



Newsletter



O.I.C. Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture
December 2002

No. 59

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

December 2002, No. 59

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

Publisher

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

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By the present issue of the *Newsletter* to appear in January 2003, I would like to send my warm greetings to our readers and wish them a Happy New Year, with the hope that 2003 will bring welfare and well-being to all peoples and create new grounds of cooperation between them towards solving their problems, conflicts and inequalities by just and peaceful means.

The Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC), which is one of the OIC's three Standing Committees, met on its seventh session in December, in Dakar, the capital of Senegal. IRCICA's activities are included within the field of mandate of this Committee, which has a supervisory function over the activities of the subsidiary organs and the affiliated and specialised institutions of the OIC that deal with culture and information. For me and my colleagues at IRCICA, this session of the COMIAC was specially meaningful, because during the period of this session, I was granted the "Décoration dans l'Ordre National du Mérite" (Decoration in the National Order of Merit) of the Republic of Senegal, in the rank of Commander. The ceremony held on this occasion was officiated by H.E. Mr. Abdou Fall, Minister of Cultural Affairs and Information of the Republic of Senegal, on behalf of H.E. President Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal, in presence of H.E. Dr. Abdelouahed Belkéziz, Secretary General of OIC, and representatives of the Government of Senegal. As I said in my brief words of gratitude during the ceremony, this distinction conferred upon me is a most precious reward for the efforts we have made at IRCICA towards promoting research and studies on the history, the cultural heritage and the development of Islamic civilisation in West Africa. It may be recalled that within this framework, an international symposium on "Islamic Civilisation in West Africa" was organised by IRCICA in cooperation with the "Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire" in Dakar, in December 1996, under the patronage of the former President of Senegal H.E. Abdou Diouf. It was the first scholarly event of its kind to deal with this theme. We are grateful to the Republic of Senegal for

having acknowledged and rewarded these scholarly efforts in a most gracious way.

In parallel to this project relating to West Africa, we had also planned to undertake a similar project concerning Eastern Africa and made contacts in this direction. I have the pleasure of announcing that we have now agreed with the Islamic University in Uganda to organise an international symposium on Islamic Civilisation in Eastern Africa, on 15-17 December 2003, in Kampala. A call for papers is included in this issue.

I would like to mention that our first international meeting to take place in 2003 will be the international congress on Culture Contacts in Building Universal Civilisation: A Basis of Understanding, to which H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohamed Al Qassimi, Emir of Sharjah and member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates is extending his patronage, and which will be organised jointly with The American University of Sharjah, on 26-28 February 2003. Leading scholars in humanities, history, history of science and art will come together at this meeting. We will have the pleasure of outlining this event in the next (April) issue of the *Newsletter*.

The present issue gives the highlights of the International Congress on Islamic Arts and Crafts which was organised by IRCICA in cooperation with the Organisation for Culture and Islamic Relations affiliated to the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance of Iran, in Isfahan, last October. A large number of art and craft specialists participated in this congress, which was accompanied by a series of artistic performances underscoring the remarkable richness and variety of Islamic arts in the Muslim world in general, and Iran and specifically Isfahan in particular.

We intend to collect and publish the papers of these congresses as soon as possible, to make them available in the form of books and CDs to all those interested.

Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu

THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE OIC STANDING COMMITTEE FOR INFORMATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS (COMIAC) HELD IN DAKAR, SENEGAL

The Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC) held its Seventh Session on 17-18 December 2002 in Dakar, the capital of Senegal. COMIAC is one of the OIC's three ministerial Standing Committees, each one chaired by the Head of State of a Member State. COMIAC is chaired by the President of the Republic of Senegal; COMCEC (the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation) is chaired by the President of the Republic of Turkey, and COMSTECH (the Standing Committee for Scientific and Technological Cooperation) is chaired by the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

H.E. Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal, inaugurated the Seventh Session of COMIAC. Then, H.E. Dr. Abdelouahed Belkéziz, Secretary General of the OIC delivered an address in which he outlined the activities being carried on within the framework of the OIC in the fields of culture and information and the steps taken as regards the implementation of the Information Strategy of Member States, the Information Plan, and the Information Code of Ethics. The Secretary General noted that cultural work assumes central importance, since culture gives the true image of the Muslim community and is a mirror that reflects its personality, identity and choices. H.E. Mr. Abdel Salam Fouad al-Farsi, Minister of Information of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, addressed the session. The Committee then heard the message addressed to the session by H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar and Chairman of the Ninth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference.

In his address, H.E. Abdoulaye Wade, President of Senegal and Chairman of COMIAC, emphasised that in establishing

COMIAC, the OIC had shown a prospective vision that enabled the member countries to achieve significant progress over the past two decades in their cooperation in culture and communication. In this regard, the President paid a tribute to the OIC subsidiary organs and specialized and affiliated institutions for the remarkable work they had done in cooperation with the General Secretariat. He called for the rationalisation of the work of the Committee by adopting practical measures to implement the adopted resolutions. The President also addressed several international problems of concern for the OIC Member States, underlining the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories.

The working sessions were chaired by H.E. Mr. Abdou Fall, Minister of Culture and Communication of Senegal. The Committee reviewed and evaluated the activities undertaken by the OIC subsidiaries and bodies working in this field, with an emphasis on practical programs that meet or are likely to meet present-day requirements. IRCICA's report submitted to the session included its activity report for 2002-2003 and its work program for 2003-2004. During the period of the session, the Centre's delegation found the opportunity of meeting with the heads of delegations of the Member States on subjects relating to cooperation between the cultural and academic institutions of the Member States and IRCICA.

On the occasion of the holding of this session in Dakar, a ceremony took place on 18 December 2002, whereby the Director General of IRCICA Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu was decorated with the "Décoration dans l'Ordre National du Mérite" of the Republic of Senegal, in the rank of Commander.

IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu has been decorated with the "Décoration dans l'Ordre National du Mérite" of the Republic of Senegal



A "Décoration dans l'Ordre National du Mérite" (Decoration in the National Order of Merit) of the Republic of Senegal, in the rank of Commander, has been conferred upon Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Director General of IRCICA. A ceremony was held in Dakar, on 18 December 2002, whereby H.E. Mr. Abdou Fall, Minister of Cultural Affairs and Information of the Republic of Senegal, on behalf of H.E. President Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal, presented the decoration to Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu. The decoration ceremony took place in the Complex of King Fahd for Conferences, Dakar, within the framework of the Seventh Session of the OIC Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs (COMIAC). It was held in presence of H.E. Dr. Abdelouahed Belkéziz, Secretary General of the OIC, the Deputy

On behalf of H.E. President Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal, H.E. Mr. Abdou Fall, Minister of Cultural Affairs and Information decorates Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Director General of IRCICA with the Order of Merit

Chairperson of the Senegalese Parliament, the Minister of Environment and Land Development, as well as H.E. Mr. Babakar Ba, Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad, H.E. Mr. Berşan Şentürker, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey in Dakar, H.E. Mr. Modou Dia, Ambassador of the Republic of Senegal in Riyadh, H.E. Mr. Boubou Niang, First Counsellor of the Embassy of Senegal in Riyadh, H.E. Mr. Yalçın Kaya Erensoy, Deputy Director General at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey now appointed Ambassador of Turkey in Dakar, a number of personalities from the Government of Senegal, heads of delegations attending the COMIAC session, high officials from the General Secretariat of the OIC and representatives of the international press. Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu took the floor to express his gratefulness to H.E. Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal and Chairman of COMIAC, to the Government and the people of Senegal for the honour and privilege given to him by this significant order of merit. The decision to confer this decoration to Prof. İhsanoğlu was taken in 1998: the Senegalese authorities of the time has decided to honour the Director General of IRCICA for outstanding services rendered to the Muslim world in general and to Africa, in particular to the Islamic civilisation in West Africa, taking into consideration, especially, the successful organisation of the international symposium on Islamic Civilisation in West Africa. This symposium was organised by IRCICA in cooperation with the "Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire" (IFAN), under the high patronage of H.E. Abdou Diouf, then President of Senegal. This decision was confirmed by H.E. President Abdoulaye Wade, President of Senegal, at the beginning of 2002.



A souvenir picture of those present at the ceremony H.E. the Secretary General of OIC (first at right), H.E. the Vice-Chairperson of the Parliament (fourth at right), H.E. the Minister of Environment and Land Development (sixth at right), H.E. the Ambassador of Turkey in Dakar (third at left), H.E. the First Counsellor of the Embassy of Senegal in Riyadh (fourth at left)

THE GOVERNING BOARD OF IRCICA HELD ITS 18th SESSION

Istanbul, 10-12 December 2002



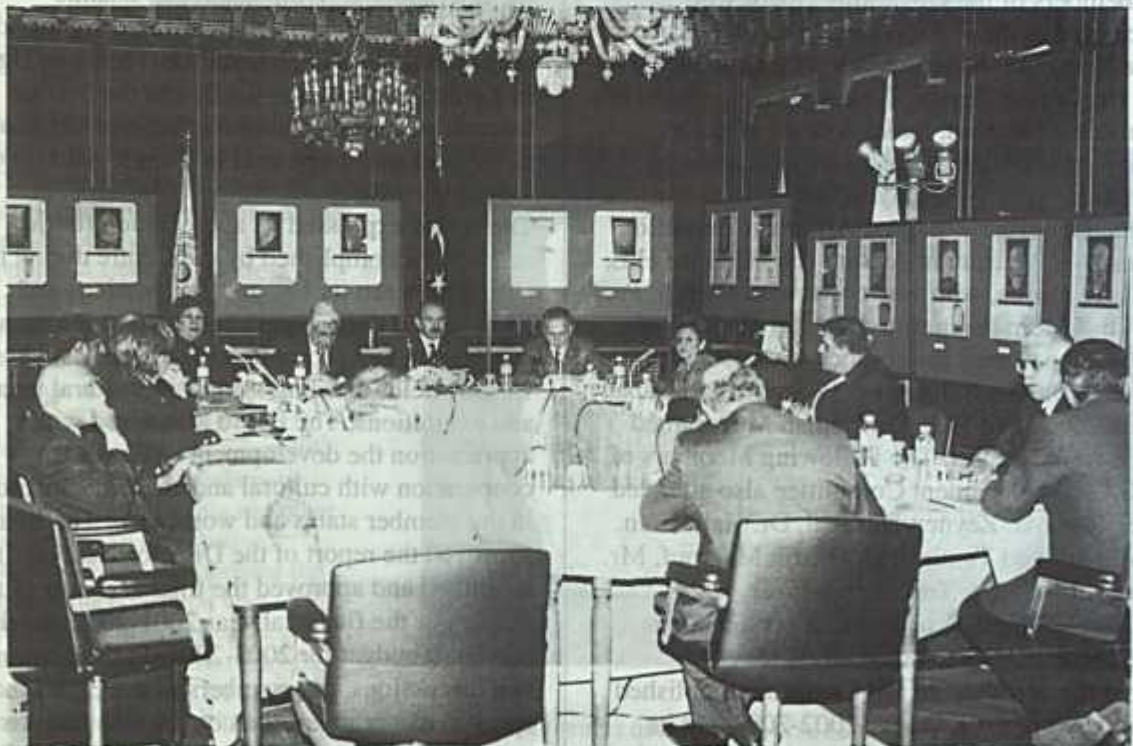
From left: H.R.R. Princess Dr. Wijdan Ali, Chairperson of the Board, H.E. Dr. Abdelouahed Belkéziz, Secretary General of the OIC, H.E. Dr. Hüseyin Çelik, Minister of Culture of Turkey, Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Director General of IRCICA

The Governing Board of IRCICA meets once every year to formulate policy guidelines and recommendations on the Centre's activities. It examines the Centre's annual work plans and program budgets before their submission to the Centre's General Assembly (the OIC's Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs) and ultimately to the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States, for approval. The Governing Board has held its 18th session on 10-12 December 2002, at the Centre's headquarters in Istanbul. The session took place in the presence of H.E. Dr. Abdelouahed Belkéziz, Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and H.E. Dr. Hüseyin Çelik, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Turkey.

On the occasion of the 18th session of the Governing Board, an exhibition of "Photographs of Selected Islamic Inscriptions from Makkah Al-Mukkaramah and Al-Medinah Al-Munawwarah" was organised, at the initiative by H.E. Dr. Saad bin Abdulaziz Al-Rashid, Deputy Minister of Antiquities and Museums, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and a member of IRCICA Governing Board, who had proposed the idea of this exhibition at the previous Governing Board session held in 2001. This proposal was warmly welcomed by H.E. Minister of Education of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the project materialised on this occasion. H.E. Dr. Abdelouahed Belkéziz, Secretary General of the OIC and H.R.H. Princess Dr. Wijdan Ali, Chairperson of the Governing Board, were present at the opening of the exhibition together with the members of the Governing Board, some of the members of the Consular Corps in Istanbul, a group of personalities from the academic and art circles, and representatives of the local and international mass media. In their addresses delivered during the opening of the exhibition, the Director General of IRCICA

Prof. İhsanoğlu, the Deputy Minister of Antiquities and Museums Dr. Al-Rashid, and the Secretary General of the OIC H.E. Dr. Abdelouahed Belkéziz underlined the importance of this exhibition in making an authentic collection of heritage assets known to the interested public at an international level.

IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu opened the session with a speech in which he welcomed H.E. Dr. Hüseyin Çelik, Minister of Culture of Turkey, H.E. Dr. Abdelouahed Belkéziz, Secretary General of OIC and the members of the Governing Board. He pointed out that the Centre has already become an institution of excellence in the field of learning and research in the Muslim world and that it is assuming an increasing role in this period where the dialogue of civilizations and the relations of Islam with other religions gain growing importance. H.E. Dr. Abdelouahed Belkéziz, Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, delivered an address in which he expressed his pleasure to be attending the session and conveyed his thanks to the President of the Republic of Turkey H.E. Mr. Ahmed Necdet Sezer and to the Turkish Government for the support they are extending to the Centre as its host country. He expressed his appreciation to the Minister of Culture of Turkey for being present in this session and for the continuous assistance given to the Centre by the Ministry. H.E. Dr. Belkéziz pointed to the accomplishments undertaken by the Centre and indicated that they are beneficial for the Islamic world. He also commended the role of ISAR Waqf in supporting the activities of the Centre. He also underlined with appreciation the methodology applied by the Centre in managing its work and organising its efforts to introduce the Islamic civilisation and the contributions made by this civilisation in various fields of knowledge and advancement.



H.E. Dr. Hüseyin Çelik, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Turkey, delivered a speech in which he expressed his appreciation and thanks to His Excellency the Secretary General Dr. Abdelouahed Belkéziz for honouring this session with his presence. The Minister spoke of the deep-rooted Islamic culture and its role in expressing the identity of peoples and nations. He emphasized the necessity of cooperation and

coordination among Muslim peoples to promote their joint culture and heritage. He affirmed the sincere intention of the Ministry of Culture to undertake joint projects with the Centre. Speaking of the current trends in international relations, the Minister emphasized the importance of preserving and highlighting cultural diversity in the Islamic world; he recalled Islam's principles that call for peace, kindness, and coexistence with other religions and stressed the role of the Centre in giving a correct image of Islam and its cultural heritage. H.R.H. Princess Dr. Wijdan Ali, Chairperson of the Board, thanked H.E. the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Turkey, H.E. the Secretary General of the OIC and the members of the Governing Board and noted with appreciation the support they are extending to the Centre and its activities. She expressed her wish that these would lead to beneficial results for the Centre and for the Islamic world at large.

The members of the Governing Board who participated in the session were: Prof. Dr. Abdul Hafez Helmy Mohammad (Vice-Chairman), Egypt; Prof. Dr. Günsel Renda, Turkey; H.E. Dr. Saad bin Abdulaziz Al Rashid, Saudi Arabia; H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Abdullah Torki Al-Subaie, State of Qatar; H.E. Mr. Ali Al Qayim, Syria; H.E. Mr. Jamshaid Iftikhar, Chargé d'Affaires/Counsellor, Embassy of Pakistan in Ankara (on behalf of H.E. Mr. Tariq Janjua, who was not able to attend); Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Director General of IRCICA. Apologies for absence were received from H.E. Sheikh Salman D. Al-Salman Al-Sabah From Kuwait, and H.E. Dr. Usman Muhammed Bugaje from Nigeria. The Following Members of IRCICA's Management Committee also attended the session: Ms. Zeynep Durukal, Dr. Halit Eren, Mr. Muhammed Tamimi, Dr. Nazih Maarouf, Mr. Ahmed Lajimi, Ms. Turuncan Kevser.

The Director General of IRCICA presented his report to the Eighteenth Session. The report covered the activities of the Centre accomplished within its work program for 2002-2003 and its work plan for 2003-2004. During his presentation of the report, the Director General also stressed the most important accomplishments of the Centre during the period since the previous session, emphasising the "International Congress on

Islamic Arts and Crafts", held in Isfahan, Islamic Republic of Iran, from 4-9 October 2002, the participation of the Centre in several conferences of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, the holding of the Eighth Architectural Workshop "Mostar 2004", in Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 9 July-2 August 2002. The Director General also informed the meeting on the publications of the Centre during this period, in particular those relating to the history of Muslim nations, history of science, arts and crafts in the Islamic world. He also underlined some of the activities planned for the near future, including the International Congress on "Culture Contacts in Building Universal Civilisation: A Basis of Understanding", which will be organised in cooperation with The American University of Sharjah, U.A.E., on 26-28 February 2003; the symposium on "The Calendar as a Civilisational Symbol" which the Centre will organise in cooperation with the International Islamic Call Society, in Istanbul, in March 2003; the International Symposium on "Islamic Civilisation in Eastern Africa" to be organised in cooperation with the Islamic University of Uganda, in Kampala in October 2003, and the Second International Symposium on "Islamic Civilisation in the Balkans" to be held in Tirana, Albania on 4-6 December 2003.

The Board expressed its appreciation for the activities accomplished by the Centre during the period between its 17th and 18th sessions and commended the progress achieved in research, publication and promotion of scholarly studies in various fields, holding symposia, cultural lectures and exhibitions. The Board also noted with appreciation the development of Centre's cooperation with cultural and academic institutions in the member states and worldwide. The Board approved the report of the Director General. It also examined and approved the final accounts of the Centre for the financial year 2001-2002 and the proposed budget for 2003-2004. In their comments and discussions, the members of the Board made specific recommendations on various projects and programs which are being carried on by the Centre, as well as on possible ways of disseminating the results of its activities to wider audiences interested around the world.

Exhibition of "Photographs of Selected Islamic Inscriptions from Makkah Al-Mukarramah and Al-Medinah Al-Munawwarah" organised on the occasion of the 18th session of the Governing Board



This exhibition organised on the occasion of the 18th session of IRCICA Governing Board was specially important because it was the first time that this collection of inscriptions on stone dating from the early centuries of Islam were ever presented to the world of learning. The inscriptions were discovered in the surroundings of Mecca and Medina in recent years. They were studied, recorded and reproduced by experts working at the Deputy Ministry of Antiquities of Saudi Arabia and other Saudi scholars. An informative English-Arabic book comprising the catalogue of the collection was published by the Ministry on this occasion. These inscriptions are of a great documentary value for research in history and archeology. The main subject contained in them is usually prayers to God. They also contain verses of the Quran. Some contain pre-Islamic poetry. Some are tombstones. They constitute references about the history of the region and the genealogies of families. Furthermore, they are also revealing as regards the development of Islamic arts. They display excellent writing skills and elaborate decorations, as evidence to the effect that in the early centuries of Islam, Arabic calligraphy was highly advanced in style, beauty and decorations, in contrast to general belief.



INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON ISLAMIC ARTS AND CRAFTS ISFAHAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

4-9 October 2002



*H.E. Mr. Ahmad Masjed Jamee,
Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance of Iran*

IRCICA and the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance/Organisation of Culture and Islamic Relations, Islamic Republic of Iran, have jointly organized the International Congress on Islamic Arts and Crafts, in Isfahan, on 4-9 October 2002. The Congress tried to highlight Islamic culture through its arts and crafts by pointing out their beauty and value. In addition, it suggested ways and means to create favorable conditions for artists and crafts people, conditions which are critical in encouraging them to continue their skills and to transfer them to the next generations. It is essential both for the preservation and the continuity of the cultural heritage of the Islamic world. The Congress deliberated on the challenges relating to design and methods used, technical cooperation and developing skills, exchange of techniques practiced, improvement of the quality of production, education and training of skilled artisans, financing, economy, marketing and the obstacles encountered, patronage and national policies. The Congress aimed to promote and assist the creation of an awareness of Islamic arts and crafts in the world. It provided a unique opportunity for raising interesting new approaches and possible solutions to some of the major problems facing the future of Islamic arts and crafts development. The event tried as much as possible to assess and determine the prospects of economic, social and cultural development of Islamic arts and crafts in various regions.

75 research papers were presented constituting a survey of the present state of Islamic arts and crafts. The participants came from the following countries: Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Egypt, England, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Morocco, Netherlands, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Syria, Tatarstan, Tunisia, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Venezuela and the host country, Iran. Most of the participants were scholars of history of art, experts, specialists, academicians, policy-makers, planners, arts administrators, artisans, and representatives from universities and institutions concerned with Islamic arts and crafts.

The program started on 4 October by the address of Sheikh Mohamad Iraqi, Chairman of the Organization of Culture and Islamic Relations inaugurating the exhibition of the artisans at Chehel Sotun Palace in Isfahan. Later, the participants, headed by H.E. Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance of Iran Mr. Ahmad Masjed Jamee, H.E. Dr. Abdelouahed Belkéziz, Secretary General of OIC, Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Director General of IRCICA, Sheikh Mohamad Iraqi, Chairman of the Organization of Culture and Islamic Relations, inaugurated the exhibition which constituted pieces of excellence made by artisans from various countries. The group then was followed by a colorful parade of

hundreds of students carrying the flags of the participating countries and the slogan of the Congress entitled: *Folkloric Performances for "Revival and Preservation of Islamic Traditional Heritage"*. Delegations, participants and nearly 30,000 Isfahani moved with the parade from Chehel Sotun to Naghsh-e Jahan Square – The Imam Square.



H.E. the Representative of the Governor of Isfahan (at right) receives the congress shield presented by IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. E. Ihsanoğlu, in presence of Sheikh Mohamad Iraqi, Chairman of the Organisation of Culture and Islamic Relations, and H.R.H. Dr. Wijdan Ali



H.E. Mr. Ahmad Masjed Jamee, Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance delivered an address at the Opening Ceremony of the Congress. He pointed out the importance of this congress in these days as an opportunity for further cooperation among the concerned authorities and institutions working in the field of Islamic arts and crafts. He called for more cooperation among artisans through the establishment of a union of artisans, of a city museum of Isfahan, and the allocation of an Iranian award for the master artisans in the Muslim world.

H.E. Dr. Abdelouahed Belkéziz, Secretary General of OIC, delivered an address, in which he pointed out that it was a secret to no one that arts, handicrafts and traditional industries, to borrow the expression used in certain countries, reflected the degree of civilization and social level reached by a given human society. He added that IRCICA, set up by the OIC, had done a great work over the past decades in unveiling such a heritage and exerted a gigantic and sustained effort to salvage the said heritage. As a result, IRCICA has become an authority, a reference to many researchers and historians. He concluded with emphasis that the Congress shall come out with a strategy responding positively to the new aspirations, along with the possible solutions of the major problems facing the future of the drive to develop Islamic arts and handicrafts.

Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Director General of IRCICA took the floor and expressed, in the words he said in Persian, his happiness that the congress was held in the historical city of Isfahan which is a world center of art and architecture. He expressed his gratitude for the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Iran and to the Organization of Culture and Islamic Relations for having Isfahan as the host of the congress. He pointed out that it was significant to underline that OIC was the first international organization to formally recognize the importance of arts as a field of cooperation for development and as

a factor contributing to international solidarity. He added that it was a source of pride for IRCICA to be the OIC's subsidiary, in charge of this important field of study, and to be the first and only intergovernmental organization of the world to have arts as one of its principal fields. He also pointed out that IRCICA was known in the world's interested circles as a focal point of Islamic arts, while its Craft Development Program was enhanced jointly with concerned ministries in OIC Member States and with international institutions. He emphasized that the Congress would contribute to the promotion of understanding among cultures and that the holding of the congress in Isfahan had a special importance and meaning – promoting dialogue between civilizations.

Finally, H.E. Engineer Mr. Huseini, the Governor of Isfahan, welcomed the participants on behalf of Isfahan city. He said that Isfahan, the city of arts was welcoming the scholars and specialists of arts and crafts and would provide every facility to ensure the successful implementation of this event. He also welcomed the proposal of having a city museum of Isfahan for Islamic arts and crafts.

At the opening of the sessions of the congress, Dr. Nazeih Taleb Maarouf, International Coordinator of the congress and Head of the Crafts Development Program, IRCICA, introduced the scholars and delegates. He gave background information on the preparation of the event and mentioned that he was impressed with the overall quality of papers presented by the scholars from various places of the world. He added that the proceedings of the congress would lead to more cooperation among the participating delegations and enhance further development in the sector. Mr. Hassan Aminian, the Local Coordinator of the Congress, Chairman of International Organization, Organization of Culture and Islamic Relations, pointed out in his address that Iran was proud to host the Congress and that Isfahan city was shining with the presence of scholars and experts from different places of the world. He added that the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance worked jointly with IRCICA through the Organization of

Culture and Islamic Relations in order to guarantee the successful implementation of this event.

The topics of the sessions, taken up in fourteen sessions, were: Islamic Architecture, Art of Calligraphy, Arts and the Cultural Dialogue, Islamic Paintings and Miniature, Influence of Islamic Arts and Crafts on European Art, Traditional Textiles, Embroidery and Costumes, Revival of Islamic Arts and Crafts, Islamic Tiles and Ceramics, City Life, Jewellery and Islamic Bazaars, Papermaking, Gilding, Binding, and Marbling (Ebru), Wooden Arts and Crafts, Present State and Promotion of Crafts, Marketing, Development and Patronage, Islamic Patterns and Metal Crafts.

The congress made recommendations on the following subjects: Dialogue among cultures, Revival of Islamic arts and crafts, Restoration and preservation of our architectural heritage, Training in the field of skills qualification, National campaigns for the "rehabilitation" of cultural values and the foundation of a "memory bank", Government and patronage, Education, Isfahan City-Museum, Quality control, Economical aspects and regional network of cooperation, Role of the media.

At the closing ceremony, the report of the congress was presented by Nazeih Taleb Maarouf. He also gave the address of IRCICA and emphasized that IRCICA will continue giving emphasis to the development of crafts in the Member States. He pointed out the importance of the congress in collecting, through the in-depth deliberations, valuable data about the present state of the sector in OIC member states.

Mr. Hassan Aminian, the Local Coordinator of the congress presented the Isfahan International Declaration issued by the Congress. He also presented the address of the Organization of Culture and Islamic Relations pointing out that Isfahan was honoured and delighted to host this important gathering as it was considered as an open museum of rich cultural heritage.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON ISLAMIC ARTS AND CRAFTS ISFAHAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

H.E. Engineer Mr. Jawadi, Chairman, Isfahan Municipality stated that Isfahan city shall always feel proud of hosting scholars, academicians, experts and artisans from various places of the world. He commended all the activities of what he called a festival of Islamic arts and crafts and in particular he talked about the success of the Parade and the exhibitions which were attended by thousands of Isfahani people.

H.E. Engineer Mr. Huseini, the Governor of Isfahan took the floor expressing his pleasure for seeing Isfahan the city of arts and cultural heritage as the hosting venue of this important event. He expressed his gratitude to the participants for proposing the concept of establishing a city museum of Isfahan and said that all efforts shall be extended towards realizing this project.

Isfahan International Declaration

International Congress on Islamic Arts and Crafts, Isfahan, 4-9 October 2002

The Participants of the Congress:

Knowing of the great richness and diversity of the cultural heritage of the Muslim world in particular and of the world in general,
 Realizing the need for the preservation, protection and dissemination of Islamic arts and crafts as a generous heritage,
 Realizing the urgency of periodic international meetings and competitions aimed at generating excellence in Islamic arts,
 Recognizing the significance of the role played by media channels in the projection and dissemination of the arts,
 Expressing appreciation to the government and nation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, particularly to the Governorate and people of Isfahan for the warm hospitality extended and arrangements made for the holding of the Congress,
 Expressing gratitude to the OIC Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), and Islamic Republic of Iran's Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance as well as the Organization of Culture and Islamic Relations for organizing this Congress and expressing utmost appreciation for the initiation of IRCICA Crafts Development Program in OIC Member States as a main focal point for promoting aspects of arts, crafts and heritage,
 And further expressing appreciation to all the paper presenters as well as the artisans who displayed their works during the event contributing significantly to the success of this Congress,

Do hereby unanimously agree to the following:

1. Due to the richness of the Islamic cultural heritage in Isfahan city which is considered as an

- open museum of Islamic arts and crafts, the Congress *calls* for the establishment of Isfahan City Museum for Islamic arts.
2. The Congress *emphasizes* the importance of dialogue of cultures and civilizations which will pave the way for a better understanding of the real value of our culture and in particular Islamic arts and crafts as well as the role played by the artisans. This will lead to more awareness and respect of the world nations for the rich Islamic cultural heritage and will be a deterrent against disrespect for the Islamic culture and sanctities.
 3. Expressing serious concerns about the destruction of the cultural heritage in Palestine, the Congress *condemns* the Israeli aggressions against the religious and cultural sites. It *calls* on the international community, OIC, and UNESCO to perform their duties in stopping these aggressions.
 4. The Congress *appeals* to the Member States and concerned financial institutions to extend necessary support to this sector by means of available resources in order to ensure the continuity in creativity and innovation and improve the living standards of the artisans. National economic development plans should integrate promotion of traditional crafts. National governments should take protective measures to help the most qualified artisans to practice and transfer their arts and skills to the new generations. Recognizing the Muslim artisans as living national treasures, the Congress call on the OIC to establish a fund to support them.

5. The congress *calls for* the establishment of an international center for Islamic arts and crafts with the aim of conducting economical studies
6. The responsibility to ensure the continuity of the traditional arts and crafts cannot be placed on the shoulders of the government alone; every concerned person should also play a role. Only then the survival of the traditional arts and crafts can be assured. Not only the actual or potential "creators" themselves, but also all those exercising responsibility and power, including national and local authorities, should actively and positively contribute to the improvement of the social and economic status of artisans through training and access to credit and market; towards this end, concerned ministries and authorities should *assist* the setting up of specialized workshops of arts and crafts through encouraging the local and national associations.
7. The Congress *calls on* international organizations to actively support all creative endeavors in the fields of Islamic arts and crafts.
8. Incentive schemes and programs in the form of awards should be enhanced to *encourage* the creative youth to produce new and innovative works emanating from Islamic tradition; and also approving the proposal of the Islamic Republic of Iran to grant annual awards called the Isfahan Award for excellence in the field of Islamic arts and crafts in the Muslim world in order to honor the most innovative Muslim artisans.
9. Approving and supporting the measures taken by the OIC for encouraging and developing cultural tourism among the OIC countries, which plays a significant role in the spread and dissemination of Islamic arts and crafts in the Muslim world, the Congress *calls for* an increasing participation of the private sector, the tourism sector, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) towards expanding commerce and marketing networks.
10. The Congress *invites* the OIC Member States and allied international organizations to support periodic holding of international meetings and exhibitions, as this will sow the seeds for more developing action towards the promotion of the sector.
11. The Congress *calls for* the establishment of a Union of Artists of the Islamic World in order to set standards for ensuring the quality of arts and crafts. The Congress also *call* for the compilation of an encyclopedia of Islamic arts as well as a conduction of a kind of coordination and improvement of the media channels, publishing and periodicals concerned with Islamic arts and architecture in OIC countries in order to improve the quality of these products and prosper arts and crafts markets in the Member States.
12. The Congress *requests* the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to circulate this document amongst all the Member States of the OIC and at all relevant fore of the OIC.



CULTURAL EVENTS

12th Session of the General Conference of Al-Albait Foundation for Islamic Thought, Jordan

An exhibition of "Tents of the Islamic World" in the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia

"Beyond Boundaries": the attractive title of an exhibition of "Tents of the Islamic World" which will be ushered by the Islamic Arts Museum, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 12 January to 31 May 2003 in collaboration with the Museum of Ethnography of Hamburg, Germany. The exhibition will be launched by the Prime Minister of Malaysia the Honourable Dato' Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad.

The exhibition will offer the visitors a glimpse into the world of the nomads and an understanding of the lives they led unrestricted by limits and geographical borders, carrying with them the purity of centuries of tradition and only the bare necessities. Tents portray an important aspect of the cultures and traditions of each society. They reveal different arts and handcrafts that have given meaning to designs that due to the nomad's constant movement have been misinterpreted or neglected over time. They also rise as witnesses to the long history of the nomads, and have been mentioned in the Holy Quran and Hadiths, recorded in poetry, documented by travellers and depicted in Islamic miniature paintings.



Black Tent

According to the information provided to IRCICA by Dr. Nicola Kuok, Assistant Curator, Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia as a courtesy of the Museum, 'Beyond Boundaries' features five tents from regions along the Silk Road. Four include tents from Central Asian cultures - Kirghiz, Turkmen, Turkish and Mongolian - displayed in their entirety, and fully equipped with all the typical furnishings of that respective culture. The fifth is the IAMM's own and unique Egyptian ceremonial tent. The photographs of these tents, supplied to IRCICA by IAMM, are reproduced on these pages. It is explained, in the outline of the exhibition, that "Besides serving to provide a display of visual splendour, the exhibition also aims to provide an anthropological perspective to the cultural artefacts of the Central Asian nomads, giving insight into their ability to flourish in the harsh environment. Furthermore, the exhibition strives to encourage dialogues between Muslim peoples and to enlighten, create understanding and broaden awareness beyond each one's own cultural and geographical boundaries. As an interactive tool aimed particularly at children, an original Mongolian tent will be assembled to provide an educationally historical and ethnographical experience. To further enhance the learning process, games, crafts and

CULTURAL EVENTS

3. The congress calls for the establishment of an international center for Islamic arts and crafts

the CIA, for encouraging and developing cultural

6. The responsibility to ensure the continuity of the



Egyptian Tent



Mongol Tent

storytelling sessions relating to the exhibition will be held by the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia. The IAMM will also invite renowned local and international scholars to conduct lectures and seminars related to the exhibition, highlighted by demonstrations and workshops, which will be open free of charge to the general public. The exhibition will be further supplemented with a catalogue published by the IAMM, with content produced by the IAMM in collaboration with the Museum of Ethnography, Hamburg: "Furnished with rich and colourful images, descriptions of tents through the ages, their characteristics and historical accounts; the catalogue will serve as an invaluable supplement to the fascinating displays." A detailed article introducing the activities and the collections of IAMM, prepared by the Museum and supplemented with illustrations of its collections, was published in the *Newsletter* no. 57, April 2002.



Turkmen Tent



Kirgiz Tent

12th Session of the General Conference of Al-Albait Foundation for Islamic Thought, Jordan



H.R.H. Prince Hamza bin al-Hussain, Crown Prince of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, presents Prof. E. İhsanoğlu with the Prize of H.M. King Abdullah I for 1423 H/2002 conferred by Al-Albait Foundation to Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation, which Prof. İhsanoğlu received on behalf of H.E. Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, Chairman of Al-Furqan Foundation. Also present in the above photograph, from right, H.R.H. Prince Ghazi bin Mohammed (Chairman of the Foundation and Advisor to His Majesty the King), H.R.H. Prince Ali bin Nayef (Private Secretary of H.M. the King) and H.R.H. Prince Raad bin Zeyd (High Advisor to H.M. the King)

The 12th Session of the General Conference of Al-Albait Foundation for Islamic Thought was held on 3-8 August 2002 in Amman, Jordan, under the high patronage of H.R.H. Prince Hamza bin al-Hussain, Crown Prince of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and patron of the Foundation. In his opening address, H.R.H. the Crown Prince underlined the importance of the theme chosen for this session, namely "The Future of Islam in the 15th century Hijra", especially taking into account the international circumstances and the challenges facing the Muslim community in the present time. The sub-themes of the session were: the revolution of communications and technology in the 15th century Hijra and the place of the Islamic community in this process; extremism in Islam, the clash of civilisations and the introduction of secularism in the Muslim world; teachings of the Quran and Hadith significant in relation with the 15th century Hijra and the end of time. On the occasion of the session, the new headquarters of

the Foundation in Amman were inaugurated. They were built as its permanent premises designed to meet its long-term needs. The Foundation's members participated in the session, together with high officials, intellectuals and scholars. IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu participated in the session in his capacity as a member of Al-Albait Foundation. During the period of the session, H.R.H. the Crown Prince presented Prof. İhsanoğlu with the Prize of H.M. King Abdullah I for 1423 H/2002 which has been conferred by Al-Albait Foundation to Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation (London) and which Prof. İhsanoğlu received in his capacity as the Vice-President of Al-Furqan Foundation, representing H.E. Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, Chairman of Al-Furqan Foundation. This prize is presented to non-governmental institutions working in the field of Arab-Islamic cultural heritage. It consist of a certificate of gratitude, a souvenir plaque and a symbolic monetary award.

International conference on "Calligraphy of the Islamic World" and exhibition of calligraphy held in Tehran

This conference, opened on 3 October 2002, was organised by the Iranian Academy of Arts and sponsored by the Iran Cultural Heritage Organisation. It covered the following topics, among others: the spiritual and formal formation of calligraphy, the role of speech in the formation and development of calligraphy, the aesthetical foundations of calligraphy, the norms and irregularities of calligraphy in the present time, the place of calligraphy in the technological era, the styles and schools of calligraphy, new

trends in calligraphy, the need for research activities, introducing the masters and elites of calligraphy, mutual influences between calligraphy and other arts ... The conference was accompanied by a large



exhibition comprising three sections, divided basically according to the calligraphic styles on display: Nastaliq and Shekasteh Nastaliq; Thuluth, Naskh and other Islamic calligraphy; Calligraphic Painting and Other New Trends in Calligraphy. Thirty works selected from among those displayed were awarded various prizes. The papers of the conference and samples of award-winning works will yield a comprehensive publication. More details can be obtained from the Academy of Arts, Bld. no. 3, no. 67, upper Shirkouh Ave., Shahid Fallahi (Zafaranih), Vali-e-Asr Str., Tehran, Iran; Fax: 98 21 2719283; <http://www.honar.ac.ir/hamayesh>

“The Scientific Revolution in Multicultural Perspective”: conference at Oklahoma University in April 2003

This conference is to be held as a culminating event in a three-year program of post-doctoral fellowships – “Scientific Exchanges Between Islam and Europe 1300-1800” funded by the Rockefeller Foundation. Prof. F. Jamil Ragep, Department of the History of Science, The University of Oklahoma, has informed IRCICA that the conference will be devoted to trying to determine what historians (both of science and of other disciplines) believe to be essential to the scientific revolution as a way of exploring the relative importance of other cultural contributions to modern science, and engender a response to the observation that “recent scholarship on the origins of the Scientific Revolution has included

discussion of intercultural exchange as a precondition and binding element of the period, a debate that has led to a reexamination of the essential nature of this transformation. But how would one know what is essential? Historians make these judgements all the time in their acts of selection and emphasis, but these decisions are often implicit rather than explicit.” Further information can be found at the program’s website <http://www.ou.edu/islamsci/multiscirev.htm> or by contacting Professor F. Jamil Ragep at Department of the History of Science, The University of Oklahoma, 601 Elm, Norman, OK 73019. Fax: 405-325-2363, e-mail: jragep@ou.edu.

Fellowships for postdoctoral projects offered by the Wissenschaftskolleg, Berlin for 2003-2004

The Institute for Advanced Study, Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin has announced its Fellowship Program for 2003-2004, which includes three postdoctoral fellowships for the project “Cultural Mobility in Near Eastern Literatures” and three others for “Jewish and Islamic Hermeneutics as Cultural Critique”. Both are comprised in the program of the Working Group Modernity and Islam. According to the

information provided by Prof. Georges Khalil, the first project, led by Dr. Friederike Pannewick (Freie Universität Berlin), examines the diverse reception and exchange relationships between the literatures of the Near East and other regions; in 2003-2004, its thematic emphasis will be on “World Literature”, understood as a phenomenon which, “instead of simply perpetuating a canon of exemplary works, aims to establish a genuinely

reciprocal discussion and a mutually beneficial exchange between literatures. Another focus will be on the seeming dichotomy of "world literature" crossing borders while remaining dependent on national literatures. Migrations, hybridization, and the undermining of boundaries are often accompanied by efforts to draw new linguistic, political, social, religious and poetical dividing lines. The project will bring comparative literature scholars of Middle Eastern philology together with researchers in other philological areas and in cultural studies." The second project, led by Dr. Almut Sh. Bruckstein (Freie Universität Berlin) and Dr. Navid Kermani (Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin), will devise building blocks for the comparative hermeneutics of Jewish, Muslim and Eastern Christian traditions; its emphasis for this term will be on "Midrash-Exegesis-Tafsir"; "Jewish, Christian and Islamic traditions are based upon a hermeneutical process in which a transcendently inspired scripture is thought to embrace a totality of religious meaning. Their respective theological reflections therefore take on the typical form of commentary and exegesis. The intellectual and textual structures of Jewish, Christian and Muslim hermeneutics were often shaped in a shared geographical and cultural realm of discourse, the Arabic traditions figuring prominently in this respect. Consequently, Jewish, Christian and Muslim hermeneutical traditions

cannot be fully understood without taking into account the complex dynamics and rivalries that make up this multi-religious cultural field. A comprehensive approach to the phenomenon of religious hermeneutics ought to employ a historical, comparative and literary perspective. We invite applications by post-doctoral candidates interested in the theological-political dynamics of Jewish, Islamic and Eastern Christian hermeneutics, viewed from a literary, aesthetic, or cultural perspective." More information can be obtained from Dr. Georges Khalil, Working Group Modernity and Islam, Wallotstr. 19, 14193 Berlin; Fax: 49 30 89 00 12 00, or from http://www.wiko-berlin.de/Information/eakmi_i.htm. The Working Group Modernity and Islam is an interdisciplinary research network of the State of Berlin which strives to link regional studies more closely to other disciplines. In several independent projects, attempts are being made to expand the horizon of Europe's history, its present, and its culture. To ensure the inclusion of non-European experiences and perspectives, the group seeks closer cooperation with researchers from non-European regions in the sense of "research with, not research on". This involves a methodological perspective of dealing with cultures not as closed entities or polarities, but as shared histories and cultures.



Prof. Mohammed Hamidullah's colleagues, students and friends, and his readers around the world, were deeply saddened by the news of his death on 17 December 2002. Prof. Hamidullah was a most respected scholar well-known to the world's circles acquainted with Islamic studies. He taught and wrote extensively and contributed authentic research results in a vast area of studies on Islamic culture and about the Muslim world. ¹

Born in Hyderabad in 1906, Mohammed Hamidullah studied in Darul Ulum and in Madrassa Nizamia, Hyderabad. From 1924 onwards he studied Law in the Intermediate Osmania University, where he obtained his B.A., his M.A. and his LL.B. He undertook a journey to Islamic countries in the Middle East and North Africa for research in the libraries and archives. In 1935, he completed his PhD in Bonn University with a thesis entitled *Die Neutralität im Islamischen Völkerrecht* (Neutrality in Islamic International Law), after which he obtained another PhD, this one from Sorbonne University, Paris, with a thesis on diplomatic relations in Islam during the period of Prophet Mohammed. In 1936, he was appointed Professor of Law at Osmania University. In 1946, his services were lent to the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of Hyderabad, and he was deputed to France. He taught in French and German universities. During 1954-1978, he worked as a research scholar in the "Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique". He also taught as guest lecturer in the universities of Turkey, Egypt and Pakistan, lectures in seminars, gave advice in research projects. The group of scholars from different origins who were trained by Prof. Hamidullah can rightfully be named the "Hamidullah School". Prof. Hamidullah was one of the awardees of the First IRCICA Awards which were presented in 1990. He passed away on 17 December 2002 in Florida and was buried in the graveyard of the Islamic Centre in Jacksonville.

A few words in memory of Prof. Mohammed Hamidullah

Dr. Hidayet Y. Nuhoğlu (IRCICA)

In his research and publications, Prof. Hamidullah tried to fill gaps in Islamic studies but also re-examined a number of topics on which literature existed already. He based his understanding of Islam on the message of the Prophet and the deeds of the Prophet's Companions. One of the numerous exemplary aspects of Prof. Hamidullah's works is that he was meticulous in his research while taking care of grasping and treating the subject at hand within its own context. In this regard, an illustrative example of his methodology is that during the preparation of his work on the battles of Prophet Mohammed, he crossed the battlefields by foot not only to measure them but also to be able to get the experience and the impression in order to be able to describe the background as realistically as possible. Prof. Hamidullah was also remarkable for his knowledge of languages. He wrote his publications in Urdu, Arabic, English, French and German, but he also had a very good knowledge of Turkish, Persian and Italian.

As to the subjects he treated, not a single one of his works can be neglected. The introductory texts he wrote for his books are as remarkable as their main body. His book titled *Introduction to Islam* was translated into various languages. His "History of the Holy Quran" accompanying his *Exegesis of the Holy Quran* is by itself a voluminous study. As to his book on the life of Prophet Mohammed, it is at the same time a basic reference on the social history of the period which reveals the cause-and-effect relationships and the social dynamics governing the the history of the period in the most insightful way.

Professor Hamidullah will always be remembered with respect and gratitude as a scholar who devoted a lifetime to studying and re-evaluating with a solid methodology the knowledge and data accumulated over fourteen centuries, and re-introducing the message and the teachings of Islam to the world of learning and peoples all over the world.

¹ IRCICA would like to thank Dr. Mohammed Azizullah, Secretary General, Islamic Cultural Centre India, Hyderabad, for having kindly provided the biographical information above.

A VALUABLE COLLECTION DONATED TO IRCICA LIBRARY:

His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohamad Al Qassimi, Emir of Sharjah, donated a collection of rare books and manuscripts to IRCICA Library



His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohamad Al Qassimi, member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates and Emir of Sharjah, historian, patron and promoter of culture and scholarly research, has visited IRCICA on 10 October 2002. His Highness the Emir was accompanied by Prof. Dr. Winfred L. Thompson, Chancellor of The American University of Sharjah, Prof. Dr. Amr Abdel-Hamid, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, The American University of Sharjah, and Mr. Hamid D. Jafar, Consultant.

During the visit, His Highness Dr. Al Qassimi made a donation to IRCICA's Library, consisting of a valuable collection of rare books (incunabula: early printed books of the first printing house of the Ottoman State which was established and directed by İbrahim Müteferrika) and of manuscripts. The number of rare books in the collection is 21 and that of manuscripts, 148. The collection is important also because these books are major references for studies in history, Islamic culture and Turkish culture. The following are examples of the incunabula contained in the collection: *Izzi Tarihi*, by

Süleyman İzzi, Istanbul, 1199, 2 p.+15 p.+288 l., 31 x 20 cm; *Usûlü'l Hikem Fi Nizâmi'l Ümem*, by İbrahim Müteferrika, Istanbul, "Dârü't-Tibâ'ati'l-Âmire" (Imperial Printing House), 1144, 48 l., 20 x 13 cm.; *Vankulu Lugati*, by Ebu Nasr İsmail b. Hamad el-Cevherî, translated by Mehmed b. Mustata el-Vanî, Istanbul, Dârü't-Tibâ'ati'l-Ma'mûre (Imperial Printing House), 1141, 2 vols.: 21+666 p.; 6+756 p., 33 x 22 cm..



IRCICA ACTIVITIES

Lectures by Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu and Prof. Dr. Mehmet Aydın, delivered at the meeting of the East and West Institute's (USA) Executive Board members

The East and West Institute's (USA) Board members, who were holding a meeting in Istanbul, came together at IRCICA on Saturday, 19 October 2002 for two lectures which were on themes relating to Islam. The first lecture, given by Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Director General of IRCICA, and entitled "Islamic Civilisation Between East and West", covered Islam as a civilisation, while the second one, delivered by Prof. Dr. Mehmet Aydın, former Dean of the Faculty of Theology, 9 Eylül University, Izmir - Minister of State of Turkey after the 3 November 2002 elections, focused on Islam as a religion and the various current approaches and interpretations of Islam at scholarly and societal levels. The Institute is an independent, not-for-profit international institution, was created in 1981 to reduce the hostilities of the Cold War. It is active today as a promoter of international relations with the objective of bridging the gap between the East and the West. It is devoted to peaceful transformation and good governance in a globally interdependent world. It operates long-term projects that create trust and understanding and seek to reduce tensions in the transatlantic region and Eurasia using a unique network of leaders of 40 nations. It brings together leaders of different nations, cultures, and communities who do not normally work together to solve problems; endeavours to provide fresh thinking, objective information and unbiased policy advice on economic, security and political issues; trains and educates leaders devoted to transformational change; and, tries to mobilise the capacity of people to work together to build fair, prosperous and peaceful civil societies. The Board of the Institute represents the diversity of the regions it works in.

In his lecture, Prof. İhsanoğlu highlighted selected events of world history representing Islam's attitude towards other faiths and civilisations. He elaborated upon them in light of the Islamic principles and practices and compared them with facts of the present world. The first event he referred to was the Covenant which was

promulgated by Prophet Mohammad after his immigration to Medina, by which Jewish and Christian communal existence was legitimized. The second event Prof. İhsanoğlu evoked was the treaty signed between the archbishop of Jerusalem and Caliph Omar, when the archbishop refused to surrender the keys of the city except to the Caliph of the Muslims in person; Caliph Omar signed a treaty with the archbishop, in Jerusalem, in 637 AD, ensuring security and protection to the Christians, for their churches and their crosses. The same attitude was displayed and institutionalised towards Buddhism and Hinduism following the conquest of India by Muslims. Prof. İhsanoğlu then moved forward to the 15th century and quoted sections from the pledge which was announced by Sultan Mehmed II in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 28 May 1463 to grant safety and security to the Franciscans, their people and their churches. It represented the same spirit of pluralism manifested by the same Sultan ten years earlier, when he conquered Istanbul, whereby he affirmed to all "Peoples of the Book", that is the adherents of the divinely revealed religions, that they were put under the protection of the State and were free to continue to practice their own religion and their trades. Finally, the third event Prof. İhsanoğlu mentioned was the attacks of 11 September and their aftermath, which, at the present stage in world history, have produced a totally different, negative and untrue image of Islam in the eyes of at least part of world opinion and even led to associating Islam with fanaticism and terrorism. Prof. İhsanoğlu said that this negative image of Islam resulted from a lack of knowledge about Islam, from misinformation. In the remaining part of the lecture, Prof. İhsanoğlu reviewed, with frequent references to the foregoing, the development of culture and science in Islamic civilisation and the evolution of exchanges between the Muslim and the Western civilisations. He cited the main periods discernible in the history of relations and interactions between Islam and Christianity and the successive transformations of the image of the Muslim world as reflected in the Western world.

Prof. Ihsanoglu concluded his lecture by outlining the activities of IRCICA which underscore the cross-cultural dimensions of Islamic history and culture and try to contribute to inter-cultural dialogue through scholarly research.

A lively question and answer session followed the lecture, centered around the following concerns: how to tackle the problem of the integration of Muslims in Europe and have a more united Europe, the dialogue between East and West, radicalism, science and scientific activities in the Muslim world, problems of underdevelopment, the position of women in Islamic countries... Some points Prof. Ihsanoglu highlighted in his answers were: regarding problems of integration, he said that part of the problem comes from the approach of the two parties; those who belong to the continent think it is the responsibility of the newcomers, while newcomers think it is the host countries responsibility to accommodate them. The problem is a matter of better understanding and reaching an agreement on what integration is expected to be. Also, there should be a better understanding of Islam itself. Islam should not be considered a non-European religion. "While talking about the living religions of Europe, we should not talk only of Judeo-Christianity; we

have to talk about Islam as well. European Muslims have been there since 14th century. There are millions of Europeans like the Bosnians, Macedonians, Albanians and Turks. There is also a growing number of French, German, Italian and Spanish people who are embracing Islam. Considering Islam as part of Europe, just like Christianity and Judaism, would ease the tensions, and the newcomers would feel, and be, more integrated." On radicalism, Prof. Ihsanoglu pointed out that radicalism as seen in the Muslim world is not different than radicalism in any other part of the world. The way to get rid of it is to get rid of its causes; to solve the problems of poverty, freedom of expression, social and economic constraints of the people. "There should also be more fairness in dealing with international issues. Values such as human rights, democracy and economic prosperity should be spread equally. As to the position of women, the treatment of women as second-class citizens is not related to Islam. It is related to local traditions and to the peculiarities of socio-economic development. However, the position of women is improving in the present time all over the world with increasing attention devoted to it in the media and through the process of globalisation."



From left: Prof. Dr. Mehmet Aydın, former Dean of the Faculty of Theology, 9 Eylül University, İzmir, presently Minister of State of Turkey, Mr. John Edwin Mroz, President and Chief Executive Officer, East and West Institute; Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, Director General, IRCICA;



In his lecture, Prof. Dr. Mehmet Aydın said that in the classical period of Islam, there were different theological schools nearing almost one hundred if subdivisions were taken into account, but that there were four major philosophical movements and four legal schools and mystical streams. Each have their own understanding and interpretations but all of them left their marks upon the cultural life of the community. He said "the great majority of the Turkish people, for example, accept the Maturidite and the Hanefite interpretation of Islam. One is more theological and the

other is more legal. Both of them have sometimes been described as rather liberal both in the Muslim world and in the West in their interpretation. Unfortunately, the history of this extremely rich cultural interpretation still needs to be written. This should make us very humble while dealing with great Islamic themes such as the historical development of Muslim intellectual culture. ... From the 19th century onwards, there has been a revival in Muslims' understanding and interpretation of Islam, which is still in the making, and which might have, I believe, a good future, in the coming



decades." Prof. Aydın spoke of the application of Islam in the Ottoman Empire and the mainstream currents of thought of the various epochs. "The sultan of all the Ottoman subjects, Muslims and non-Muslims of course, and he was the caliph of all Muslims." During the Empire's period of decline, its unity was in danger and its communal Ottoman identity was in the process of disintegration. This situation gave rise to the formulation of an idea called Ottomanism, which aimed at the unity of all Ottoman subjects irrespective of their religious affiliations. "In the Empire Muslims



and non-Muslims lived together in a well-known regime called the Ottoman *millet* system ... It drew a great deal of attention in recent years due to various difficulties that many nations are now facing in regard to a creative and peaceful coexistence. It was perhaps too late for the idea of Ottomanism to work and bring about the required remedy for the socio-political illness of the time, and of the Empire, of course. That was the reason why in the following years the Turkish intellectuals had to put three interrelated projects, if I may call them projects, on the table. They were Turkification, Islamization and Modernization." Prof. Aydın also spoke of the relation of Islam with science. "Is Islam an obstacle to modernization and thus to progress? Is it possible to bring about a coherent system to the intellectual and social life of the Muslim? What do our main sources and centuries-old traditions say about all these and many other pressing issues and problems? A brief verse of the Quran became almost the motto of Muslim reformers. The verse runs as follows: "Verily, never will God change the condition of a people unless and until they change it themselves". Professor Mehmet Aydın referred to the term "political Islam". He said it was difficult to evaluate and describe this approach, since it had many inherent difficulties and serious loopholes in its formulations; for example political parties, which are sometimes called religious parties, are not really religious in the strong sense of the term. They have never formulated a political theology for example, nor do

they have professional theologians to write down a political theology. In the question and answer session which followed his lecture, Prof. Aydın spoke, upon the request of the guests, of Orientalism. He said that Edward Said himself says there is "good orientalism" and there is "bad orientalism". "Of course, if one makes generalizations, one might become unfair to the works written by fair-minded scholars and researchers." Answering a question on martyrdom in Islam, Professor Aydın said that martyrdom is essential in all theistic religions, not only in Islam, but Christianity as well. He underlined that one ought to be very careful about the definition of martyrdom: "if one dies in order to defend one's country, this is martyrdom. ... Martyrdom is still a significant conception ethically and religiously, but it is misused. Behind it are political and ideological reasons ... Of course, from the Quranic point of view, whoever kills an innocent people is tantamount to killing humanity. It is a clear verse of the Qur'an." At the end of the session, Professor Aydın suggested reference books for those who wish to learn more on Islam, its teachings and its interpretations.

Closing the meeting, Prof. İhsanoğlu wished success to the East and West Foundation and underlined that its objective is all the more important particularly in these days when the need for a better understanding between people in the East and the West is felt acutely.

IRCICA's participation in the Third UNESCO Round-Table of Ministers of Culture on "Intangible Cultural Heritage, A Mirror of Cultural Diversity" held in Istanbul

Director General Prof. İhsanoğlu participated in the Third UNESCO Round-Table of Ministers of Culture on "Intangible Cultural Heritage, A Mirror of Cultural Diversity" which was jointly organized by UNESCO and the Ministry of Culture of Turkey, in Istanbul on 16-17 September 2002. The round-table heard UNESCO member countries' and intergovernmental and regional organisations' positions and policies on the preservation of the intangible cultural heritage and their comments on a draft international convention being elaborated by UNESCO towards promoting and preserving

this aspect of cultural heritage around the world. Intangible cultural heritage is defined in a way to include languages, oral traditions, customs, rituals, music, dance, festivities, traditional practices including medicine, cuisine, costumes, designs and themes, crafts and skills, tools and habitat, "appropriate technology"; by extension; therefore, it covers value systems, performing arts, architecture, crafts, oral literature and mythology, etc. It encompasses all forms of traditional or popular or folk culture, i.e. collective works originating in a given community and based

on tradition. These creations are transmitted orally or by gesture and are modified over time through a process of collective reproduction. This is considered to be a reflection of the fundamental aspects of living culture and traditions and a source and a manifestation of cultural identity. During the Round-Table, Ms. Zeynep Durukal from IRCICA gave an outline of the activities undertaken by the Centre for the study, recording and preservation of the intangible cultural heritage assets in the OIC Member States. She expressed the Centre's readiness to contribute to international efforts in this field with the experience and the information it accumulated over the past two decades. The Centre's activities in this field are

grouped under three main titles: the Craft Development Program (aimed at protecting and developing the traditional crafts), the program on Arts (for the promotion and development of the essential classical arts of Islamic countries, such as calligraphy), and the project relating to oral translations of the Quran (collection of recordings of the oral translations of the Quran delivered in the mosques of African countries). These activities fall within the competence of IRCICA by virtue of its objectives defined in its statute, which include the safeguarding of cultural heritage in all its forms – written, oral, architectural, i.e. tangible and intangible.

Cooperation agreement signed between the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO) and IRCICA

A Cooperation Agreement has been signed between the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO) based in Tunis and IRCICA, Istanbul, during the visit of ALECSO Director General Prof. Dr. Munji Bousnina's visit to IRCICA on 16 September 2002. The agreement formalises the aims and modalities of cooperation and collaboration between the two parties towards achieving their objectives which are in harmony and undertaking joint projects in common fields of interest. The latter include the promotion and presentation of Islamic cultural values and heritage, research and publications in various areas of culture, activities relating to documentation and the development of studies and research. The agreement was signed by the Director Generals of ALECSO and IRCICA.



During his visit, Prof. Dr. Munji Bousnina received information on the activities of the research departments of the Centre, the library, and other sections. IRCICA was most pleased to have Prof. Bousnina's impressions recorded in the Visitors' Book, as follows:

"I have the honour and the pleasure of visiting this Centre which plays a pioneering role in serving Islam and introducing its

civilisation with all its brilliant and glorious aspects. I saw the different departments of this unique institution and to closely observe its activities. I congratulate the members of this Centre, and at their head, Director General Prof. Dr. İhsanoğlu whom we know as an eminent scholar, an intellectual and knowledgeable personality and a noble Muslim. Their achievements are for the benefit of all Muslims, as they highlight the material and immaterial heritage of Muslims. May the cooperation agreement we have launched today between IRCICA and ALECSO towards opening new horizons be beneficial and successful" (Original in Arabic).

Prof. Dr. Munji Bousnina
Director General, ALECSO

Second evaluation meeting of the Competition for writing the "Mushaf (Quran copy) of Qatar" held at IRCICA



H.E. Mr. Ahmed Bin Abdullah al-Mirri, Minister of Waqfs and Islamic Affairs of Qatar; at right, Mr. Khalifa bin Jassim al-Kawari, Director of Islamic Affairs, Ministry of Waqfs and Islamic Affairs, at left, IRCICA Director General Prof. İhsanoğlu

At the instruction of H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar and Chairman of the Ninth Islamic Summit Conference, a competition was launched to select the calligraphers to be entrusted with copying the Quran in a new copy to be published under the name of the "Mushaf (Quran copy) of Qatar". Within the framework of the cooperation which was established between the Ministry of Waqfs and Islamic Affairs of Qatar and IRCICA towards realizing this competition, it was decided that the best calligraphers of the Naskh style be selected through a prized competition. A jury was set up, chaired by Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Director General of IRCICA and comprised of the following calligraphy professors and experts: Prof. Dr. Mohammad bin Said Sharifi (professor, Higher School of Fine Arts, Algeria), Prof. Dr. M. Uğur Derman (professor of calligraphy and history of calligraphy at Mimar Sinan and Marmara Universities, Istanbul), calligrapher Hasan Çelebi, who taught the thuluth and naskh styles and gave diplomas to calligraphers from around the world, with Mr. Mohammed Tamimi (Secretary of the Calligraphy Competition, IRCICA) as rapporteur. Calligraphers known for their excellence in the Naskh style and prize-winners of the competitions organised by IRCICA were invited to participate in the competition. The jury met for the first time in Doha, Qatar, on 20-22 May 2002 to examine the first 5-page samples of writing which were submitted by the candidates in what was a first

stage of the competition; seven calligraphers from four countries were selected. Then these calligraphers were each requested to write two parts from the Quran, in what would constitute the second stage of the competition. According to the project, those to be commissioned to copy the entire Quranic text in one and half years were to be chosen from among them. This second stage was finalised during a second meeting of the jury, which was held at IRCICA, in Istanbul, on 18-21 October 2002. H.E. Mr. Ahmed Bin Abdullah al-Mirri, Minister of Waqfs and Islamic Affairs of Qatar was present at the meeting, accompanied by Mr. Khalifa bin Jassim al-Kawari, Director of Islamic Affairs, and Mr. Abdusselam Bassioumi, Mr. Hassan al-Asfar and Mr. Sabri Hassan from the same Ministry. After examining the trial texts submitted by six calligraphers from four countries, the jury selected the following two calligraphers, who will be awarded prizes and commissioned by the Ministry to produce copies of the Quran: Mr. Ubayda Mohammad Salih al-Banki from Syria and Mr. Sabah Magdid al-Arbilli from Iraq (For information, please see *al-Minbar*, December 2002, published by the Ministry of Waqfs and Islamic Affairs of Qatar).

H.E. Mr. Ahmed Bin Abdullah al-Mirri, Minister of Waqfs and Islamic Affairs of the State of Qatar, who was present at this meeting, visited IRCICA's departments and received information on their activities. The Minister's impressions, recorded in the Visitors' Book, were as follows: "It was a pleasure for me and my delegation to visit the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture and to observe the large-scale and in-depth activities it has undertaken in the fields of history, art and culture. This success has been possible thanks to God's help and with the efforts of the Director General of the Centre. We wish the continuation of their success."



Samples of the winners' calligraphies

Distinguished visitors



* The Centre was honoured by the visit of H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahayan, Minister of Culture and Information of the United Arab Emirates, to its headquarters on 17 September 2002. The Minister was in Istanbul attending the Third UNESCO Round-Table of Ministers of Culture on "Intangible Cultural Heritage, A Mirror of Cultural Diversity" (16-17 September). H.H. Sheikh al-Nahayan was accompanied by a delegation comprised of leading intellectuals from the United Arab Emirates. The program of the visit started with a meeting with IRCICA Director General, where Prof. Ihsanoğlu briefed the H.H. the Minister on the Centre's on-going and future activities and the progress achieved in its cooperation with the cultural institutions of the United Arab Emirates.

This was followed by a visit to the various departments, where H.H. the Minister received information on the projects and examined the products of the activities. In the library, H.H. the Minister examined a collection of books relating to various aspects of cultural life in the United Arab Emirates which were selected from the library; he gave instructions so that the Centre be offered the entire set of publications of the Ministry of Culture and Information. H.H. the Minister expressed his appreciation of the cooperation which exists between the cultural authorities and institutions of the United Arab Emirates and IRCICA and promised to give the necessary instructions towards further developing and strengthening this relationship. His impressions, recorded in the Visitors' Book, were as follows (Original in Arabic): "It was a pleasure for me to visit this monument of scholarship which works towards the advancement and development of the Islamic civilisation and human civilisation. With appreciation and esteem".

H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed al-Nahayan
Minister of Culture and Information
of the United Arab Emirates

* IRCICA was honoured by the visit of His Highness Prince Faisal bin Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud, Deputy President, Western Section of the National Guard, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on its headquarters, on 17 July 2002. The distinguished guest was accompanied by a group of Saudi intellectuals, scholars and businessmen. It was a pleasure for IRCICA that H.H. Prince Faisal bin Abdullah, who is known for his close interest in cultural activities and cultural heritage and for his extending patronage to various cultural projects, expressed his



appreciation of IRCICA's research projects and publications. The importance of expanding the cooperation between the cultural and research institutions of Saudi Arabia on one hand and IRCICA on the other was emphasised during the talks. The distinguished visitor offered to the Centre's library a set of the two-volume work *Kitab a-Furusiyyah*, the Preface of which he co-authored with Prens Ahmed bin Selman bin Abdulaziz and which was published by King Abdulaziz Public Library in English and Arabic. This outstanding work has been a valuable addition to the collection of the Centre's library. H.H. Prince Faisal wrote his impressions in the Visitors' Book, as follows (Original in Arabic):

"It has been a pleasure for me today to visit this Centre, where brothers and sisters briefed me on its objectives and its activities; the mission fulfilled by the Centre certainly represents our noble beliefs that we endeavour to make known around the world. I pray to God that He may give success to us and all those who work towards highlighting our identity, our history and our dignity, and above all, our religion, and that He may enable us to cooperate in deploying all efforts possible. May God help those who undertake this great task and enable them to voice the word of Islam [peace], which is the word of justice, especially in the present time and circumstances."



* The Centre was honoured to receive H.E. Dr. Abdulmelik bin Abdullah el-Hanai, Councillor of the Ministry of Economy of the Sultanate of Oman, on its premises on 23 October 2002. The distinguished guest was accompanied by Mr. Mohammed bin Yahya el-Shebibi, Director of the Department of Economic Institutions of the same Ministry, and H.E. Ambassador Mr. Mohammed Hamed al-Wohaibi, Ambassador of Oman in Ankara, Turkey. The delegation was in Istanbul to participate in the Ministerial Session of the OIC

Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation, which is chaired by the President of the Republic of Turkey and meets every year in Istanbul. The guests visited the departments and the library of the Centre and received information on the activities carried out in different fields.



H.E. Sheikh Mohamad Iraqi, Chairman of the Organization of Culture and Islamic Relations, Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Islamic Republic of Iran, visited the Centre on 16 September 2002. The talks held during the meeting with IRCICA Director General centered around the several areas of cooperation explored by the Organisation and IRCICA, in particular the International Congress on Islamic Arts and Crafts . The distinguished guest and the accompanying delegation visited the Centre's departments and received information from the staff about their activities.

Lectures

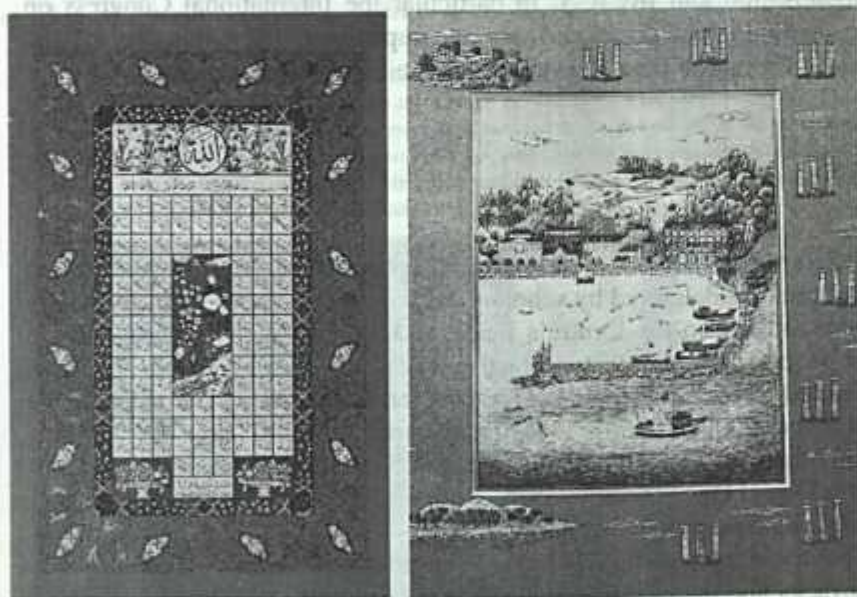
IRCICA hosts public lectures on Saturdays twice a month, from September to June inclusive, and occasionally at other times. These lectures are delivered by scholars, authors and researchers from Turkey and abroad on various subjects corresponding to the Centre's fields of activities, with emphasis on the history of the Muslim countries and peoples, art, architecture, history of art, history of science, language, literature, etc. The lectures are recorded on cassettes and kept as reference materials. The titles of the lectures held from September to December 2002 and those to take place until June 2003 are:

- "Types of Ottoman historical literature", by Abdülkadir Özcan, 7 September 2002
- "Tension in society", by Mim Kemal Öke, 21 September 2002
- "The bookdealer's profession", by Sami Önal, 5 October 2002
- "The relationship of Divan poetry with real life", by Nejat Sefercioğlu, 19 October 2002
- "The historical Selimiye barracks and district in Istanbul", by Gözde Ramazanoğlu, 2 November 2002
- "Sufism in the Ottoman world", by Necdet Yılmaz, 21 December 2002
- "The Kashmir Problem", by Hidayet Y. Nuhoglu, 10 January 2003
- "The Muslim world and Colonialism, in history and at present", by Azmi Özcan, 25 January 2003
- "Foreign engineers in the Ottoman State", by Mustafa Kaçar, 1 February 2003
- "The historical police station buildings of Istanbul", by Aynur Çiftçi, 22 February 2003

- "Industrialisation in Turkey in the 19th century", by Emre Dölen, 8 March 2003
- "The Newrouz Day from a documentary perspective", by Özcan Mert, 22 March 2003
- "Modern Persian story writing", by Mehmet Kanar, 12 April 2003
- "Palestine in the 19th century", Tufan Buzpınar, 26 April 2003
- "The bookdealer's profession and bookdealers", panel discussion, 10 May 2003
- "Research in Turkish studies and on the classical age", by İlber Ortaylı, 24 May 2003
- "Economic rationalism and Turkey", by A. Güner Sayar, 14 June 2003.

Exhibition of Gildings and Miniatures

An exhibition of Gildings and Miniatures by two artists: Mrs. Sabahat Palabıyık and Mrs. Sabriye Şeker, was held at IRCICA on 18-26 October 2002. The artists had previously participated in international exhibitions held in Hong Kong, Malta, London, New York, among others.



IRCICA's exhibition and conference hall, which is in the same building as its library and where exhibitions, lectures and meetings are held, has become known by now by people from all countries who live in Istanbul or who are visiting the city and the Centre. Exhibitions introducing the various Islamic arts such as this gilding and miniature exhibition, as well those of documentary/audio-visual nature presenting cultural and historical artifacts from the different member countries of the OIC - a most recent example is the exhibition of inscriptions on stone from Makkah and Madinah held on 10-14 December, and others of different type, draw visitors from all circles – specialists, publishers in art, students, etc.

International Symposium on "Islamic Civilisation in Eastern Africa" to be organised jointly by IRCICA and the Islamic University in Uganda, Kampala, 15-17 December 2003

Call for papers

The Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), Istanbul and the Islamic University in Uganda, Mbale, will jointly organise an international symposium on "Islamic civilisation in Eastern Africa", to be held in Kampala, Uganda, in 15-17 December 2003.

The organisers are inviting interested prospective participants to send abstracts of no more than two hundred and fifty words on the following themes:

- Penetration of Islam in Eastern Africa.
- Inter-relationship between trade and Islam in Eastern Africa.
- Kiswahili and Islamic Literature.
- Islamic Education and Intellectualism in Eastern Africa.
- Art, Crafts and Architecture.
- Indigenous rulers, Islam and European colonial powers.

For the purpose of this symposium, Eastern Africa includes Somalia, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Eritrea, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zanzibar, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Rwanda, Burundi, Eastern Congo and South Africa. Yemen and the Sultanate of Oman are also included on account of their close relationship with this region.

The objectives of the symposium are to:

- * Increase our knowledge of the History and heritage of Islam in Eastern Africa.
- * Make the religious and cultural heritage of Eastern African Islam better understood to Muslims and non-Muslims inside and outside the subject region.
- * Strengthen affinities and cooperation among Muslim nations and scholars by producing and disseminating Islamic religious and cultural knowledge.
- * Promote a better understanding and a dialogue amongst Muslim nations and peoples of other religious cultural heritage.
- * Offer a forum for the true understanding of Islamic culture in the world.

The abstracts and papers can be in Arabic, English or French, the three official languages of the symposium. There will be simultaneous translation in these three languages during the symposium.

The working sessions will be accompanied by performances of national folkloric dances and Matala Groups, and visits to cultural sites in Uganda.

Within the framework of IRCICA's activity programs, this symposium comes under a series of regional symposia relating to the History of Muslim Nations in the various regions of the Muslim world. The theme was already covered with respect to West Africa in an international symposium which was organised jointly with the "Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire" (IFAN), Dakar, under the patronage of the President of Senegal, on 26-29 December 1996. The present symposium has the objective of bringing together research papers from around the world dealing with the Islamic culture and civilisation of Eastern Africa, assessing the state of research and academic teaching in this field, and promoting scholarly interest in this subject.

Please send the abstracts by post, fax or e-mail to either of the following addresses not later than 31 May 2003:
International Committee: Ahmed Lajimi, Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), P.O.Box 24, Beşiktaş 80692, Istanbul, Turkey, Tel.: (90-212) 259 17 42, Fax: (90-212) 258 43 65, e-mail: ircica@superonline.com
Chair of the Local Committee: Prof. Dr. Mahdi Adamu, President of the Islamic University in Uganda, P. O. Box 2555, Mbale, Uganda, Tel.: (256-45) 33502, Mobile: 256-077-443799, e-mail: iuiu@infocom.co.ug
Secretary to the Symposium: Dr. A.B.K. Kasozi, P. O. Box 2555, Mbale, Uganda, Fax: (256-45) 34452, Mobile: 256-077-438966, e-mail: abkasozi@imul.com

CULTURAL DATA ON OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES

This section contains brief information reflecting some aspects of cultural life in the OIC member countries. Sets of data drawn from the Centre's data files of statistical indicators and directories of cultural institutions are published here as brief country surveys. The purpose is to disseminate part of the data that is collected for the publications titled International Directory of Islamic Cultural Institutions and Studies on the Cultural Dimensions of Development in the OIC Member States. The statistical authorities of the countries concerned are invited to provide updated information to IRCICA. Summary culture indicators relating to the Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam are given below, followed by a list of cultural institutions.

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Summary information*

Area	5 770 sq. km.
Population	>350 000 (2001)
Population density	60.6 per sq. km. (2001)
Av. annual rate of growth of pop.	2.6 %
Main languages	Malay (official); English, Chinese
Adult literacy rate	Male: 92.6 %, Female: 83.4 % (2000)
School enrolment ratios	First level, Gross: Male: 109%, Female: 104% Second level, Gross: Male: 72%, Female: 82% Third level: Male: 5.3%, Female: 8.2% (1996)
Share of education in public expenditure	10.20% (2000)
Annual education exp. per capita	\$ 1300
Libraries:	Library of the Language and Literature Bureau, Library of the University of Brunei Darussalam
University:	University of Brunei Darussalam, founded in 1985. Faculty of Arts and Social Science, Faculty of Business, Economics and Policy Studies, Institute of Medicine, Academy of Brunei Studies, Sultan Hassanal Bolkhiah Institute of Education, Sultan Haji Omar Ali Saifuddien Institute of Science, Language Centre, Library
Membership in the OIC:	1984, at Independence

* Sources: IRCICA, OIC-SESRTCIC, UNESCO

Cultural institutions

LEARNED SOCIETIES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

Institut Penjagijian Islam (Institute of Islamic Studies)

Brunei Darussalam
KM2 Jalan Tulang
Bandar Seri Begawan 2864

Brunei History Centre

Bandar Seri Begawan
Fax: 2 241 958
e-mail: sejarah@brunet.bn

Constitutional History Gallery

Jalan Sultan
Bandar Seri Begawan BD 1510
Fax: 2 242 727

Royal Regalia Gallery

Jalan Sultan
Bandar Seri Begawan BD 8610
Fax: 2 242 727

Pusat Dakwa Islamiya (Centre for Islamic Da'wa)

Bandar Seri Begawan

LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES

Language and Literature Bureau, Library

Jalan Elizabeth II
Bandar Seri Begawan

University of -Brunei Darussalam- Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education, Library

P.O.Box 601, Bandar Seri Begawan

University of -Brunei Darussalam- Acquisition, Gift and Exchange Unit

Jalan Tungku Link
Gadon BE 1410
Negara Brunei Darussalam

MUSEUMS

Army museum

Bandar Seri Begawan
Negara -Brunei Darussalam-

Brunei Museum

Jalan Kota Batu 2018
Bandar Seri Begawan
Fax: 2 242 727

Malay Technology Museum

Jalan Kota Batu
Bandar Seri Begawan BD 1510

UNIVERSITIES AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

University of Brunei Darussalam

Tungku Link, Gadong BE 1410
Bandar Seri Begawan
Fax: 2 249 003

University of -Brunei Darussalam

Department of History
Gadong 3186 bsb

IRCICA Publications available on CD-ROM

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

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

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

Uzbekistan: The Monuments of Islam,
 "Uzbekistan" Publications, Tashkent, 2002, 263 p.
 (in Uzbek, English and Arabic)

This magnificent album was published upon the initiative of H.E. Islam Karimov, the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the country's Independence. It is a beautifully illustrated scholarly compendium of the cultural heritage of Uzbekistan as embodied in its architectural and manuscript works. It contains the photographs and concise history of architectural monuments and also manuscript books which date from different periods. In epigraph, Islam Karimov says that "... Giving a brief account of the millennial history of our nation, his present spiritual life and religion, one can say that Allah is in our minds, in our hearts. ..." The Prologue of the book is an instructive overall review of the monuments and manuscripts introduced in the subsequent chapters. The chapters are divided according to the main periods of the history of culture in Uzbekistan. The period between the 9th-12th centuries is described as one of Central Asian Renaissance. However, it was suddenly interrupted by the Mogul invasion in 1220. The second chapter, concerning the period of Amir Timur and the Timurids (14th-15th centuries), which can be named as the second Central Asian Renaissance, presents the photographs of the monuments and valuable manuscripts in Uzbekistan. The period of the Uzbek Khanates (16th-the first half of the 19th centuries) was one of endless wars for power and endless conflicts in Mawarannahr. However, various kinds of monuments continued to be built in this period. The chapter on the period of Russian-Soviet rule (the second half of the 19th - the 20th centuries) includes the photographs of the monuments built in this period. The final chapter focuses on the period of independence, restructuring and construction (the end of the 20th -the beginning of the 21st centuries). The book has a section titled "Information about the monuments included in the Photo Album". This highly informative section gives historical information in Uzbek, English and Arabic about the architectural works and manuscripts included in the album.

Oriental Miniatures: The Collection of the Beruni Institute of Oriental Studies of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Volume I: 14th-17th Centuries,
 Tashkent, 2001, 269 p.

The collection of manuscripts of the Beruni Institute was included into the international register of UNESCO's "Memory of the World" Program in August 2000. There are more than 45,000 volumes of oriental manuscripts in Uzbek, Arabic, Persian and other languages at the Beruni Institute of Oriental Studies of the Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The themes of the manuscripts cover almost all fields of science and culture known in the East. The miniatures located at the Institute form a unique database for philologists, ethnographers, archeologists, historians and artists working in the style of miniature art. This catalogue gives for the first time a detailed and systematic description of the rarest oriental miniatures of 14th-17th centuries that are contained in the manuscripts of the Institute's collection. This work was prepared by a team of scholars from the Beruni Institute and Tashkent Fine Arts Research Institute. The National Commission of the Republic of Uzbekistan for UNESCO, the Beruni Institute of Oriental Studies and the Scientific Research Institute of Fine Arts of the Academy of Arts of Uzbekistan collaborated for its publication. It is the first compilation of its kind. The introductory texts and the descriptions provided for each entry are highly instructive. The catalogue describes forty-five manuscripts of the 14th-17th centuries, mainly related to history of literature and natural sciences. It includes approximately 1300 miniatures contained in these manuscripts. Among these manuscripts there are some well-known ones such as *Djami al-tawarih* by Rashiduddin, *Kalila wa Dimna* and *Zafarname* by Yazdi, *Khamsa* by Amir Khusraw, Alisher Navoi, Nizami Gandjavi, *Shahname* by Firdawsi and others. The book has a section titled "Glossary and Terms" and a rich bibliography at the end. As a future project, the Institute aims to publish the collection of miniatures dating from the 18th-20th centuries. (introduced by Semiramis Çavuşoğlu)

Rasim S. Efendi and Toğrul Efendi, **Azerbaijan Bezek Sanatı / Azerbaijan Decoration**, Baku, 2002, 80 p. (in Azerbaijani and English)

This excellent scholarly and artistic study by two specialists on Azerbaijani art focuses on different types of ornaments that appear on monuments as well as on carpets and fabrics of Azerbaijan. Rasim Samed oğlu Efendi, doctor of art, professor, academician of the National Academy of Sciences, works at the Institute of Architecture and Art of the National Academy of Sciences since 1965. Doctor of arts Toğrul Efendi is a senior researcher of the Institute of Architecture and Art of the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan since 1987. In the introductory chapter titled "Azerbaijan Decoration" the authors stress the important cultural role played by Azerbaijani painters, architects and other masters who were active in a region extending from Turkey to India. In this chapter one also finds the views of foreign travelers such as Evliya Çelebi and others about the influence of Islam upon the development of artistic works. The authors also refer to some well-known works by Eastern painters and art critics who wrote on the art of ornamentation. The decorative elements in the art of Azerbaijan are divided into six groups and examined in six chapters in this book with the help of illustrations a great part of which are coloured. They trace the historical development of ornaments such as geometric motifs, descriptions of plants, birds and animals, legendary-mythic images, syncretic figures, plot descriptions, calligraphic inscriptions on various monuments, and symbolic decors in Azerbaijan folk arts. The authors also examine the symbolic meanings of these decorations. The book is divided into chapters entitled "Geometrical Ornaments", "Botanical Ornaments", "Zoomorphic and Legendary-Mythic Images", "Topical and Narrative Description", "The Ornaments Combined from Different Form of Writings", "Emblem and Symbolic Essence Decorations". (introduced by Semiramis Çavuşoğlu)

Geleneksel Kaatı Sanatı Meliha Altay'ın yorumuyla (The traditional paper-cuts art, as interpreted by Meliha Altay), Ülker Yayınları, İstanbul, 2000, 63 p. (in Turkish and English)

This book introduces the *kaatı* art, a branch of the Turkish arts of the book. The thin paper and leather engraving (*kaatı*) art emerged at the time of the principalities in Anatolia in the 14th century. It gained importance particularly during the reign of Süleyman the Magnificent in the 16th century in the form of paper engravings. After gilding it was the second most important ornament of the manuscripts. Although the western travelers introduced this art to Europe in the 17th century, it started to regress from the second half of the 18th century onwards. The artist and

author of this book Meliha Altay has about fifty reproductions from antique works and compositions in the *kaatı* art. The book outlines the emergence and the historical development of the *kaatı* art, the works of the artists who performed it throughout the centuries, and its method. It also includes coloured samples some of which were composed by Meliha Altay herself. These samples include ornamentations in the borders of calligraphic panels (*levhas*), miniatures, interior parts of bookbindings, tile works, etc.

City of Divine and Earthly Joys. The Description of Sana'a by Sayyid Jamal al-Din 'Ali ibn 'Abdullah ibn al-Qasim ibn al-Mu'ayyad bi'llah Muhammad ibn al-Qasim ibn Muhammad al-Shahari, translated into English by Tim Mackintosh-Smith from the Arabic text edited by 'Abdullah ibn Muhammad al-Hibshi, the American Institute for Yemeni Studies, Yemen Translation Series # 3, 2001, xii+34 p.

The book reproduced and translated in this volume was written in 1171 H./1757-58 by Jamal al-Din 'Ali ibn 'Abdullah ibn al-Qasim ibn al-Mu'ayyad bi'llah Muhammad ibn al-Qasim ibn Muhammad al-Shahari, a military leader and member of the Qasimi family. This volume consists of three main parts: The Translator's Introduction, The Text, and the Bibliography. The translator notes that the published text is an extract from a much longer manuscript work titled *Al-manshurat al-jaliyyah* located in the library of the Great Mosque of Sana'a. The main text begins with an account of the land of the Arabs. Here, the author quotes the words of eminent historians such as Al-Razi and Al-Mas'udi praising al-Yaman in general and Sana'a in particular. He occasionally quotes verses from well-known poets of the period who described the city's delights. The text continues with a description of contemporary Sana'a. It focuses on mosques and gardens of mosques, houses, materials and techniques of building, food, goods that were traded, the delights of Ramadan, baths, markets, suburban resorts, the *mafrajs* (a type of room set under the vine trellises in a garden), and the like. The text includes rich information on the architectural and social history of the city as well as some data on property prices and rents. As noted by the translator, the text reflects the author's vivid observations and records facts of great importance on political, legal, intellectual and commercial aspects of life in Sana'a during his time. In his Introduction, the translator acquaints us with the author's life and highlights special points of interest in his manuscript. (introduced by Semiramis Çavuşoğlu)

Islamic Culture, Special 75th Anniversary Issue,
Editor: Shahid Ali Abbasi, Hyderabad-Deccan,
Volume LXXVI, No. 2 April 2002, 264 p.

Islamic Culture, a scholarly publication from Hyderabad is a remarkable journal with a long tradition in that it provides a forum for the exchange of views among Islamic scholars around the world. The journal was first published in 1927 to promote learning and understanding about Islam and its people. This special issue of the journal is devoted to the state of Hyderabad and the rich environment, including its culture, its people, its language, its intellectuals, its administrators, its traditions, its Nizams, etc., where the journal originated. Among the contributors of this issue are academics, administrators, historians, anthropologists, linguists, etc. It includes valuable research articles, dealing with: the map of the Sultanate of Golconda (by Ziauddin A. Shakeb); the origin, growth and the functioning of the Dâr al-Inshâ' under Mir Nizam Ali Khan (by Zaibunisa Begum); administrative and political modernisation in the Asaf Jahi State: Hyderabad under Salar Jung I during 1853-83, and the Seventh Nizam during 1911-1945 (by Vasant Kumar Bawa); progress of education in Hyderabad State during 1911-1948 (by Sheela Raj); Nizam VII's non-denominational patronage of art and culture (by Syed Dawood Ashraf); the design and architecture of Osmania University campus (by Omar Khalidi); a review of the Dâ'irat al-Ma'ârif, a renowned academic institution, and its contribution to various branches of learning (by Mohd. Suleman Siddiqui); different aspects of the immigration of Hyderabadis to various countries (by Karen Leonard); the features of the Deccani Ghazal (by Mughni Tabassum); changes in the perceptions of the new generations of Hyderabad immigrants in the US (by M. A. Muttalib). *Islamic Culture* welcomes articles by authors and researchers from around the world working in fields related to its purview. Interested scholars and researchers may visit the website of the journal at www.islamicculture-journal.org or send an e-mail to: icj@hd2.dot.net.in The correspondence address is: The Editor, *Islamic Culture*, P.O. Box 35, Banjara Hills Post Office, Hyderabad – 500 034, India.
(introduced by Semiramis Çavuşoğlu)

Erdal İnönü, **Anılar ve Düşünceler** (Memoirs and Thoughts), Yorum Kitapları, İstanbul, vol. 1, 18th ed., 1998; vol. 2, 9th ed., 1999; vol. 3, 3rd ed., Doğan Kitap, İstanbul, 2001 (in Turkish)

A celebrated figure of Turkish political and academic life, a physicist and author, Prof. Erdal İnönü is the son of the second President of the Republic of Turkey İsmet İnönü (1884-1973). His books relate and shed light on important aspects of politics and history. Appointed professor at Middle East Technical University, Ankara, in 1960, Prof. Erdal İnönü held the positions of head of the Department of Theoretical Physics (1960-64), dean of the Faculty of Science and Letters (1965-68) and President of Middle East Technical University. He engaged in politics in 1983 and became the founding chairman of the political parties of SODEP and later of SHP. He was elected deputy from İzmir and held the positions of Vice Prime Minister and Minister of State of the coalition government formed after the general elections in 1991. Following the union of the political parties of SHP and CHP, he was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs. He held this post until September 1995. In this book of three volumes Erdal İnönü relates different events that took place in various stages of his life as well as the impressions and thoughts to which they gave rise. The first half of volume 1 contains the memories of the author related to his childhood and the first years of his youth (1926-1947). Here, the author relates different phases of his upbringing within the framework of the atmosphere of his family, giving excerpts from the career of his father as well as pointing out the most significant personal characteristics of his father İsmet İnönü who was the second president of the Republic of Turkey. The second half of volume 1 comprises the beginning of Erdal İnönü's scientific life in 1947 when he went to the United States for his doctoral education as well as some important events of his political life that began in 1983. Volume 2 begins with the author's memoirs related to his high school years, as well as his memoirs related to his mother and his parents' house. This volume continues with his experiences in political life. Volume 3 expands on the author's political activities and experiences; his thoughts and observations on political ethics; his views on what is necessary for conducting scientific research on the basis of his own experiences, his advice to the young researchers on this subject; university reform, including his own efforts in this regard during the years when he was an assistant and associate professor at the Faculty of Science of the University of Ankara, and finally, the process leading to the establishment of TÜBİTAK (The Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey).

Erdal İnönü, Fikirler ve Eylemler: Tarih, Bilim ve Siyaset Üzerine Konuşmalar (Ideas and Actions: Speeches on History, Culture, Science and Politics), 3rd ed., Bûke Yayınları, İstanbul, 2002, 396 p. (in Turkish)

This book in four parts contains the speeches that Erdal İnönü delivered on different occasions. The author has grouped his speeches in four parts: Turkish republican history; history of science; politics; and various personal and social issues. These speeches were delivered on invitation in different universities, associations and organizations. Among the topics of his speeches are Atatürk and the Great Discourse, the 75th anniversary of the Treaty of Lausanne; the attitude of his father İsmet İnönü towards science; his views on the friendship between İnönü and Venizelos; an overview of science in Turkey during the Republican period; the role of François Mitterand on the relations between Turkey and France; the relationship between politics and science; the author's impressions in Jordan and Yemen where his father had served as a military officer during the Ottoman period; the situation of Turkey in the twenty-first century, etc. In this work, the reader discovers numerous interesting and unknown aspects of politics and history while enjoying the author's lively and pleasant style.

Erdal İnönü, Üçyüz Yıllık Gecikme: Tarih, Kültür, Bilim ve Siyaset Üzerine Konuşmalar (A three hundred-year delay: Speeches on History, Culture, Science and Politics), Bûke Yayınları, İstanbul, 2002, 396 p. (in Turkish)

As to this volume, it focuses on the main problems of development faced in the present time and seeks to identify the historical root causes of these problems. We find here a valuable analysis of the existing scientific and technological dependence on the West. The author questions the three hundred years time lag between the adoption and spread, in the West, in the 16th century, of scientific research and development activities based on observation and experiment, and the adoption of scientific research and development as a state policy issue in Turkey. In the chapter on science and culture, the author emphasizes the main preconditions of scientific mentality and development, as: curiosity in nature, living beings and

their relations; belief in the principle of causality; creativity and interest in developing tools and instruments; devoting oneself to research as an activity; an entrepreneurial spirit; in science and research; freedom of thought and expression. This chapter has rich statistical tables comparing the indicators of scientific research and development for industrialised and developing countries of the world: statistics of scientific publications, frequencies of citations in scientific publications, state expenditure on research and development, applications for patents, etc.

Mairam Akaeva, Stars of Science, translation from Russian by Ilyas Bekbolotov, n.p., n.d., 215 p.

This book gives an attractive account of the scientific geniuses that flourished in different periods and countries throughout history. As a professor, Mairam Akaeva is also the author of a textbook on the theory of mechanisms and machines besides her other books. She is the wife of H.E. Dr. Askar A. Akaev, President of the Kyrgyz Republic, a renowned scientist and academician. We learn from the words of the author that she was inspired to write this work during the years when she was a student in Leningrad (now Saint-Petersburg). She was greatly inspired by her professor Fyodor Litvin at Leningrad Technological Institute who was able to teach the difficult subjects of mechanics and physics "with a magic passion". The present book has a foreword titled "A Magic and Intense Passion" by the author. Then, there is a foreword by Professor Dr. R. Z. Sagdeev from the University of Maryland, USA, where Sagdeev points out that the book is capable to inspire the readers by the great images of the heroes of science and extraordinary stories of their lives and outstanding discoveries. He recalls that Kyrgyzstan provided the home for a number of scientists throughout history, among them the illustrious Ibn Sina (Avicenna). In the main text, the author gives an account of the scientists ranging from ancient Greece to the present day. Mairam Akaeva includes episodes while relating the life and achievement of each scientist as well as quoting wise sayings by them. The scientists included in the book are: Pythagoras, Confucius, Archimedes, Avicenna, Leonardo da Vinci, Johannes Kepler, Mikhailo Lomonosov, Jean Le Rond d'Alambert, Michael Faradei, Sofia Kovalievskaya, Ernst Rutherford, Srinivasa Ramanujan, Konstantin Kuzmich Yudakhin, Isa Akhunbaev, Euclid, Blaise Pascal and the 2000 Nobel Prize winner physicist Zhores Alferov is also cited.

Corrigendum

In *Newsletter* no. 58 (August 2002), each of the two articles introducing books in Urdu language on p. 27 mentioned wrongly that Maulana Abdul Majid Daryabadi was a Pakistani scholar. In fact Maulana Abdul Majid Daryabadi was not Pakistani; he was born in India and died in India. We would like to thank Prof. M. A. Islahi, Chairperson, Centre of Arabic and African Studies, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, for the rectification.

NEW PUBLICATION

Mushrabiyya and Stucco Colored Glass in the Muslim World. Proceedings of the international seminar held in Cairo, Egypt on 3-9 December 1995, edited by Nazeih Taleb Maarouf, Preface by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2002 (in Arabic)

Price: US\$ 70.- post included

This book contains the papers presented at the international seminar on Traditional Crafts in Islamic Architecture with special focus on Mushrabiyya and Stucco Coloured Glass, which was organised jointly by IRCICA and the Ministry of Culture of Egypt on 3-9 December 1995. It tries firstly to explore a flourishing side of the Islamic civilization and secondly to motivate the development wheel in member countries through encouraging an important sector of the heritage which can be employed currently in architecture. Thus, it highlights the cultural and heritage identity of these countries, in a way to present its beautiful aspects pertaining to heritage, tourism and culture. The book tries as much as possible to evaluate the present state of Mushrabiyya and Stucco Colored Glass sector and define future prospects for developing its economical, social and cultural aspects as well as working to highlight its relevant aspects in a way to create a real awareness of its real contribution in the field of arts and architectural advancement in the Islamic world for ages. It also discusses the measures that can be taken to avoid the loss of a special tradition of the Muslim world. In addition, it initiates a kind of cooperation among the concerned countries in the field of revival and restoration of the Islamic architectural heritage, which means more attention to introducing Mushrabiyya and Stucco Colored Glass in today's architecture.

المشربيات والزجاج الملون
في العالم الإسلامي



In general, the aim of this book is to introduce better the masterpieces of Mushrabiyya and Stucco Colored Glass in the Muslim world and get them documented as well as raise an awareness for the necessity of giving more care to it and to its revival as cultural, touristic and heritage treasures. One of the most important features the book highlights is the set of clarifications made for a better understanding of the descriptions, characteristics and the uses of Mushrabiyya, Stucco Colored Glass and Qamariyas. The book illustrates various names used in various regions from east of Arabia to its west. The book also deals with the various types of wood and their uses in Mushrabiyya works, defining their sizes, various forms, parts, heights and designs as they have appeared for various ages. Another subject studied by the book is gypsum which is called "Shamsiyat" with reference to sunlight and Qamariyat with reference to moonlight which is called "Shamasiyat" in Morocco. The book makes a comparison between the two techniques most used in this field in the East and the West and whose influence can still be seen in the architecture of the Middle Ages and afterwards. The book explores in a different chapter the characteristics and designs of the traditional Arabic house in various regions of the Muslim world. It also investigates the issue of exploring new markets for Mushrabiyya and Stucco Colored Glass in Europe and North America. In this regard, it refers to the necessity of drawing a successful program for marketing Mushrabiyya which requires various modern marketing and promotion methods in a way that it will encourage the marketing system in the field of handicrafts to focus on countries with expanding economies.

Egypt As Viewed in the 19th Century, prepared by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Ahmad M. Issa, Mohammed Abu Al-Amayim, Ibrahim Al-Nawawi, edited by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, xiii, 223 [6] p., 140 illustrations, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2001 (in English and Arabic)

Price: US\$ 50,- post included

This elegant annotated album contains 140 historical photographs of architectural monuments, namely mosques, madrasas, palaces, fountains, citadels, gardens and cemeteries, as well as some of the landmarks of ancient Egypt such as pyramids, temples and sphinx statues. 100 of the monuments date from the early Islamic, Tulunid, Fatimid, Ayyubi, Mamluk and Ottoman periods, while 40 are from Pharaonic times. The majority of the photographs are related to Cairo, an eleven-centuries old city of universal importance, but there are also a number of photographs that duly reflect the historical significance of cities such as Alexandria and Port Said. These pictures were selected from the Yıldız Photograph Albums which were put together in Istanbul during the reign of Sultan Abdulhamid II, at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century. The nucleus of the collection contains 35,000 photographs taken by a number of professional photographers such as P. Sabah, H. Béchar, H. Arnox, J. Sandoz, Abdullah Frères, T. R. Dumas, L. C. Müller, as well as amateurs and travelers aiming to record the important scenes in the vast Ottoman scene.

The Centre is grateful to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt for the assistance extended during the preparation of this book. With the contributions of all those who joined their efforts and helped in producing it, the book has come out as an informative reference that will be useful for researchers interested in history and cultural heritage. Under the editorship of Prof. E. İhsanoğlu, Architect M. Abu Al-Amayim drafted the texts on Islamic monuments and Prof. Dr. I. Al-Nawawi, those on the Pharaonic antiquities; Dr. Tahsin Ö. Tahaoğlu prepared the book for publication. The late Prof. Ahmad Issa, member of IRCICA Governing Board, contributed during the first stages of its preparation. At the end of the book, there is a list of the monuments and sites, with their code numbers in IRCICA's archive and the names of the photographers. This is the third volume issued by IRCICA in the series of its publications from the archives of the Yıldız Palace Albums, the previous ones being the first and second editions of an album containing selected historical photographs of Istanbul.

Some of the illustrious monuments shown in this volume are the Amr b. al-As Mosque, Ahmed b. Tulun Mosque, Al-Hakim Mosque and Al-Gyushi Mosque from early Islamic periods, the Sultan Hasan Madrasa and the Qaytbay Mosque from Mamluk times; there are a number of fountains and palaces dating from the Ottoman period, such as the Sabil-Kuttab of Abd Al-Rahman Katkhuda and the Shubra Palace. Also noteworthy are the city walls, marketplaces and views of various districts illustrating the panorama of Cairo.

World Bibliography of Translations of the Holy Quran in Manuscript Form, Vol. I, compiled and prepared by Dr. M. Nejat Sefercioğlu, edited and introduction by E. İhsanoğlu, Istanbul, 2000

Price: US\$ 50,- post included

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

The Centre is most pleased and proud to be presenting the first volume of the *World Bibliography of Translations of the Holy Quran in Manuscript Form*. This volume contains the data and information that was collected and collated by Dr. M. Nejat Sefercioğlu, an eminent specialist and IRCICA's expert in bibliography. On the whole, roughly 5,000 manuscript translations and exegeses of the Quran in 61 languages and dialects have been recorded until now within the framework of this project. This first volume contains bibliographic entries for 293 translations and exegeses found in manuscript form in 58 languages and dialects. Translations and exegeses in Persian, Urdu and Turkish are not included, because they are too numerous to fit into a single volume. The volume has indexes of personal names, book titles and place names. The second volume, planned to appear in 2002, will contain entries for 1,600 manuscript translations and exegeses in Turkish. It will be followed by a third volume to cover the manuscript works in Persian and Urdu numbering slightly more than 2,500 according to the present estimates.

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

International Congress on Learning and Education in the Ottoman World, Istanbul, 12-15 April 1999; Proceedings (papers in English), edited by Ali Çaksu, preface by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Studies and sources on Ottoman history series 6, x+406 p., ill., Istanbul, 2001
Price: US\$ 30.- postage included

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

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

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

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

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

NEW PUBLICATION

Traditional Carpets and Kilims in the Muslim World: Past, Present and Future Prospects, Proceedings of the international seminar held in Tunis, 19-25 November 1999, edited by Nazeih Taleb Maarouf, Preface by Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2002

Price: US\$ 70.- post included (Arabic edition: US\$ 60.-)

This is a collection of the papers presented during the international seminar on Traditional Carpets and Kilims in the Muslim World: Past, Present and Future Prospects which was organised by IRCICA in cooperation with the "Office National de l'Artisanat" of the Ministry of Tourism and Handicrafts, Tunisia. It book illustrates the present state of Traditional Carpets and Kilims in various parts of the Muslim world together with a historical background of the sector representing its cultural and heritage aspects.

Through this book, the reader will enjoy the opportunity of knowing closely the sector of traditional carpets and kilims in countries where publications on such topics often appeared only in local languages. This work is considered as a documentary, photographing the characteristics and beauty of carpets and kilims not only in the Muslim countries such as Algeria, Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Iran, Kuwait, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Kazakhstan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Yemen Republic, but also in some other countries such as Venezuela, India, South Africa, as well as the Indian Navajo carpets in the U.S.A.

This constituted the historical background; the present state of the artisan; skills development; raw materials and instruments and their effects on the quality of the product; markets of traditional carpets and kilims; distribution channels; development of the product and its promotion; information and data on the economical and financial aspects; role of the government and patronage, and the documenting field in this sector.

The book deals with such particular technical aspects of the subject as the use of natural dyes and the new methods used in analysing them chemically to determine the age of the carpets. The use of this knowledge in its historic context gives us information about the age and the origin of a specific object. This is considered as a unique initiative, which will assist in the identification of ages and origins of the carpet pieces available in the museums of the world.

The book also provides a clarification of the symbols, forms, and designs used in traditional carpets and kilims. It illustrates with diagrams these designs, the types of looms and their various parts and the spinning process. It examines the raw materials, their treatment, and the traditional tools used in carpet weaving, as well as the lines used in textile weaving. Some chapters deal with the motifs and designs applied on carpets and kilims, their symbolic meanings and interpretations, while other parts of the book are devoted to detailed studies on technical aspects of carpet weaving, such as various types of looms, tools, inputs and methods used.

The reader will also find the reports on field surveys and statistical studies relating to the carpet and kilim markets; the problems and challenges encountered, import and export of traditional carpets and kilims and their country-wise distribution, trends observed in buyers' preferences, demand and supply, price trends, and many other aspects and issues. This is prepared by studying the markets of France, Germany, Netherlands, USA, Italy, Britain, Switzerland, and Japan. The book also includes an analysis of the most important carpet and kilim producing and exporting countries such as Afghanistan, China, Iran, Morocco, Nepal, Tunisia and Turkey.



NEW PUBLICATION

Topkapı Sarayı Arşivi H.951-952 tarihli ve E-12321 numaralı Mühimme Defteri (The *Mühimme* Register dated H.951-952 no. E-12321 in the Topkapı Palace Archive), compiled and edited and Preface by Halil Sahillioğlu, Foreword by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Series of Studies and Sources on the History of Ottoman State and Civilisation no. 7, IRCICA; Istanbul, 2002
Price: US\$ 60.- post included



The *Mühimme* registers are indispensable sources for the researchers interested in the history of the Ottoman period. This *Mühimme* register is known to be the oldest one and contains the firmans and administrative orders issued during the period 951-952 Hijra/1544-1545, specifically from 10 December 1544 to 16 April 1545, during the reign of Sultan Süleyman the Magnificent. It is one of the limited number of registers that are outside of the Turkish Prime Ministry's Ottoman Archives.

The contents of this register have been transcribed in Latin characters, documented and made available to researchers in this book thanks to the efforts of Prof. Dr. Halil Sahillioğlu, the distinguished professor in Ottoman studies. The Preface by Halil Sahillioğlu is an extensive article in itself which describes and evaluates the contents of the register. The book is accompanied by a CD copy. An index and a set of explanatory tables facilitate its use. As explained in the Preface, the register contains many firmans on measures relating to the expedition to Buda and several other political questions which preoccupied the Ottoman State during this period. An important project of the State in this period was the construction of the *İmaret-i Amire* (imperial public kitchen for the poor) which is also reflected in the firmans of this register.

The articles written by Halil Sahillioğlu which were published in various journals or presented at conferences were collected by IRCICA in the volumes entitled *Studies on Ottoman Economic and Social History* (1999, articles in English and in French) and *Min Ta'rih al-Aqtar al-Arabiyya fi al-Ahd al-Usmani* (On the History of Arab Countries During the Ottoman Period, 2000, articles in Arabic).