The third

chapter is an account of numerous visits to the producers which allowed the author to collect ample information on the themes applied as motifs and their significance. The following chapter, entitled "The Bògòlans of Bamako", tells the story of the local tradition's becoming a national emblem and an export commodity during 1970-1990 as a result of the efforts of artists, in particular, a stylist, Seydou, and through participation in major African craft exhibitions such as the Salon International de l'Artisanat, Ouagadougou. The last chapter underlines the authenticity and the symbolic meanings of the technique of dyeing with mud and the motifs as a means of communication; it outlines the characteristics of the products of the various major production centres, and equally important, it points to the aspects relating to creativity, quality and heritage preservation of the product's passage from user's value to market economy. The annex comprising reproductions and explanations of selected motifs is also a major component of the book. This interesting study is eighth in the series of publications relating to the collections of the Ethnography Museum of Neuchâtel (www.men.ch).

Museum of Egyptian Modern Art 2005, Ministry of Culture, Sector of Fine Arts, Cairo, 2005, il. (English and Arabic)

This beautiful book introduces the Museum of Egyptian Modern Art in its new layout following the re-arrangement and development it underwent 75 years after its establishment in the late 1920s. The exhibition philosophy has been revised: the visit to the museum does not follow halls ordered chronologically according to the periods, as is done traditionally, but is organised in a way to allow the visitor to appraise each period by comparing it with its successors as well as its predecessors. Therefore, it begins with a glimpse at the present state of plastic arts exemplified in 94 works carefully chosen to reflect the marking styles and themes of the last quarter of 20th century until today. This is followed by the works of early pioneers, considered the front-line of Egyptian art at the beginning of 20th century; then come the works of landmark artists of the new styles considered to have broken traditional lines and brought a renaissance in the modern arts, in the generation that succeeded the pioneers. Then come the chronological collections, ordered according to the life periods of the artists, from those born at the end of 19th century, with Nagui first, until the youngest generations.

In addition to the display halls, innovative halls have been introduced: the "Gallery Dimensions" houses cultural activities aimed at promoting deserving artists who did not receive due recognition, making known previously neglected works, creating grounds of discussion to analyse abstract/figurative arts and build a discriminating audience for the arts, among others; and, the Artistic Societies hall, which gives an overview of the artistic currents, philosophies and perspectives that were represented by the societies founded throughout the 20th century. Among the most influential of these societies, the catalogue mentions Art and Liberty (1930s), the Modern Art Society (1940s), the Axis Society (1970s), the Experimentalists' Society (1960s),

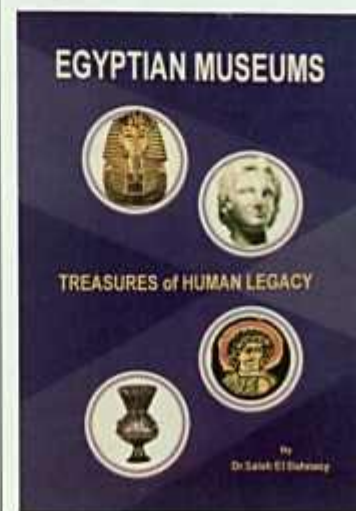
and the Imagination Society (1920s). This rich catalogue is an excellent reference for all those interested in Egyptian modern arts. It has a chapter on the history of these societies. Also noteworthy is that the reproductions of the paintings are accompanied by information on each artist given in English and in Arabic.

Salah el Bahnassy, **Egyptian Museums. Treasures of Human Legacy**, Ministry of Culture, Egypt, Foreign Cultural Relations, Prism Book Series, Guizhah, 2004, ill.

The idea and methodology of this publication are noteworthy: it aims at giving information on the main museums, their history, the nature of their contents, not with an effort to exhaustively describe all the museums, but to draw a general picture of the art and archeology collections belonging to the different epochs; but by doing so the book reflects at the same time the innovations and arrangements that became necessary in museology over the years, given the continuous growth of the already vast archeological riches of the country.

Thus museums of types not known before, such as museums devoted to specific crafts, museums relating to the lives and achievements of eminent personalities (Um Kolthum's Museum, Ahmed Shawky's Museum), were set up; furthermore, location museums were established in the cities where monuments are found.

The book consists of four chapters: the first chapter is a study of the museums in the light of the scientific rules and procedures relating to their maintenance and their educational and cultural roles. The second chapter introduces the major national museums: the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, the Greco-Roman Museum in Alexandria, the Coptic Museum, and the Islamic Art Museum in Cairo. As to local museums, examples of them are given in the third chapter; the Luxor Museum is the largest and richest; Mallawy Museum is the oldest local museum after the museum of Elfantine Island of Aswan which was established in 1917. The fourth chapter studies three historical museums: Beit al-Kirilidiya (an ancient building turned into a museum), Manial Palace Museum (the palace of Mehmed Ali Pasha), al-Gawhara Palace museum (the oldest among palace museums).



The conclusion has a number of useful and universally applicable observations on how the political, economic and cultural conditions of each distinct period in the country's history are reflected in the nature and characteristics of the objects contained in the museum collections.

Bilād al-Sham in the Light of Sultani Orders According to the Muhimme Defters (951 A.H./1544 – 973 A.H./1566), selected and translated by M. Fadil Bayat, Volume One, Bilad al-Sham History Committee, University of Jordan, Amman, 1426 A.H./2005

This book is the first volume of a series to contain the Arabic translations of the Ottoman "mühimme" registers (decrees and orders issued by the State Council on behalf of the Sultan) concerning the Bilad al-Sham region -Syria - until World War I. The series is arranged chronologically; thus the first volume is related to the decrees and orders issued under the reign of Sultan Suleyman The Lawgiver (1520-1566) corresponding to the expansion period (1453-1566) of the Ottoman Empire. The compiler Dr. Bayat selected 243 decrees of great importance for researchers of the history of the Sham region, after having scanned four registers chosen from the archives of Topkapı Palace and the Turkish Prime Ministry's Ottoman Archives. He then translated them into Arabic, classified and categorised them and supplemented them with indexes. Muhimme registers are indispensable references for researchers dealing with state policies, administration, appointments, economic developments, public health, education, foundations and other institutions, and other aspects of life in the various parts of Ottoman territory.

Ekrem Kadri Unat, Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Suat Vural, **Osmanlıca Tıp Terimleri Sözlüğü (Dictionary of Ottoman Medical Terms)**, Turkish Historical Society, Ankara, 2004 (introduction in Turkish, dictionary in Ottoman-Turkish-French)

This dictionary fills a gap in that it is a most needed tool for researchers working on the history of medicine, medical institutions and medical literature in the Ottoman state and its periphery during the 19th and early 20th centuries. The introductory essay by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu describes the development of Turkish medical terminology within the framework of the formation of the scientific and literary vocabularies. The essay underscores the key role played by the latter process in the evolution of any language, whereby it acquires the status and level of activity of a language of culture. Towards the end of the reign of Anatolian Seljuk "Beyliks", translations into Turkish started with the books in Arabic and in Persian which were dedicated by scholars to the Anatolian "Beys"; in time, with the increase of the number of "medrese" students in consequence of urbanisation, textbooks started to be written in Turkish. Under the Ottoman state, the adoption of Turkish as the official language gave a boost to literary and scientific authorship in this language. Within this centuries-long evolution, medical

literature took the lead in volume, followed by the scientific literature in astronomy, mathematics and geography. The emergence of Ottoman medical literature and the formation of Ottoman medical terminology encouraged each other in an interactive process.

As is observed in all other languages of culture, scientific terminology in Ottoman Turkish borrowed heavily from the rich literature and terminology of classical Arab medicine. In this introduction, İhsanoğlu cites the major works of classical Islamic medicine written from the 14th century onwards which were based on Arabic terminology, the medical dictionaries that were written in the Ottoman period beginning from the 17th century, and then the movement of translations from Western languages as part of the second phase of development of Ottoman medical literature, a phase marked by serious efforts on the part of medical doctors in the Imperial School of Medicine to Turkicise the language of medical education, and, especially, their systematic efforts to establish the medical terminology in Turkish, whereby they either found Turkish equivalents to or, more frequently, adapted and standardized the words of foreign origin. The vocabulary thus established in the second half of 19th century was then used for a long time not only in the capital Istanbul but in the Arab provinces, notably in the medical school which was set up in Damascus in 1903. This detailed essay is both informative and interesting reading.

Prof. Dr. Ekrem Kadri Unat, M.D., M.P.H. (1914-1998), former Head of Microbiology and Clinical Microbiology Dept, Univ. of Istanbul, Cerrahpaşa Medical Faculty, was at the same time the foremost authority on the subject. Unfortunately Prof. Unat passed away just as he completed the first draft of the dictionary. The work was continued by Prof. Dr. Suat Vural, M.D., an eminent colleague of Prof. Unat in the same medical faculty, who was the founding Dean of Edirne Faculty of Medicine for six years from 1975 onwards. The French and modern Turkish equivalents of Ottoman terms were completed and the draft finalised thanks to his work. The dictionary is organised in four sections: the first section, the Ottoman-Turkish-French medical dictionary, is followed by the Ottoman-Turkish-French dictionary arranged according to pronunciation; the third section is the Turkish-Ottoman-French dictionary and the fourth one, the French-Turkish-Ottoman dictionary. The French equivalents of the terms are instrumental for cross-checking.

Şam Şehrinin XVII. Asırda Sosyal ve Ekonomik Yapısı (The Social and Economic Structure of Damascus Province in the XVIIth Century, according to the Avariz Register nr. 1977), prepared by Halil Sahillioğlu, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2005



One of the main categories of quantitative data sources of Ottoman history is the registers containing the results of censuses that were conducted for the purpose of determining the taxpayers for different types of taxes. Most of the records such as the fiscal surveys and land registers cite the male portion only of the economically active population since the taxable population groups were the heads of families and income-earning single men. However, as the Avariz tax was imposed on basis of households and not income earners, the relating censuses record all the household members including women and children. "Avariz" was a special tax collected by the Ottoman State throughout its territory. It was part of the taxes that were levied not under the Islamic law but according to customary law. It was imposed in extraordinary cases on temporary basis. It was abolished when the circumstances which necessitated it were no more there. At the beginning it consisted of services such as cutting wood into rows for the army, working as rowers, cleaning the roads, etc. From time to time it was converted into cash payments and made permanent instead of temporary. At times it continued to be levied in the form of services or in kind. It remained in application until late during the second part of 19th century. Thus this edition contains extensive data on the settlements and the demographic characteristics of the population of Damascus in the 17th century; the researcher will find in it data on the families, their neighbourhoods, the occupations of the population, immigrations to Damascus, etc.

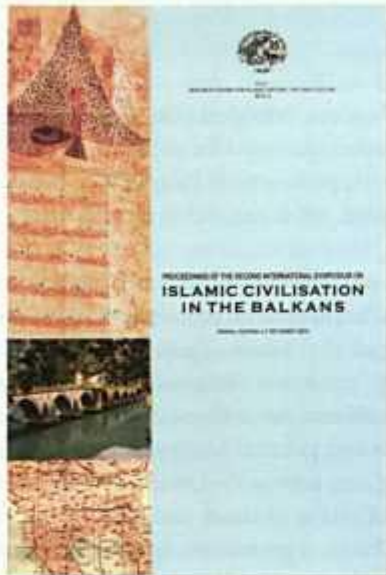
The edition has been prepared by the well-known scholar of Ottoman economic history and specialist of the Ottoman archives Prof. Dr. Halil Sahillioğlu. His Preface to the book, together with Dr. Halit Eren's Foreword, provides ample information, with specific cases, on the Avariz tax, as well as on the register and the relevance of data it contains.

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

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



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



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

A considerable part of all works recorded are translations; in the early centuries most of the translations were done from works written originally in Arabic and Persian, but starting from the 17th-18th centuries translations were done from European languages – English, French, German, Italian and Latin, mostly from French. Following the establishment of European-style educational institutions in the Ottoman state during the 18th and 19th centuries, introducing the teaching of modern mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology,

zoology, botanic and technical subjects in higher education, a reform started and gained momentum with the translation of numerous works from European languages into Turkish and Arabic. From the 1880s onwards innovations made in Europe were followed closely by scientists of the Muslim world, especially in the fields of medicine, agriculture, veterinary science, forestry.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

work contains 'Imaduddin's memoirs about these two great personalities and numerous diplomatic documents.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

To correctly and fully understand the course of scientific development, it is necessary to have a knowledge of the environment surrounding scientific activity. This environment, in turn, is determined by people's mentalities, beliefs and conceptions on matters relating to science. In other words, scientific development cannot be evaluated accurately disregarding the socio-cultural environment in which it takes place. The research articles contained in the present book review some trends and developments of early modern science during the 16th and 17th centuries, and explore how various values affected them, either positively or negatively. Particular attention is devoted to values based on religion, with some of the articles' giving new insights into the relation between science and religion and suggesting the proper perspectives for the analysis of this relation.

Ahmet Kavas, **L'Enseignement islamique en Afrique francophone: Les Médersas de la République du Mali** (Islamic education in French-speaking Africa: the Medersas of the Republic of Mali), IRCICA, Istanbul, 2003, vii+424 p; ill. (in French)

As early as the 14th century Mali, a great empire of the time, assumed a major role in introducing Islamic education in Africa. Timbuktu flourished in that period as an international centre where students from all corners of the continent were trained in Quranic sciences and the Arabic language. Other cities flourished around it, building a network of centres of learning which left an immense intellectual and written heritage. Later, the 18th and 19th centuries saw successive movements of revival in Islamic education. From the end of 19th century onwards, under the French administration, different types of schools were established: the secular public schools, the Islamic schools or medersas, and the Christian schools. Following the foundation of the Republic of Mali,

the modern medersa system assumed a key role in Islamic education. This comprehensive book on the developments of the 20th century resulted from the author's doctorate thesis at the University of Paris-7-Denis Diderot, conducted under the advice of Prof. Jean-Louis Triaud. The research is based on in-depth studies in the archives of Mali and Paris. It covers the processes starting with the evolution of modern Islamic education in French-speaking Africa, especially the Quranic school of the colonial period which already existed before and continued to exist after this period, and deals in great detail with the present state of the medersas and Islamic education, with ample data on their activities, their curricula, their teachers and their students, and their cultural and social influences. The information provided on the medersas is not limited to those of Mali; those of Algeria, Senegal, Mauritania, and the attempts to establish a medersa in Guinea are examined as well. The chapters on the history of development and the present status of the medersas of Mali as a modernised Islamic institution make of this book an essential reference in its field.

Taking this into consideration, IRCICA was pleased to publish Dr. Kavas' book as a contribution to studies on the cultural history of Africa. The establishment and spread of education for Muslims – religious education, the teaching of Arabic and connected subjects – in Africa has in fact been a subject of interest for IRCICA since the early 1980s. In 1985, IRCICA published Dr. Mamadou Ndiaye's *L'Enseignement Arabo-Islamique au Sénégal*. Furthermore, many of the papers of the international symposium on "Islamic Civilisation in West Africa" which IRCICA organised jointly with the Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire (IFAN) in 1986 deal with the theme of Islamic education in French-speaking Africa directly or indirectly. Finally, this book on Islamic education in Mali is a most valuable addition to the literature in this field.



Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, **Mısır'da Türkler ve Kültürel Mirasları** (The Turks in Egypt and their Cultural Heritage. Bibliography of the Printed Turkish Culture from Mehmed Ali Pasha to Our Time and an Evaluation), IRCICA, Istanbul, 2006, xxxiii, 657 p., ill. (in Arabic and Turkish editions)

For centuries, the mutual social and cultural influences between the Egyptians and the Turks who settled in Egypt have been so deep that they have been assimilated in Egyptian society as part of its cultural profile. To distinguish the various traits of the latter with regard to their Egyptian or Turkish is a hard task, which Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu undertook in this book basing his analysis on an in-depth research on the printed works and sources of culture. In his earlier work *Turkish Cultural Traces in Egypt* (IRCICA, 2003) Prof. İhsanoğlu examined the cultural interactions between Turks and Egyptians from the period of the Tolunoğlu State (868-905 AD) until the French Occupation in Egypt, from the standpoints of language, literature, arts, philosophy, customs and traditions, etc.

As to the present work, it covers the period since the reign of Mehmed Ali Pasha (1805-1848) until 1970.

The elaborate Introduction by İhsanoğlu reviews the cultural relations between Egyptians and Turks in historical perspective, with special focus on activities of printing conducted in Turkish, the political and cultural environment and the cultural influences of this activity as reflected in Egyptian and Turkish societies. It describes the process whereby Ottoman

Turkish culture flourished in Egypt during the period of Mehmed Ali Pasha as compared to the preceding period which was due in part to the Pasha's personal interest in this culture and his innovative cultural policies. The author studies this development, which was inspired at the beginning from the example of Istanbul, and how it evolved into an "Ottoman Egypt" version whose traces and fruits can be observed still today.

The book is published in separate Arabic and Turkish editions. It consists of three parts. The first part contains

chapters dealing with aspects of Turkish culture in Egypt, such as the use of Turkish language in social life, in Palace circles, in the administration, in education, in the army and the various reflections of this; the translations done in Egypt from various languages into Turkish and other aspects of publishing activity.

The analysis is based on data collected from the works cited in publication catalogues, the researches and post-graduate theses done on the subject, and the archival documents dating from the period of Mehmed Ali Pasha. The second part of the book deals with the well-known Bulaq printing house which played a major role in the printing activity in Turkish and other printing houses.

The last part consists of the "Bibliography of Printed Turkish Culture in Egypt" which contains lists of the books and periodicals printed in Turkish and the books that were translated from Turkish into Arabic and printed in Egypt. As a result of this work it is assessed that from 1822, date of establishment of the first printing house in Egypt, until the present, 671 books and 64 periodicals in Turkish were printed in Egypt.



New Publication by IRCICA

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

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

The first volume contains forty-five articles on the history, cultural life, arts and sciences of the Muslim world which were contributed by scholars from around the world. The second



volume contains the views, impressions and souvenirs of persons from academic, diplomatic and cultural circles who have known and collaborated with İhsanoğlu, as well as his biography, and his bibliography.

The initiative leading to this publication belong to a group of social scientists from IRCICA and form universities of Istanbul who collaborated with/ under the direction of Prof. İhsanoğlu for many years: Dr. Mustafa Kaçar (Istanbul University), Zeynep Durukal (IRCICA), Prof. Ali Akyıldız (Marmara University).

The essays of the first volume are grouped in three parts: I. Ottoman History: the Centre, the Provinces, Studies and Sources; II. Cultural Life; III. History of science.



