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IRCICA PUBLICATIONS



The following IRCICA publications and documentary films can be ordered from the Centre by a letter addressed to the attention of the "Book Sales Section":

Catalogue of Islamic Medical Manuscripts, 1985, 625 pp. (main part in Ar., preface in Eng.), US\$ 30.- plus package and postage.

International Directory of Islamic Cultural Institutions, 1984, 350 pp. (Eng., preface in Fr. and Ar.), US\$ 10.- plus package and postage.

L'Enseignement Arabo-Islamique au Sénégal, Dr. Mamadou Ndiaye, 1985, 260 pp. (Fr., preface in Eng., Ar.), US\$ 10.- plus package and postage.

Video Cassettes

The following documentary films prepared by the Centre are now available on a single cassette in Arabic (English text enclosed with the cassette). Diffusion system is PAL. Cassette type to be specified (VHS/ BETAMAX). Price: US\$ 30.-.

* "Life and Works of the Late Calligrapher Hamid Al-Amidi (Aytaç) and Calligraphic Arts"

* "Arts of Illumination and Gilding".

Continued inside the back cover

EDITORIAL

In the next page our readers will find news about the Fifth Islamic Summit Conference, held last January in Kuwait; an important event that found much echo on an international scale. The moment was crucial indeed, given the international circumstances, as was the strength of will for solidarity to master the difficulties. One manifestation of this will was that the conference named itself the "Islamic Solidarity Summit". As expressed by His Highness Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait and President of the 5th Islamic Summit in his inaugural speech, Muslims all over the world are united by their faith and should therefore live in unity and solidarity, so that they can overcome the obstacles hindering their progress. In this speech which was then adopted as an official document of the conference, the President also said the Organisation of the Islamic Conference should endeavour for the unity of mankind, human dignity and the elimination of intolerance. In addition to the discussions and resolutions on numerous cooperation issues, the Conference thus provided for a reaffirmation and reconfirmation of Islamic countries' firm intention to strengthen their unity and increase their cooperation.

Cultural issues found, as usual, an important place on the agenda of the Summit. The report about the accomplishments of IRCICA was reviewed and a positive, commending and appreciative resolution followed. The Summit also expressed satisfaction over the successful realisations of the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage (ICPICH) in its pertinent resolution.

Apart from the Summit news, this issue features, as usual, Islamic cultural and artistic events; the cultural news section benefited greatly from the responses to the circular letter sent to our readers together with the last issue, requesting their kind contribution in providing news about the activities of their institution. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those who responded by sending brochures and other written information. We hope others will do the same, so that we could be able to expand the geographical coverage of our news sections even further and report on events and developments occurring in places even remotest from our immediate environment.

The Heritage Commission supplement includes excerpts from comments and observations about the First International Calligraphy Competition which was finalised last December. Such observations either appeared in the press or were sent by the participants in the competition. It was a real pleasure for the Heritage Commission and its Secretariat, IRCICA, to take note of the general interest shown to both the King Fahd Awards in Islamic Architecture and the Calligraphy Competition. We are happy to announce that the winners of these competitions will receive their prizes in the coming weeks; thus we hope to report about the award distribution ceremonies in our next issue.

Prof.Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu

THE FIFTH ISLAMIC SUMMIT

Kuwait, January 1987



The Fifth Islamic Conference of Sovereigns and Heads of States and Governments was held on 26-29 January 1987 in the State of Kuwait, upon the invitation of His Highness Sheikh Jabir Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, Amir of Kuwait and following a resolution of the previous Summit Conference (Casablanca, Morocco, January 1983).

Fourty-four Member States participated in the Summit, and twenty-eight international organisations and institutions were represented as observers. The Summit was a memorable event at a crucial moment and under difficult regional and international circumstances; the very fact that it could be held on schedule suffices to show the importance Islamic countries give to cooperation and solidarity among themselves. The high rate of participation and high level of representation also attested to the

will of these countries to overcome the difficulties and solve the disagreements in international relations. The Summit was a real success both for these reasons and with respect to its results.

The Conference of Sovereigns and Heads of States and Governments was preceded by two other important meetings: the Meeting of Senior Officials of the OIC Member States and the Preparatory Islamic Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs. The first meeting opened on 12 January and elaborated the agenda and the work programme of the Ministerial meeting which took place on 22-25 January under the Chairmanship of His Excellency Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jabir, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait. This meeting prepared the draft agenda of the Summit.

On the other hand, three Commissions met to prepare the draft resolutions that were to be submitted to the consideration and approval of the Summit: the Political Affairs Commission, the Economic and Financial Affairs Commission and the Commission for Cultural, Social and Information Affairs.

The Summit Conference was inaugurated by His Highness Sheikh Jabir Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, the Amir of Kuwait. Then, the Prime Minister of Morocco pronounced a speech in the name of His Majesty King Hassan II who was the Chairman of the 4th Islamic Summit. After this speech, H.H. the Amir of Kuwait was unanimously elected Chairman of the 5th Summit. Addressing the Summit, the Chairman pointed out that problems facing Islamic countries can only be solved through close cooperation and mutual assistance. He called upon the Islamic countries to endeavour to establish peace so that a glorious future be secured for them, based on their faith, their cultural heritage and their belief

in the dignity of man. Then, H.M. King Hussain of Jordan, H.E. Zia ul Haq, President of Pakistan and H.E. Abdou Diouf, President of Senegal spoke in the name of Arab, Asian and African delegations. H.E. Mr. Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, Secretary General of the OIC also addressed the Summit; he mentioned, among others, that the serious issues of concern for Islamic countries are the problem of Palestine and Al-Quds, the problem of the Middle East, the threats to Islamic culture and civilisation and the obstacles hindering economic and social progress.

In addition to the numerous issues on its agenda, the Summit took up, during its working sessions, the activities and accomplishments of different OIC bodies and organs. The resolution No: IS/5-87/CSI/REV2 concerning IRCICA was an appreciative one. Previously, IRCICA had been represented at the Third (Saudi Arabia, 1981) and Fourth (Morocco, 1984) Summit Conferences and the resolutions of these conferences had also been encouraging for the Centre.



Amir of Kuwait H.H. Sheikh Jabir Ahmad Al-Sabah with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister H.E. Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jabir (right) and OIC Secretary General H.E. Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada (left)

In the operative paragraphs of its resolution concerning IRCICA, the Summit

1. Approves the report submitted by the Centre including the work programme for the year 1986-87;
2. Expresses its gratitude to the Government of Turkey for the allocation of Yaveran building to the Centre and the support given during the restoration, by the Turkish Government, as well as the institutions and philanthropists who made the restoration possible with their voluntary contributions;
3. Calls upon the Member States, institutions and philanthropists from the Muslim world to continue to support the Centre in furnishing and equipping the newly restored building according to the needs and requirements of the Centre;
4. Expresses its appreciation for the efforts of the Centre as represented by its successful achievements and work;
5. Requests Member States to pay their contributions regularly in order to enable the Centre to carry out its work programme in a more effective manner.

Contacts made in Kuwait during the period of the Summit

During the period of the 5th Summit Conference, the delegation of IRCICA headed by its Director General had several fruitful meetings with personalities and institutions in Kuwait.

Director General Prof. Dr. Ekmel-eddin Ihsanoğlu met among others the representatives of Islamic cultural institutions at the Summit. Talks were held concerning different aspects of cooperation between IRCICA and these institutions. He also visited, with researcher Mr. Ahmed Lajimi, the

headquarters of the Institute of Arab Manuscripts of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO) as well as the Faculty of Letters of Kuwait University and the Central Library of the same university, to discuss the possibilities of further cooperation with these institutions. The Centre's delegation also visited the exhibition organised by "Dar ul Athar" (House of Antiquities) of Kuwait nearby the conference hall; artefacts dating back to the first centuries Hijra and including rare manuscripts and copies of the Qur'an, as well as ceramics, pottery and metalwork were displayed in this exhibition.

EXHIBITIONS

"Activities of the Islamic Development Bank and Subsidiary Organs of the OIC" introduced on the occasion of the IDB Meeting



The exhibition: Turkish Minister of State and Dep. Prime Minister H.E. Kaya Erdem in the middle and OIC Secretary General on his left

IRCICA organised an exhibition on the occasion of the Eleventh Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Islamic Development Bank, which was held on 28-29 March 1987 in Istanbul. This meeting was inaugurated by H.E. Kenan Evren, President of the Republic of Turkey and held at the level of Finance Ministers of the 44 member countries of the Bank; main subjects discussed were the Bank's operations during the past fiscal year and various issues related to its activities, such as cooperation with other international organisations and different credit schemes of the Bank.

In the evening of the inauguration, participants at the meeting visited the Yıldız Palace and saw the exhibition at Çit Qasr. H.E.Mr. Kaya Erdem, Minister of State and Deputy Prime Minister, H.E.Mr. Kurtcebe Alptemoçin, Minister of Finance and H.E.Mr. Sudi Türel,

Minister of Energy and Natural Resources of Turkey were present at the inauguration of the exhibition. H.E.Mr. Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, Secretary General of the OIC also visited the exhibition.

The exhibition consisted of illustrations, graphs and documents representing the activities of the Islamic Development Bank and the three OIC subsidiary organs based in Turkey, namely the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC, Ankara), the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage (ICPICH) and IRCICA. The publications of these four institutions were also displayed. The aim of the exhibition was to provide an overview of these activities. It continued after the Board of Governors meeting and proved to be very useful in giving an account of the accomplishments made by these four institutions of Islamic countries, two of which work in the cultural field and the two others in the economic field. The event was also an example of the cooperation that exists between the IDB and IRCICA. H.E.Dr. Ahmed Muhammed Ali, President of the Islamic Development Bank had visited IRCICA before the exhibition, on 24 February 1987, to receive up-to-date information about its activities.



OIC Secretary General H.E.S.S.Pirzada and Secretary General of World Islamic Call Society, Tripoli H.E. Dr.M. Ahmed Al-Sharif receive information on IRCICA's photographic archives

Indonesian painter Trinawangwulan

In the week of 6 January 1987, IRCICA hosted an exhibition by the Indonesian artist Trinawangwulan. The artist was visiting Turkey within the framework of the Indonesian-Turkish cultural cooperation agreement and had displayed her works in Ankara last December, before coming to Istanbul.



Trinawangwulan (second from right) at her exhibition, with the Indonesian Embassy staff

The paintings reflected two different outlooks; while some had an extrovert character, such as sketches of the panorama, others were of an abstract and figurative nature. Trinawangwulan is, indeed, a very talented painter. After performing several exhibitions in Indonesia, she represented her country at the ASEAN Youth Painting Exhibition and Workshop in Bangkok, Thailand in 1983. Before coming to Turkey, she had a series of exhibitions in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Exhibition of IRCICA's publications at Cairo Book Fair

The 19th Cairo International Book Fair was held from 20 January to 2 February 1987. IRCICA participated in this fair for the fourth time this year, but it was the first time that it displayed its books in the sales section. Samples of all works published by the Centre until now were presented to the booksellers, publishers, book lovers and the general public visiting the fair.

The 19th Cairo Book Fair was inaugurated by H.E. Hosni M'barek, Head of State of Egypt; 52 countries participated in the event apart from the host country and the fair was visited by about 8 million people.

CONFERENCES/MEETINGS

Collaboration with the Foundation for Studies on Turkish-Arab Relations for the correction of textbooks

A delegation of the Foundation for Studies on Turkish-Arab Relations based in Istanbul visited Cairo from 24 February to 3 March 1987. The aim of the visit was to discuss various aspects of Turkish-Egyptian relations with Egyptian authorities and give conferences on the subject. IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu who is a member of the Administrative Council of the Foundation, was also in the delegation in the context of the fruitful cooperation estab-

lished between IRCICA and the Foundation. His purpose was to initiate and develop cooperation aiming to correct the errors or misinterpretations existing in textbooks on history, geography and other social disciplines and which might lead to misunderstandings among the nations. As known, one of the major objectives of IRCICA as mentioned in its Statute is to endeavour to correct the erroneous information contained in some textbooks of Islamic countries as regards other Muslim nations, in order to prevent any misunderstandings such errors may cause among the future generations.

Lectures were given by the delegation at a meeting organised on 26 February at the Faculty of Letters of Ain Shams University under the presidency of Prof.Dr. Abdulaziz Nawar, Dean of the Faculty and with the participation of around 40 Egyptian scholars and historians. At this meeting, Ambassador (ret.) Mr. İsmail Soysal, Head of the Foundation gave a lecture on his institution and its activities and IRCICA Director General presented a study on the contents of the history textbooks used in Egyptian schools between 1912-1980 from the point of view of Turkish-Arab relations. On the other hand, Mr. İsmail Soysal and Prof.Dr.Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu were received by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt H.E.Dr. Ahmed Ismat Abdul-Meguid, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E.Mr.Wafaa Hegazi, the Minister of National Education H.E. Prof. Ahmed Fathi Surur, and the Undersecretary of the same Ministry Mrs. Soraya Abdallah. During the discussions, guidelines were elaborated for the studies to be undertaken on textbooks.

"Arousing scientific spirit" towards the 21st Century

The Fourth Congress of the "Ay-dınlar Ocağı" (Society of the learned) in Istanbul was held between 24-26 April 1987. Papers and discussions of the meeting were centered on the following themes: promotion of national culture, economic and social development, and "main national objectives in view of the 21st Century" with an emphasis on the youth and its problems. IRCICA Director General Prof.Dr.Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu had been invited at the meeting to elaborate upon the issue of "Arousing scientific spirit" with the 21st Century in perspective. In his paper, the Director General emphasized the importance of scientific mentality and scientific research and development as the foundation stones of technological advancement. He explained that those developing countries which do not possess the scientific knowledge would be bound to depend continuously on developed countries in order to obtain the technologies necessary for development. He underlined the need for transferring science, establishing national scientific institutions and providing the necessary scientific and technological manpower so that original contributions to science be made possible. He pointed out that the main impetus would above all come from a nation-wide interest in science, at all levels of the society. He mentioned some measures that could be taken in order to arouse such interest by creating a scientific spirit and mentality especially among the youth, in view of the development of sciences in the next century.

Joint organisation of a Symposium
on the History of Science



*Inauguration: (left to right) IRCICA
Director General, Deputy Dean of the
Fac. of Letters Assoc.Prof.Dr.Haluk
Abbâsoğlu, and Head of Atatürk
Cultural Centre Prof.Dr.Aydın Sayılı*

IRCICA collaborated with the Faculty of Arts, Department of History of Science of Istanbul University, in the organisation of the First Symposium on the History of Science. The symposium was inaugurated on 3 April 1987 at the conference hall of the university. After the first day, it continued at IRCICA's conference hall at Çit Qasr on 4 and 5 April. The main theme of the symposium was the "Activities and Publications of Scientific and Professional Societies in the Ottoman State and Evaluation of their Contributions to the Establishment and Development of Modern Sciences". Eminent scholars working in the field of the history of science and related subjects participated in the symposium. Among the 16 research papers presented were "Cemiyet-i İlmîyye (The Scientific Society) and Mecmua-i Ulum (the Journal of Sciences)" (Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu); "The pharmacological societies in the period of the Ottoman Empire" (Prof. Dr. Turhan Baytop); "Medical societies in the Ottoman State" (Prof.Dr. Ekrem Kadri Unat); "The Turkish Medical

Society (Cemiyet-i Tıbbiye-i Şahane) and its contributions to the development of medicine" (Prof. Dr. Hüsrev Hatemi, Prof.Dr. Aykut Kazancıgil); "Social sciences and translations in the Tanzimat Period" (Assoc.Prof. İlber Ortaylı); "The Ottoman Engineering and Architectural Society" (Dr. Feza Günergün); "The contribution of periodicals to the establishment of scientific mentality and institutions" (Dr. Orhan Koloğlu). Thus, the meeting covered the learned societies established in the Ottoman period to deal with medicine, pharmaceuticals, veterinary sciences, engineering, architecture, and evaluated their contributions to the transfer and establishment of modern sciences in the Ottoman State. This was the first meeting in a series of symposia that the Department of History of Science of Istanbul University plans to organise with the cooperation of IRCICA.

Photographs from Yıldız Albums
presented at the Erzurum Symposium

The Eastern Anatolian city of Erzurum has played an important role as a political, cultural, economic and commercial centre throughout history, under the rule of the Hittites, the Byzantine, Seljukid and Ottoman Empires and other civilisations since thousands of years. A symposium was organised from 11-14 March 1987 at the Atatürk University in Erzurum in order to highlight the historical significance of the city from various points of view, through paper presentations and discussions. The symposium was held under the patronage of H.E. Mr. Necmeddin Karaduman, President of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey.

IRCICA Director General participated at the symposium together with Mr. Edip Özkale, expert in archives at IRCICA, to present a

lecture on "Erzurum in Historical Photographs". After giving information on the Centre's photographic archives which consist of the reproductions of the Yıldız Photographic Albums and collections of original photographs, the Director General showed the slides of 43 historical photographs of Erzurum selected from the Yıldız Albums, and provided explanations on each of them.

Fifth Meeting of IRCICA's Governing Council scheduled for June

The Governing Council of IRCICA will meet this year for the fifth time. Dates of the meeting have been fixed as 13-15 June 1987; the venue is to be Damascus, Syria, upon the invitation of Dr. Afif Bahnassi, Director General of the Museums and Antiquities Organisation of Syria and President of IRCICA's Governing Council. The Fourth Meeting of IRCICA Governing Council was held in July 1986 in Istanbul, at the Centre's premises.

SEMINARS/LECTURES

The art of the book: Commemoration of Necmeddin Okyay

A seminar was held in IRCICA premises on 3 January 1987 to commemorate Mr. Necmeddin Okyay (1883-1976), one of the greatest figures of the art of the book. Just as the previous seminars in the series, this one too had a large audience which heard about the life and works of the artist and scholar and saw slides showing samples of his works. The lecturers were Prof. Uğur Derman, Prof.Dr. Kerim Silivriili and Prof. Emin Barin, scholars and experts in Islamic arts.



Lectures on Necmeddin Okyay: Prof.Dr. Emin Barin on the left and Prof.Dr. Kerim Silivriili on the right

One particular characteristic of Mr. Okyay was that he could recognize an unsigned calligraphy at first sight and indicate the name of the calligrapher as well as the date when it was written. He was active in almost all branches of art related to book production, such as calligraphy, gilding, marbled paper making, binding, preparation of paper and ink, etc. and for this reason he was known under the name of "Hezar-fen" (one having numerous capabilities).

Mr. Okyay had learned the above arts from the greatest masters of his time. Having followed calligraphy courses at the Medresetu'l-Hattatin (school of calligraphy) which had opened in 1914, he started to teach the arts of marbled paper and preparation of paper at the same school, starting with 1916. He created the marbled paper with flower design, later known as "Necmeddin's ebru". On the other hand, he produced the best examples of classical bookbinding and carried out the restoration of the precious book covers at the Library of Topkapı Palace in Istanbul. He continued to train young artists

even after his retirement from the State Academy of Fine Arts of Istanbul in 1948. Apart from his works in private collections, some 140 calligraphies of his are actually kept at the State Academy of Fine Arts.

Lecture on "Nesta'liq" calligraphic style



A writing in the Nesta'liq style

A lecture was given at the Centre on 7 February by Prof.Dr. Ali Alparslan, member of the Faculty of Letters of Istanbul University, on the "Nesta'liq" style of calligraphy. The lecture was open to the public, and was accompanied by a slides show.

As explained by the lecturer, "Nesta'liq" script was first developed by Persian calligraphers, on the basis of the "Ta'liq" style which had appeared at the 11th century. "Ta'liq" was mostly used in governmental documentation and in the correspondence with foreign states, and generally not applied in scholarly books. "Ta'liq" was difficult to read because of the fact that letters were put against each other. Most probably, this was the reason why "Ta'liq" was slowly replaced by "Nesta'liq" from the 14th century onwards. Thus, "Nesta'liq" started to develop steadily and reached perfection in the hands of Iranian calligrapher Imadul Hoseni at the beginning of the 17th century. Until the 19th century, Imad remained as a master of calligraphy envied and imitated by Ottoman calligraphers, as well as those of Central Asia and India. However, starting with the beginnings of the 19th century, Ottoman calligrapher Yesarizade Mustafa İzzet (1770-1849) succeeded in

creating a new Turkish "Nesta'liq" tradition and thereafter, Turkish calligraphers took the lead in this style and especially in its "Jali". The most famous representatives of the Turkish "Nesta'liq" school after Yesarizade were Ali Haydar, Sami Efendi and Hulusi Efendi.

Lecture on the "Motifs in the Art of Tiles"

The rich variety of motifs applied on tiles were developed especially from the 16th Century onwards. Before, the patterns were limited both in origin and number. Starting with the beginning of the said century, they gained an unprecedented liveliness and richness.



Decorated plate made in the 17th-18th Centuries

This was the theme of a lecture given at IRCICA on the 21st of March by Prof.Dr. Kerim Silivrili, Vice-President of Mimar Sinan University in Istanbul and Head of the Department of Traditional Turkish Arts in the same university. The lecture was supported by slides of decorated tile works belonging to different centuries.

Lecture on a masterpiece of religious music: the "Mi'racciye"

Another lecture was organised on 4 April at IRCICA's conference hall; it was related to the "Mi'racciye", a piece of religious music, equivalent to the Western "Oratorio". The lecturer Mr. Orhan Nasuhioğlu, researcher and author, gave information to a large audience about the "Mi'racciye" which was composed and lyrics written by the eminent musician Nayi Osman Dede who lived in the 17th and 18th centuries.

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON MODERN SCIENCES AND THE MUSLIM WORLD

"Science and Technology Transfer from the West to the Muslim World from the Renaissance to the Beginning of the 20th Century"

Istanbul, 2-4 September 1987

Studies in the field of history of science had been included in the work programme of IRCICA taking into account their necessity and importance, and upon the request of scholarly circles. The first products of these studies were the "Catalogue of Islamic Medical Manuscripts in the Libraries of Turkey" and the "Annotated Bibliography of the Early Printed Works on Chemistry (1830-1928)", which constituted respectively the first two volumes in the series of "Studies and Sources on the History of Science".

The next activity in this field will be an international symposium to deal with the transfer of science and technology to the Muslim World in all branches of sciences and to cover a considerably long period in history.

The title of the symposium is self-explanatory: "Science and Technology Transfer from the West to the Muslim World from the Renaissance to the Beginning of the 20th Century". It is going to be the First International Symposium on "Modern Sciences and the Muslim World", to be organised by IRCICA with the collaboration of the Department of History of Science, Faculty of Arts, University of Istanbul. Below is summary information about the symposium:

As known, with the Renaissance, a new scientific outlook appeared in

the Western world and new scientific disciplines and methods were established. This modern scientific milieu also gave birth to new technologies. The transfer and diffusion of these new sciences and technologies to other parts of the world constitutes one of the major fields of study for the History of Science and Culture.

In this framework, the principal themes of the meeting will be:

1. Ways and forms of transfer and introduction of modern sciences and technology from the West to the Muslim world;
2. Attempts of Muslim states and societies to establish their own scientific institutions and to contribute to the advancement of sciences;
3. Efforts of Muslim states and societies to apply the new technologies;
4. Repercussions of the new scientific outlook and new technologies on the Muslim states, societies, and individuals and the resultant attitudes.

Requests for participation would be welcomed at the Symposium Secretariat in IRCICA until June 1987, as well as the abstracts of the papers, typed or printed with double spacing and not exceeding 200 words.

It is hoped that the symposium will provide a forum of mutual interest to researchers and scholars of different disciplines, whereby they would exchange views and information and put forward new ideas on the above-mentioned themes.

OIC ACTIVITIES

The Islamic University of Uganda to be opened next year

The joint Ugandan-OIC Commission in charge with the establishment of the Islamic University of Uganda completed its preparatory studies, under the chairmanship of Dr. Mohammed Mukhtar Ould Bah, Assistant Secretary General of OIC for Cultural and Social Affairs and the Islamic Solidarity Fund and, on the Ugandan side, the Minister of Justice H.E. Mr. Sam Juba and the Minister of Information H.E. Mr. Abu Bakr Mayanja.

The joint Commission reached an agreement on the principle of inaugurating the university for the coming academic year after completing all necessary formalities. It decided to institute a joint planning committee composed of the representatives of the OIC General Secretariat, the Islamic Solidarity Fund, the Islamic Development Bank and the Government of Uganda which is to deal with the legal, academic and financial issues related to the establishment of the university and to present a report to the Commission.

Official inauguration of the Islamic University of Niger

The Islamic University of Niger has been officially inaugurated under the high patronage of the President of the Republic of Niger H.E. Seyni Kountche. Dr. Mohammed Jamil Khayat, President of the University took the floor at the ceremony and pointed out that the establishment of this university by the OIC would be a memorable accomplishment in the development of sciences, knowledge and Islamic culture in the region. He said that the number of students at the Faculty of Arabic and Islamic Studies, which was the

first faculty to start teaching, was 105, and that these students came not only from Niger but also from Mali, Chad, Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Senegal and Guinea. Dr. Mohammed Mukhtar Ould Bah, Assistant Secretary General of OIC also pronounced a speech at the ceremony and thanked all Member States and all institutions having contributed to the successful realisation of this important project.

Cooperation between the OIC and the Arab League

A cooperation agreement was reached between the OIC General Secretariat and the Arab League's General Secretariat to coordinate and harmonise their activities as well as those of the technical organs affiliated to them. The agreement indicates the guidelines of such cooperation and emphasizes the exchanges of views and experiences and mutual visits that are foreseen, as well as participation in each other's meetings as observers. The agreement was signed in Jeddah by H.E. Mr. Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, Secretary General of OIC and H.E. Mr. Chadli Klibi, Secretary General of the Arab League.

Establishment of a Science and Technology Centre in Cairo

Talks are under way between the General Secretariat of the OIC and Egyptian authorities concerning the establishment of a large science and technology centre in Cairo. It is expected that such an institution would allow Islamic countries to profit from the scientific knowledge and experience of Egypt and support the activities of IFSTAD, the Islamic Foundation for Scientific and Technological Development affiliated to the OIC.

ISLAMIC HERITAGE COMMISSION

FIFTH ISLAMIC SUMMIT RESOLUTION CONCERNING ICPICH

The Fifth Islamic Summit Conference was held on 26-29 January 1987 in Kuwait. The Summit reviewed the accomplishments of the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage (ICPICH) and appreciated the progress made in the realisation of its projects. The Summit expressed its satisfaction over the success of the King Fahd Award competition for Design and Research in Islamic Architecture and the First International Calligraphy Competition organised by ICPICH.

The Commission was represented at the Summit by Dr. Mohammed Salah Gazdar, Director of the Liaison and Coordination Bureau with the office of H.R.H. Prince Faisal Bin Fahd Bin Abdulaziz, Chairman of the Commission, and Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Secretary of the Commission. The meeting reviewed and examined the report on the activities of the Commission. In its resolution No: IS/5-87/CSI/REV2 concerning the Commission, the Summit:

1. Approves the recommendations contained in the report of the Third Session of the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Heritage;
2. Calls upon Member States to provide the Commission with information and documents available to them in the area of Islamic heritage;
3. Notes with appreciation the steps taken by the International Commission for the Preservation

of the Islamic Cultural Heritage and expresses its thanks to H.R.H. Prince Faisal Ibn Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz, Chairman of the Commission, for his able guidance and support to the Commission since its inception;

4. Expresses its sincere gratitude to Custodian of the two Holy Harems, King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz, for supporting the Commission by graciously instituting an award in the field of Islamic architecture;
5. Calls upon the International Commission to continue coordinating its activities with the programmes of Member States for the Preservation of the Islamic Heritage with a view to combining Islamic efforts in this field;
6. Appeals to Member States to settle the arrears of their contributions to the budget of the Commission.

FOURTH MEETING OF ICPICH SCHEDULED FOR JUNE

The International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage (ICPICH) is scheduled to meet this year in Damascus, Syria, on 13-15 June 1987, simultaneously with the fifth meeting of the Governing Council of IRCICA, its Secretariat. As our readers would remember, the Third Meeting of the Commission was held in November 1986 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

ECHOES OF THE CALLIGRAPHY COMPETITION

Our readers would recall that the First International Calligraphy Competition organised by the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage was finalised last December and its results were announced in our issue 13 published in the same month. Since that time, the Competition Secretariat distributed the report of the Competition Jury, the list of the winners and the pamphlet containing the reproductions of the winning calligraphies to all participants at the competition, as well as to various press organs.

An important part of the post-competition work conducted at the Secretariat covers the correspondence about the results of the competition and comments and observations about it. We are pleased to present below excerpts of such comments:

* "... The number and quality of entries was reassuring: this most ancient and revered of Muslim arts is alive and well in today's world".

Judith Vidal-Hall, SOUTH
Magazine, London, March 1987

* "I congratulate the Jury members for their competence and for the selection process, which was just and worthy of merit because of its honesty ...".

Mr. Ali Hamad Al-Hamuri,
Calligrapher, Irbid, Jordan

* "... I feel happy to have had the opportunity to participate in your competition with the calligraphies I tried to produce ... I saw the twenty winning works in your pamphlet and appreciated them; I could thus notice the defaults of mine and this will certainly help me in my future work ..."

Nihat Bağçeli, Turkey

* "I received the results of the First International Calligraphy Competition in which I participated with a few modest works. I thank you also for the pamphlets containing the winning calligraphies; they are excellent and I shall take them as examples in my future efforts ... I participated in this competition in order to gain experience and profit from that of great calligraphers".

Hamidi Bel-Aid Ain Al-Luh
Meknes, Morocco

* "I would like to commend your initiative to organise such competitions, which are important and rare. I thank you for your work, for the success of the competition, its organisation and I express my thanks to the Jury and the Secretariat of the Competition for giving me a honorary mention".

Basim Zennun As-Sabawi
Mosul, Iraq.

NEWSFILE ON ISLAMIC HERITAGE

EGYPT

New museum in Port Said

It is reported that a modern antiquities museum has been opened recently in Port Said; the museum contains about 6000 articles, among which are statues, desks for reading the Quran, samples of hand-made textiles, home appliances and various other objects.

INDIA

Manuscript copy of the Quran discovered in Bangalore

The Indian police found a manuscript copy of the Quran dating from the 17th Century, in the hands of a greengrocer in the Bangalore region in Southern India.

The manuscript was written by the calligrapher Hafidh Habibullah who was working in the service of the Muslim Moghol emperor Aurangzeb in the year 1688, in Lahore. The mushaf was taken from the greengrocer although he purported to have inherited it from his family that descended from the Indian King Tibu Sultan and that this king himself had obtained the mushaf two years after it had been written.

KENYA

One thousand years-old mosque discovered

"Al-Ahram" reported that ethnographers from Oxford University in the U.K. discovered the remnants of a more than one thousand years-old mosque in Kenya; this is supposed to be the most ancient Muslim monument found in West Africa. It is estimated to have been built around the year 950.

QATAR

Islamic coins at the Qatar Museum

A new section has been opened at the Qatar National Museum in Doha, to house the collection of rare ancient Islamic coins. The collection comprises golden Dinars, including the first Dinar issued during the reign of Abdul Malik bin Marwan, silver coins among which are the silver Dirham minted by Al Hajjaj bin Yusuf Thaqafi, a Sassanid Dirham issued by Qatraf bin Fajara in the year 75 of Hijra, and other coins with the portrait of Abdul Malik bin Marwan on them. There are also silver and copper coins belonging to the periods of the Umayyads, Abbasids, Tulunids, Hamdanis, Fatimids, Ayyubis and other dynasties, and coins used in the 17th Century in the Gulf area, India and Ceylon.

U.S.A.

Sultan Suleyman's period revived in the U.S.A.

Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent's reign (1520-1566) was one of the most glorious periods of Islam in general and Ottoman history in particular, not only in the political and military fields, but also for its rich cultural and artistic environment. While he became known as Kanuni (law giver) because of his important deeds in the social field, Sultan Suleyman also endeavoured to promote arts and protect the artists, architects and craftsmen.

Samples of rich works of art and crafts, Ottoman heritage from the said period are being displayed in the United States in a series of exhibitions. The first "Suleyman the Magnificent Exhibition" opened

on 25 January 1987 at the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C. It will last until 17 May and then move to the Art Institute of Chicago to be opened to the public there from 14 June to 7 September, from where it will travel to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, for the period between 4 October 1987 and 17 January 1988.

The exhibition was realised under the direction of the Turkish Minister of Culture and Tourism H.E. Mr. Mesut Yılmaz and the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and organised by Dr. Esin Atıl, scholar and expert in Islamic arts and presently curator at the National Gallery of Art. Dr. Atıl selected and collected the artefacts and prepared the catalogues, devoting herself wholeheartedly to the realisation of this exhibition. She made of it a magnificent event, introducing the art and heritage of Sultan Suleyman's period to the world. More than 210 art objects and documents were collected from the Topkapı Palace Museum, the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts, the Museum of Archeology of Istanbul, the Library of Istanbul University and various collections in the United States, Europe and Asia. The precious items displayed include the imperial monogram of the Sultan, samples of firmans (imperial edicts), manuscript copies of the Quran with their decorated covers, miniatures, carpets, objects used in the palace and ornamented with precious gems, gold, silver etc. and the "Muhibbi" (collected poetry of the Sultan). The authorities are planning to display the exhibition in England, Japan and France in the coming years.

Islamic Cultural Week organised by the University of Wisconsin

The University of Wisconsin- "Turkish Outreach Program" under the direction of Prof. Kemal H. Karpat (Dept. of History, University of Wisconsin) has organised a cultural week on 10-17 April 1987. The activities consisted of talks, four films and folklore dance performances, all related to the art of Muslim nations in the world. The next activity within the same program will be a series of conferences on Islamic art and architecture, scheduled for the fall of 1987.

It can be mentioned here that Dr. Murtaza Sajedian, co-winner of the King Fahd Grand Prize on Islamic Architecture in the Research branch, had his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin and worked with Prof. Karpat.

ICPICH welcomes Mr. NAZIH TALIB MARUF, new staff member



The Secretariat of the Heritage Commission is pleased to announce that Mr. Nazih Talib Maruf from Palestine joined its staff. Mr. Maruf specialised in personnel affairs; starting with 1975, he worked in different institutions as personnel executive. He is a member of the Institute of Personnel Management in London. ICPICH wishes him all the success in his new duties.

SPOTLIGHT ON CULTURAL NEWS

ALGERIA

Conference on the history of Arabic-Islamic mathematics in Algiers

The "First International Conference on the History of Arabic mathematics at Algiers (December 103, 1986)" was organised by the Department of Mathematics of the "Ecole Normale Superieure" (ENS) in Algiers. The conference was opened by the Algerian minister of Higher Education, the President of the High Council of Arabic Language and the Director of the ENS. Participants from six countries (Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, France, the Netherlands and Switzerland) presented seven lectures and six brief communications on the development of mathematics in the Islamic world and particularly the Maghreb in the 9th-18th centuries. More than 300 persons attended the conference, which was open to the public. A large number of books on the history of science and copies of medieval manuscripts were exhibited in the ENS, where the sessions took place. The conference received much attention in the Algerian media. Proceedings of the conference are to appear this year.

CHINA

Islamic books exhibition in Peking

"Al-Madina" reported that the first fair to display Arab and Islamic books was inaugurated in Peking last December. This exhibition of more than one thousand books was organised upon the request of Chinese research centres, faculties of Arabic language and Muslim circles.

EGYPT

International Conference on Muslim World Population held in Cairo

The first week of March 1987 saw an International Conference on Muslim World Population organised by the International Islamic Centre for Demographic Studies and Research of Al-Azhar University, under the auspices of H.E. Husni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt. Main themes of the meeting were human development, demographic aspects of the Muslim population, manpower resources, migration, hygienic conditions for the mother and the infant, education, nutrition and demographic policies. Ministers and high-level representatives of Islamic countries participated in the meeting.

The International Islamic Centre for Demographic Studies and Research affiliated to Al-Azhar University was created in 1975 to work on a regional and international basis.

Islamic Medicine Conference held in Cairo

A great number of physicians, scholars and representatives of medical organisations from different Islamic and non-Islamic countries took part in a conference on Islamic medicine that was opened on 3 February 1987 under the high patronage of H.E. Hosni M'barek, President of Egypt. The conference was organised jointly by Al-Azhar and Ain Shams Universities.

Main subjects discussed in the meeting were the Islamic attitude towards medical innovations and

medical applications from the Islamic point of view, and more specifically, family relations in conformity with Islamic rules, maternal and child health care and the future of public health, as well as the interpretation of medical studies and the validity of new theories and methods in an Islamic perspective.

Congress on Turkish Arts

The Eighth International Congress on Turkish Arts will be held in Cairo, on 26 September-1st October 1987. The meeting will be organised by a steering committee attached to the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation. The first congress in the series had been organised in 1959 by the Department of National Folklore Research of the Turkish Ministry of Culture and it is being renewed once every four years since then, in different countries of the world.

FRANCE

Drafting Committee Meeting for UNESCO's work on Islamic Culture

A six-volume work to deal with different aspects of Islamic culture is being prepared by the UNESCO. The Drafting Committee which had been created in 1980 for this purpose is holding regular meetings to examine and finalise different parts of the book as they are completed and decide on further work for the remaining parts. This Committee will meet for the 9th time on 21-24 April in Paris. The preparation of the book is actually at an advanced stage. IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu has been invited to participate at the meeting as observer. Previously, IRCICA had taken part in the preparation of the volume concerning Islamic arts.

GERMANY, F.R.

Exhibition on "Islamic Arts throughout Centuries"

In the previous issue of our Newsletter, reference was made to an article published in "Asharq ul Awsat" concerning the exhibition on "Islamic Arts throughout Centuries" held in Schloss Cappenberg near Dortmund. After the publication of the said issue, IRCICA was pleased to receive the catalogue of the exhibition, as well as additional information from Prof. Dr. Klaus Brisch, Director of the Museum of Islamic Art in Berlin-Dahlem and organiser of the exhibition. The catalogue is titled "Islamic Art-Hidden Treasures" and contains the pictures and descriptions of the 329 articles displayed at the exhibition. The high-quality catalogue presents the artefacts according to the periods they belong to, in the following order: nos. 1-43 Umayyads and Abbasids; nos. 44-90 Tulunids and Fatimids; nos. 91-137 Seljukids and Atabegs; nos. 138-183 Ayyubids and Mamelukes; nos. 184-196 Muslim rulers in Spain; nos. 197-212 Ilkhanids; nos. 213-231 Timurids; nos. 232-280 Ottomans; nos. 281-329 Safavids, Mongolian rulers in North-West India and Qajars. The reason why the collection is called "Hidden Treasures" is that it is kept at the study gallery of the museum, since preparations for its display to the general public are not completed yet.

The exhibition was held between 10 September and 23 November 1986 in Schloss Cappenberg and from 18 December 1986 to 15 February 1987 in Berlin-Dahlem. The artefacts were composed of wooden and metal works, ceramics, objects made of stone, glass, stucco, textiles, carpets and samples of bookbinding. The Museum of Islamic Art was established in 1904; it is one of the

oldest of its kind in the non-Muslim world.

INDONESIA

Calligraphy exhibition, competition and symposium

The Al Qur'an Calligraphy Institution, the Association of Islamic Cultural Art and the Islamic Library Centre of Indonesia jointly organised a series of important activities about calligraphy in Jakarta, between 28 January and 13 February 1987. IRCICA is thankful to the information section of the Embassy of Indonesia in Ankara for sending reference material about the events, including the article published in the Indonesian newspaper "Kompas".

The exhibition comprised the works of well-known calligraphers such as Amri Yahya, Syaiful Adnan, Manshur Dompur and Amir Hamzah and 46 artists from Bali, Bangka, Bogor, Jakarta, Malang, Solo and Yogyakarta; there were more than 200 calligraphies in total. The exhibition was inaugurated by H.E.Mr. Munawir Sjadzali, Minister of Religious Affairs. Its objective was to stimulate interest in the art of calligraphy and encourage the artists.

A series of calligraphy competitions were held before the exhibition and participated by 346 young artists. There was also a symposium, on 11 February, where ways and means of developing calligraphy and upgrading calligraphers were fully discussed.

ITALY

Symposium on Mughal Architecture

The Islamic Environmental Design Research Centre in Genzano di Roma, Italy organises annual symposia in

the month of June since three years. After the previous two symposia on the subjects of "Designing the Islamic Town" and "The Pattern of the Garden and the Design of the Town in Islamic Culture", this year's will be on the "Ritual Movement in Urban Architecture under the Mughals". It is scheduled to be held on 26-28 June 1987 in Genzano, with the collaboration of the University of Rome. Put in the words of Mr. Attilio Petruccioli, Director of the Centre and Editor of the Centre's journal titled "Environmental Design", "the Mughals planned their architecture primarily as a symbolic background for political and religious concepts; the royal encampment, the karavanserais ..., the processional urban axis and internal arrangements of courtyards within palaces are examples of the emphasis put by Mughals on ritualised activities". The aim of the symposium will be to put forward a synthesis of the importance of studies on the relationship between the physical environment and planned urban structures, between different components of a town, ritual and geometry. Similar subjects were discussed during the visit of Mr. Attilio Petruccioli to IRCICA, on 24 March 1987, with Prof. Dr. Bülent Özer, Vice-President of Mimar Sinan University in Istanbul.

The Islamic Environmental Design Research Centre was established with the aim of promoting and coordinating higher studies and researches in the fields of architecture, town and country planning, regarding countries of the Islamic world. It makes efforts to ensure collaboration and exchanges of technical knowledge with major national and international institutions engaged in such studies, to integrate specialists with particular reference to environmental analysis (urban history, dwelling, systems, architecture of the town,

urban typology etc.) and to make concrete proposals concerning the use of the existing urban heritage. The journal "Environmental Design" is a high-quality academic publication containing valuable research articles and several illustrations.

SPAIN

Symposium on Arab-Islamic Culture

It is reported that preparatory work for an international symposium on Arab-Islamic Culture to be held in Cordoba is completed. Arab and Spanish scholars and researchers are to participate in this symposium to study the artistic, cultural and intellectual aspects of the Muslim legacy in the city. The meeting will take place on the occasion of the 1200th anniversary of the construction of the Cordoba Mosque, which is considered as the first Muslim monument in the Western world and included in the list of the most important monuments of the world according to the classification of the UNESCO.

TURKEY

Commemoration of scholar and painter Osman Hamdi



*Oil-painting by Osman Hamdi:
"In the Green Mosque of Bursa"*

The Mimar Sinan University, the Turkish Cultural Trust in Istanbul, the Archeological Museum of Istanbul and the Association of Museums of Painting and Sculpture collaborated to organise an extensive commemoration programme for Osman Hamdi Bey (1842-1910), painter and pioneer of modern Fine Arts in the Ottoman State. The programme was organised on the occasion of the 77th anniversary of the painter's death. It included a conference held at Mimar Sinan University on 24 February 1987, with H.E.Mr. Mesut Yilmaz, Minister of Culture and Tourism of Turkey, Prof.Dr. Muhteşem Giray, President of Mimar Sinan University and other distinguished scholars as lecturers. An exhibition of Osman Hamdi Bey's paintings was opened on the same day by H.E.Mr.Necmeddin Karaduman, President of Turkish National Assembly; more than twenty exquisite paintings were displayed at the exhibition.

Osman Hamdi Bey was the son of Ambassador Ethem Pasha, who was appointed Minister and later Prime Minister. He himself performed civil service at various levels before being appointed Director of the Museum in 1881. From that year onwards, he devoted all his efforts to improve and develop the museum of Istanbul, prepare museum catalogues, enrich its holdings by means of new archeological excavations he directed himself; he contributed to the promulgation of the "Regulation for Antiquities". Another important accomplishment of Osman Hamdi was that the Academy of Fine Arts ("Sanayi-i Nefise Mektebi" at that time) was established under his direction, starting with 1882. He directed the academy for 28 years. He acquired fame in scholarly circles of Europe and the U.S.A. and was granted the merit orders and medals of various States and the honorary doctorate degrees of three German and two English universities.

Symposium on Al-Bukhari
scheduled for June

The Faculty of Theology of Erciyes University (Kayseri, Turkey) will organise a symposium on Muhammed bin Ismail Al-Bukhari (194-256 A.H. /810-870 A.D.), the great scholar of Hadith. The symposium will be held on the occasion of the 1117th anniversary of the death of the scholar and aim at highlighting the role and contributions of Turks to the development of Islamic sciences and analysing the advancement of the latter with reference to Al-Bukhari and his period.

U.S.A.

Symposium on "Decision Making and
the Transmission of Authority in
the Turkic Systems" next year

The International Committee for Pre-Ottoman and Ottoman Studies (CIEPO) will organise its 8th Symposium in Minneapolis, on 14-19 August 1988. The meeting will be sponsored by the Department of History of Minnesota University and organised under the direction of Dr. Caesar Farah from the same Department. In addition to the main theme of "Decision Making and the Transmission of Authority in the Turkic Systems", there will also be secondary themes, determined as "Public Administration in Concept and Practice", "Computerized Data Base for Reference Material", "Accessible and Inaccessible Archives", "Commercial and Communication Networks", "Literature as a Source of History", "Oral History among Turkic Peoples", "Geography and Geopolitics", "Western Perceptions of the Turks through Travel Literature", "The Role of Science and Technology", "Patterns of Immigration", "Turks and Crusaders",

"Pre-Mongol Turkic Politics in Western Eurasia". The last (7th) Symposium of CIEPO was held in Pecs, Hungary in September 1986 under the sponsorship of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (see Newsletter no.12, p. 33).

Two Ottoman Portolans located at
the "Walters Art Gallery", Baltimore

Dr. Thomas D. Goodrich from the Department of History of Indiana University has found two splendid Ottoman portolans (old maritime maps) containing sailing instructions and charts, at the "Walters Art Gallery" in Baltimore. One of the manuscripts is a magnificent example of a complete portolan comprising two world maps, together with detailed charts of islands, ports, headlands and other navigational features. It reflects the personal observations of Piri Reis, navigator and outstanding figure of Ottoman cartography (1465-1554). The other manuscript located by Dr. Goodrich is an atlas named by him after the museum housing it, as "Walters Sea Atlas"; this is a sectional atlas with maps of the Black Sea, the Aegean Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the Western coasts of Europe, a maritime chart of the Indian Ocean and a world map. Goodrich estimates it is dated in the 1550s.

These precious examples of 16th Century cartography were very well maintained by the Gallery. Dr. Goodrich wrote on his findings in the journal "Archivum Ottomanicum" and the "Newsletter of the Washington Map Collectors' Society" and kindly informed IRCICA about them. Written records of Ottoman maritime cartography are important documents for studies on the history of geography.

THE INSTITUTE OF ARAB MANUSCRIPTS KUWAIT

The Institute of Arab Manuscripts established on 4 April 1946 is an affiliated organ of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO). It is one of the most important institutions of the Arab world in the field of culture. It aims to contribute to the assessment, preservation, classification and study of the manuscript Arab heritage.

The resolution pertaining to the creation of the Institute was taken by the Administrative Council of the Arab League one year after its establishment. The resolution stated the Institute's objectives as: making known the Arab manuscripts in libraries throughout the world; collecting copies of these manuscripts and classifying them to facilitate their use; endeavouring to promote studies in this respect and preparing a modern and up-to-date publication which would contain information on the Arab heritage; publishing a specialised periodical related to the manuscripts, existing studies and publications about them, cooperation with institutions dealing with the preservation of heritage in the world and coordination of efforts to promote culture.

The Institute was brought under the ALECSO on 25 July 1970. First based in Cairo, the Institute was moved to Tunis in 1979, together with the headquarters of the Arab League and ALECSO. Then, at the end of 1981, it was transferred to Kuwait, upon the invitation of this State. It is composed of five units:

1. Documentation and cataloging unit: This unit is in charge with the assessment of the existing manuscripts. It prepares cards and up-to-date catalogues of the manuscripts.
2. The library, study and review unit: This unit serves all those who do research on Arab heritage and assists other institutions working in similar fields. It tries to coordinate the studies, to preserve the rights of the authors and to encourage them for further research. The library contains nearly five thousand manuscripts and it is supplemented with a microfilm unit. The manuscripts are accessible to all.
3. Unit of information on heritage: This section is in charge with publishing an information bulletin about Arab heritage, the Journal of the Institute, as well as other publications. The said Journal was launched in 1955; it is biannual and contains information on the texts of the manuscripts, their catalogues and the results of studies about them. The first issue of the bi-monthly "Information Bulletin on Islamic Heritage" was published in 1972; this bulletin gives the news provided to the Institute by its correspondents across the world.
4. Technical photographs: This section deals with the photographic operations related to the manuscripts such as enlargements, reproductions, etc.
5. Administrative and Financial Affairs Section.

The Institute gives great importance to mutual assistance with other institutions dealing with cultural heritage. It took concrete steps in this regard and made several cooperation agreements with other institutions for researches and publications as well as for the exchange of reference material. The Director of the Institute is Dr. Khalid Abdul Kareem Juma'a. The mailing address is: P.O.Box 26897, Safat, Kuwait.

OBSERVATIONS ABOUT IRCICA

Distinguished Visitors and their Impressions

Recently, IRCICA was honoured by the visit of the following important guests and delegations:

* On 8 March, H.E.Mr. Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah, Minister of State of the Sultanate of Oman in charge with Foreign Affairs and high-level officials accompanying him, visited IRCICA. The delegation received information about the Centre's activities and saw its premises, including the newly restored Yaveran building. The delegation, on an official visit to Turkey, had passed to Istanbul after having talks and meetings with Turkish officials in Ankara. At the end of the visit, the Minister of State recorded his impressions on the Centre as follows:



H.E. Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah and his delegation at IRCICA's archives

"I visited the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture in Istanbul together with my delegation and I was impressed by the work I observed, concerning the preparation of books

about collections of references, which are useful for the present and future Islamic generations; this is done after a long period of gaps in this field. I commend the Director of the Centre as well as its staff for their efforts and also for the wise conduct of the studies. I wish them success in their work". (Original: Arabic)

* On 10 March, IRCICA received an Indonesian parliamentary delegation headed by H.E. Al Haj Nuddin Lubis, Vice-Speaker of the House of Representatives and Vice-Speaker of the People's Consultative Assembly. The delegation's official visit to Turkey covered contacts and meetings in Ankara, Istanbul and Izmir during the period of 4 to 11 March. Five deputies and the Director of Protocol were accompanying H.E. Al Haj Nuddin Lubis. At IRCICA, they saw different parts of the premises and were briefed about the research projects and publications. Impressions of H.E. Al Haj Nuddin Lubis were recorded as follows:



H.E. Al Haj Nuddin Lubis signing the Centre's book

"During my visit to this Islamic Centre, I find there are many things happening, which are reassuring and promising for the future. I sincerely hope that these efforts will continue and you will seek to promote all types of programmes concerning Islam in all the countries of the world. May Allah bestow His Blessings". (Original: Indonesian)

- * Mr. Tatsuo Takeda, the Consul General of Japan in Istanbul visited IRCICA on 5 February 1987. He wrote the following on the Centre's Visitors' Book:

"It was really an impressive visit. I could study much indeed; your lecture also was interesting. Thank you for everything".

- * A delegation from the Islamic Development Bank, composed of Dr. Siddiq Tawati, Dr. Kaid Abdulhaq and Dr. Mohammed Siddiq, visited the Centre on 25 March 1987. The delegation was in Istanbul on the occasion of the 11th Meeting of the Board of Governors of the IDB (28-29 March 1987). The delegation recorded their impressions on the Centre as below:

"We are happy to visit this Centre of learning and devotion located in a country which has a very rich civilisation, and which is very generous in its hospitality and nice in the behaviour of its people as well as in its nature. This Centre is a good seed entrusted to the care of devoted people ... and the tree has started to give its precious fruits which represent an in-depth knowledge and a deep-rooted learning. The effort is great, and so is hope ..." (Original: Arabic)

- * H.E. Sheikh Dr. Muhammed Al-Habib Belkodja, Secretary General of the Fiqh Academy, visited the Centre on 28 March 1987; he

too was in Istanbul on the occasion of the 11th Meeting of the Board of Governors of the IDB. Sheikh Dr. Belkodja recorded his impressions as follows:

"I had the pleasure to visit this Centre in the evening of Saturday, 28 March 1987 and was filled with wonder when I saw its different sections: the library, the administration, exhibition halls, etc. ... I thank the authorities of the Centre and all those who worked with them in order to revive our heritage and highlight its glorious and noble vestiges". (Original: Arabic)

EDITOR'S POST

We continue to present excerpts from communications of our readers about our periodical and take this opportunity to thank them ...

"A careful and thorough perusal of your Newsletter impressed me greatly. Such magazines are very important as they do not merely relate the happenings of Islam ... but contain values essential for the development of Islamic history, art and culture, and the Muslim thought abroad all over the world ... It helps me in my research works for the students in particular, and the Muslim community in general".

Dr. M.O. Ghani, Dept. of Islamic History and Culture, Calcutta University, India

"In order to keep abreast of the happenings in the Islamic world, I would appreciate very much if you could renew my subscription to IRCICA Newsletter".

Hj. Omar Stone Shih, President, Taiwan Television Enterprise, Taiwan (Rep. of China)

"I way happy to read the contents of your Bulletin which reflect the commendable efforts that the Centre makes in order to realise its objectives at the service of Islam, through scholarly seminars and other meetings it organises, as well as through its useful researches. I thank you for the efforts you made to realise this bulletin and wish you success in your work".

Dr. Amin Al-Khoudat, Director,
Islamic Cultural Centre,
University of Jordan, Amman

"I acknowledge receipt of your Newsletter no. 12 and would like to express my pleasure to see it and read its contents which are useful and important. We would be happy to receive its future issues regularly in order to continue to be informed about recent news of the Islamic World".

Mr. Muhammed Thani Idris, Director
General, Prince Naif bin Abdul Aziz
Al-Saud Centre, Accra, Ghana.

IRCICA IN THE INTERNATIONAL MEDIA

"Inquiry", London

An article titled "Building a Cultural Institution" by Dr. Munawar Ahmed Anees appeared in the April 1987 issue of "Inquiry". The article describes the Centre and explains its activities; coming to the library, the author says "the library is fast turning into a unique reservoir of scholarship in the Muslim World". The author also emphasizes the philosophy of IRCICA is that the best way to achieve solidarity is to strengthen cultural cooperation among Muslim countries and states that "it is imperative that Muslim countries extend cooperation in scientific and technological spheres; they cannot expect to forge a cultural identity without a full-fledged support for institutions like IRCICA".

"Akhbar Al-Turath Al-Arabi", Kuwait

This "Information bulletin on Islamic Heritage" published by the Institute of Arab Manuscripts in Kuwait gave, in its no. 29 dated January-February 1987, an article about the second phase of IRCICA's project on translations of the meaning of the Quran, which is related to manuscript translations. It is explained that after having completed the first phase related to printed translations, the Centre embarked upon the second and that it is collecting full bibliographic information on each manuscript translation.

"As-Siyasa" and "Ar-Rai Al-'Am", Kuwait

These two papers ("Politics" and "Public opinion") published, both on 29 January 1987, the text of an interview made by the Kuwaiti Information Agency with IRCICA Director General, on the occasion of his participation at the Fifth Islamic Summit held in Kuwait. At this interview, IRCICA Director General described the role incumbent upon IRCICA in the service of Islamic civilisation and pointed out that this role had been duly recognised by Islamic Conferences of Foreign Affairs Ministers and by the previous Islamic Summit Conferences, which all expressed satisfaction over the Centre's activities. He also gave examples of the work conducted by IRCICA, and underlined the cooperation established between the Centre and other institutions working in similar fields. He gave information on some of the research projects that led to the publication of books, as well as on those which are at an advanced stage of accomplishment. The interview was published in full in both of these journals.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

WE INVITE YOU TO PROVIDE
INFORMATION ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES
OF YOUR INSTITUTION

IRCICA had circulated, together with the previous issue of its Newsletter, a letter inviting all cultural, academic and artistic institutions, organisations and centres to provide information about their on-going and future activities concerning Islamic culture and arts and studies in related fields. The purpose of this request was to obtain up-to-date information directly from the institutions themselves and thus be able to include more news about their activities in the Newsletter. It is hoped that this will help increasing awareness among institutions engaged in Islamic cultural, scholarly, artistic and related fields.

Responses received until now have been very satisfactory. Part of this information has been included in the relevant sections of the present issue and the remaining, as well as those we expect to receive in the future, will be considered for publication in our future issues. The cooperation and assistance extended by our readers encouraged us to renew our request here and to invite all institutions to send

Brochures, pamphlets, abstracts,
and/or a write-up about:

ONGOING AND FORTHCOMING

- * EXHIBITIONS (Arts and crafts, ethnographic, book exhibitions and others)

Title, dates, venue, occasion, contents (exhibits: kind, description, number, etc.)

- * CULTURAL/ARTISTIC PERFORMANCES (Films, theatrical, musical, folkloric, etc.)

Title, dates, venue, occasion, theme and other information

- * CONFERENCES/LECTURES/SEMINARS AND OTHER MEETINGS

Title, dates, venue, themes or agenda, papers presented, discussions/ decisions

- * PUBLICATIONS

Full bibliographic information, abstracts, etc.

- * TRAINING COURSES (Upgrading skills and knowledge in scientific/literary/cultural and artistic fields)

Title, dates, venue, subject matter, objectives, etc.

- * ACTIVITIES RELATED TO CULTURAL HERITAGE

Such as the restoration of monuments and other aspects of cultural history relevant within the context of your country

OR

- * YOUR PROGRAMME OF SCHOLARLY AND PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES/ PUBLICATIONS FOR 1987 OR 1987-88

- * SUMMARY INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR HOLDINGS OF ARTEFACTS/BOOKS/ OTHER MATERIAL

- * SUMMARY INFORMATION ABOUT ANY SPECIFIC PROJECT.

We thank you in advance.

**The Great Loss of the OIC Family:
Distinguished Diplomat Dr. Hüsni
Kurhan Passes Away**



Dr. Hüsni Kurhan, Advisor to the Secretary General of OIC and Assistant Director of the Cabinet, passed away on 26 March 1987, while he was in London on a temporary assignment. Born in 1944, Hüsni Kurhan graduated from the Institute of Political Studies of Aix-Marseille University, France in 1969 and obtained his doctorate degree in 1972. From 1974 onwards, he served in the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 1981, he was appointed to the staff of the OIC General Secretariat. He had an excellent knowledge of French, English and Arabic. Dr. Kurhan is survived by his wife and two children.

For one in his lifetime, our dear friend and colleague Dr. Hüsni Kurhan failed us by leaving this world so suddenly. This experienced, refined and courteous diplomat, warm-hearted and gentle friend and family man never let anyone down during the course of his life. Lately his sensitive heart was affected by the fast pace and worries of life and last summer he had undergone a by-pass operation. He neither took the rest prescribed by

his doctors nor the advice of his friends and family. He did not slow down and could not contain his enthusiasm for work.

At the Fifth Islamic Summit Conference in Kuwait, impeccably dressed as usual, he worked day and night at the Secretariat and in the lobbies without taking a break. Although courteous and gentle all the while, he seemed thinner and more tired than usual. While working with the OIC General Secretariat with his usual efficiency, he also served the Turkish Foreign Ministry, committing himself wholeheartedly to his duties. He never spared himself in the course of duty. On his last trip Dr. Kurhan, who always calmly and pleasantly prepared others to accept every eventuality, gave his friends and colleagues a shock.

Those who loved and respected him came to the ceremony at the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 31 March 1987: his sorrowing wife, father and other members of his family, Secretary General H.E.Mr. Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada and Director Generals of the Istanbul and Ankara Centres from the OIC family, Turkish Minister of State H.E.Mr. Hasan Celâl Güzel, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Mr. Nüzhet Kandemir, higher officials of the Turkish Government and all his friends said goodbye to him.

The sudden death of this distinguished diplomat of the Islamic world, who was born in Cairo and started his career in the Foreign Service in Turkey and served for the OIC in Jeddah for six years, brings to my mind the following ayat from the Holy Qur'an: "And no one knows in what land he will die".

Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu

The decease of Dr. Emel Esin,
art historian and researcher
on Turkish-Islamic culture



Dr. Emel Esin at IRCICA's Islamic Art Symposium, 1983

Dr.Emel Esin, researcher of international repute in Islamic arts and culture, passed away in Istanbul, on 26 February 1987.

Born in 1914 in Istanbul, Emel Esin was the daughter of Ahmed Ferid Tek, prominent figure of Turkish diplomacy and politics and Müfide Ferid Tek, well-known novelist. After graduating from the Department of History of the "Ecole des Sciences Politiques" in Paris, she studied architecture and the arts of painting, mosaic, stained-glass and engraving at the Fine Arts Academies in Paris and Vienna. She obtained her Ph.D. degree at the University of Paris with her thesis "The Dragon in Turkish Inconography". She travelled to Turkistan and Azerbaijan in Inner Asia during her husband Mr.Seyfullah Esin's appointment as the Ambassador of Turkey in Moscow. Her first book titled "Türkistan Seyahatnamesi" (Travelogue on Turkistan), publish-

ed in 1959 contains her own paintings of monuments in the region. From that year onwards she wrote about 20-25 articles per year and participated in various international congresses on Islamic arts and culture. Dr. Esin is the author of nearly 300 articles and books which reflect her focus on artistic forms of expression as representative manifestations of culture, traditions and other characteristics of the society in a historical perspective. Dr.Esin had presented a paper titled "The Quranic Verses and the Hadith as Sources of Inspiration in Islamic Art" at the International Symposium on Islamic Arts organised by IRCICA in 1983. Some of her works are: "Turkish Miniature Painting" (1960); "Mecca the Blessed, Medina the Radiant" (1963); "Aspects of Turkish Civilisation in Cyprus" (1965); "Turkish Culture, the Initial Inner-Asian Phase" (1985). May God bless her soul.

FROM THE LIBRARY

The Society of Arab Studies in Al-Quds offered to IRCICA Library a collection of books small in size but great in value, focusing on Islamic heritage and civilisation. Three of the themes of these books are quoted here to give an idea to our readers, taking into account the importance of the subjects of the books as well as that of the Society's tasks.

One is a "Palestinian Bibliography on the Nation, 1985" which gives information on 173 works published in 1985 and dealing with occupied Palestine. The second is a volume published in 1986 and titled "Studies on Heritage". It contains six important articles, on the following subjects, respectively: Al-Aqsa Mosque and its educational role in the beginnings of Islam, the Minbar of the Prophet Ibrahim in Galilea, the historical affair of Al-Quds, Al-Bediri's library in Al-Quds, the method of linguist Izzet Derwaza in his exegesis of the Hadith, and restorations by Sheikh Mohammed Khalili in Palestine. The same volume also introduces the Commission for Islamic Heritage and Civilisation affiliated to the Society which published these books and many others.

The third volume we would like to mention is titled "From Al-Arz till Zufa" and deals with Palestinian plants, their remedial properties used for centuries and the popular stories, sayings and proverbs associated with them. This is the Arabic translation of a book published in 1932 in English. In addition to its literary value, it also has a scientific value since both Latin and Arabic names of the plants are mentioned.

The address of the Society is: 10 Ubeyda bin Jarrah Street, Orient House Hotel, Al-Quds Al-Sharif.

FORTHCOMING

Turkish Art and Architecture (Arabic) by Prof. Dr. Oktay Aslanapa, translated by Ahmed Muhammad Issa

The Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) and the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage (ICPICH) are pleased to announce that a valuable reference work about Turkish arts and architecture will be available soon in Arabic. The manuscript is by Prof. Dr. Oktay Aslanapa, eminent Turkish art historian, former Head of the Department of History of Art of Istanbul University. This is an encyclopaedic work devoted to Turkish arts from their origin up to the end of the Ottoman period, to their development and their contributions to the whole Islamic arts. It is composed of thirty sections and abounds in pictures and drawings. It gives the history and development of branches of art and architecture related to mosques, medersas, karavansarais, palaces, fountains, bridges, tombs and citadels, as well as those arts and crafts such as carpet-making, carving, ceramics, calligraphy, miniatures and bookbinding. The work also contains a large reference list and a few chronological lists on Turkish dynasties that were concerned with arts and architecture.

Translation into Arabic is by Prof. Ahmed Muhammed Issa, expert on Islamic arts and history of art at IRCICA; Prof. Issa has been dealing with the Islamic arts nomenclature since years. He added a glossary of 600 terms to the work, for the use of the historian of art. An index of subjects, as well as some maps showing the locations of the monuments and the centres of civilisation are also included. The book will be printed on good quality paper, in about 400 pages, with hard cover.

RECENT IRCICA PUBLICATIONS

THE OTTOMAN ARCHIVES, A Guide to the Documents Preserved in the Prime Ministry's Ottoman Archives in Istanbul, 1986, 22+522 (Arabic)

The rich archival material transmitted to the Turkish Republic from the Ottoman State, is a unique and authentic source for the history of many Islamic countries. Scholarly circles and researchers are aware of the qualitative and quantitative riches of these archives.

IRCICA and the Centre for Archives and Manuscripts of the University of Jordan have jointly published this guidebook with the aim of giving detailed information on the contents of the archives and facilitating the search for desired information. The book also contains the brief history of the Ottoman archives, a description of the present classification and coding systems used at the archives and explanations of archive regulations, as well as the procedures for applying to do research. A mini glossary of Ottoman archival terms and a bibliography are included at the end. The bibliography covers the references to which the compilers had recourse and other selected publications concerning the Prime Ministry's Ottoman Archives. The guidebook is composed of ten chapters. It is in Arabic.

Price: US\$ 30.- (Plus package and postage: US\$ 10.- for America, USSR, Japan and China and US\$ 5.- for all other countries).

UNION CATALOGUE OF PERIODICALS IN ARABIC SCRIPT FOUND IN ISTANBUL LIBRARIES (1828-1928), 1986, 664 pp. (Preface in three languages)

This union catalogue has been prepared by Mr. Hasan Duman, Director General of Libraries, Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey. Its Preface is by Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, IRCICA Director General. The catalogue contains full bibliographic information about 1804 titles of periodicals in different languages printed in Arabic script. Annotations are also given to indicate the libraries in which the publications can be found and their call numbers and describe the existing issues. The following indexes and lists are given in the catalogue to facilitate its use: name index of those who collaborated in the publication of the periodicals; index of places of publication and publishers; subject index; English and Arabic glossary for the subject index; title index in Arabic script; distribution of periodicals according to languages and countries, etc. The Preface, the bibliographical explanations and annotations and the indications for indexes are trilingual, in English, Arabic and Turkish. IRCICA hopes that this catalogue will fill a gap and constitute an example and reference for further studies in this field.

Price: US\$ 25.- (Plus package and postage: US\$ 10.- for America, USSR, Japan and China and US\$ 5.- for all other countries).