



O.I.C.

RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY ART AND CULTURE

NEWSLETTER



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EDITORIAL

As soon as we announced our decision to publish a special issue about IRCICA and its activities, our friends all over the world started sending us their commentaries and messages. We were happy to read their friendly remarks and thanked God for the appreciation and interest aroused by our Centre. We take this occasion to express our gratitude to all those who encourage and help us in our work and to reiterate our firm will to realise our objectives and perform our tasks in the most efficient way. As an international research institution belonging to the Islamic community and endeavouring for the good of this community, the Centre will continue to make all possible efforts at the service of Islamic culture and civilisation, to promote cooperation and solidarity among the brotherly Muslim nations and to strengthen cooperation and coordination with cultural institutions all over the world.

By publishing no. 11 of the Newsletter in the form of a special issue, we intended to introduce the Centre to those who are not acquainted with it, to make a recapitulation of the researches and activities realised until now and to give information to our readers about our on-going and future activities. Five years elapsed since the election of the first Governing Council of IRCICA at the 12th Islamic Conference held in Baghdad in 1981, year in which the Centre became fully operational and started to execute its first work programme. During this period, IRCICA has continuously developed and enlarged its activities in the execution of its work programmes as approved by the Islamic Conference. We are proud that the Centre is now known and appreciated in all Member States of the OIC and scholarly circles and institutions worldwide.

I would like to take this occasion to communicate to our readers my remarks about three important meetings at which our Centre participated. The first meeting, held in Tunisia in March 1986, was about "The Social Life of Arab Provinces and their Documentary Sources during the Ottoman Period". Papers presented at this congress were the results of objective researches based on official documents. Undoubtedly, the results of this meeting will contribute to the development of studies in this field.

The second international meeting was organised by the World Islamic Call Society of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and IRCICA and hosted by the Centre on 21-23 March 1986. Its theme was the translations of the Holy Quran. During the debates, participants agreed that it was impossible to translate the Quran in other languages. However, they expressed the necessity of translating the interpretations of the Quran in order that non-Arabic speaking people could understand the meaning of the Message of God. The symposium was a success; practical resolutions were taken with the aim of promoting studies in this area and correcting the errors contained in some translations.

The third important meeting was the International Seminar on "Islamic History, Art and Culture in South Asia" that we organised jointly with the Islamic University of Islamabad, in Islamabad, Pakistan. H.E.Zia ul Haq, President of Pakistan and H.E.Mr. Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, Secretary General of OIC were present at the inauguration of the meeting on 26 March 1986. Scholars and researchers from various countries presented their research papers about the spread of Islam in South Asia and different aspects of the development of Islamic arts and culture in this region. We provide more information about this seminar in the relevant sections of this issue.

Apart from the special sections concerning different aspects of the Centre's work, the present issue of the Newsletter contains the regular features giving news about Islamic cultural and artistic events that have taken place in the world and activities realised by the Centre since the publication of the last issue. Hoping that you would find the information contained herein useful and interesting, I would like to conclude my words by reiterating my thanks to all Islamic personalities and friends of the Centre who communicated their views about the Centre in this special issue.

Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu

ORGANISATION OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

OIC

At the First Islamic Summit Conference held in Rabat, Morocco in 1969, the Sovereigns and Heads of State and Government of Islamic countries expressed their will to come together to promote mutual relations and close cooperation among themselves in the economic, social, cultural, scientific and political fields, based on the eternal principles of Islam. After its foundations were laid down, the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) was officially established following the creation of its General Secretariat in 1970 and adoption of its Charter in 1972. To execute its tasks and realise its objectives in its numerous fields of activity, the OIC institutionalised itself in the form of regular meetings at different levels, and established subsidiary organs and affiliated agencies which work in cooperation and coordination under the supervision of the General Secretariat. IRCICA is one of these subsidiary organs. Main OIC bodies and institutions are indicated below.

Principal Organs

- *Islamic Summit Conference - Conference of Kings and Heads of State and Government (held every three years)
- *Islamic Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Member States (held annually)
- *General Secretariat of O.I.C.
- *International Islamic Court of Justice (in the establishment phase)

Specialised Commissions

- Al-Quds (Jerusalem) Committee
- Permanent Finance Committee
- Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs
- Permanent Committee for Scientific and Technical Cooperation
- Permanent Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation
- Permanent Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs

General Secretariat of O.I.C.

Subsidiary Organs

- | | |
|---|--|
| - Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISF, Jeddah) | - Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC, Ankara) |
| - Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA, Istanbul) | - Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research (ICTVTR, Dhaka) |
| - International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage (ICPICH, - Coordination Bureau in Riyadh, Secretariat: IRCICA) | - Islamic Civil Aviation Council (ICAC, Tunis) |
| - Islamic Committee of the International Crescent (ICIC, Benghazi) | - Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade (ICDT, Casablanca) |
| - Al-Quds (Jerusalem) Fund (Jeddah) | - Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD, Jeddah) |
| - Islamic International Law Commission (establishment adopted at 16th Islamic Conference, 1986) | - Islamic Jurisprudence Academy (Jeddah) |
| | - World Centre for Islamic Education and Instruction (Mecca) |

Specialised Agencies

- | | |
|---|--|
| - Islamic States Broadcasting Organisation (ISBO, Jeddah) | - Islamic Development Bank (IDB, Jeddah) |
| - International Islamic News Agency (IINA, Jeddah) | - Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Commodity Exchange (ICCICE, Karachi) |
| - Islamic Scientific, Educational and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO, Rabat) | - Islamic Shipowners Association (Jeddah) |
| | - Islamic Cities and Capitals Organisation (Jeddah) |

IRCICA-BRIEF HISTORY AND OBJECTIVES



Inauguration ceremony of the Centre

The Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture in Istanbul (briefly the Istanbul Centre, IRCICA) was established upon the decision of the 7th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, which was held in Istanbul in May 1976.

Then, the 9th Islamic Conference (Dakar, April 1978) adopted the Statute of the Centre by its Resolution no.1/9-C. The Centre started to work in accordance with its Statute and prepared its first activity programme, which was approved by Resolution No. 11/11-C of the 11th Islamic Conference held in Islamabad in May 1980. One year later, the 12th Islamic Conference (Baghdad, 1981) appointed the first Governing Council of the Centre, the immediate body supervising and guiding its activities, for a man-

date of three years. The official inauguration of the Centre took place on 23 May 1982. H.E. Mr. Turgut Özal, Deputy Prime Minister of the time, H.E. Mr. Habib Chatty, ex-Secretary General of OIC, H.R.H. Prince Mohammed Al-Faisal of Saudi Arabia, H.E. Mr. Muazzam Ali, Advisor of the President of Pakistan and other important personalities, scholars and journalists attended the inauguration ceremony.

Since the very beginning of its existence, the Centre benefited from the continuous support and assistance of the General Secretariat of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and the Member States. Clearly, such support and assistance are indispensable factors of encouragement for the Centre's success.

The Government of Turkey gave diplomatic status and related immunities to the Centre; it allocated historical buildings within the Yıldız Palace complex as the Centre's premises, namely the Seyir Köşkü, Çit Qasr and the Yaveran building. Restoration of the first two buildings was made by the Centre itself; that of the third building is almost completed and it will be put to use soon.

The Centre started its activities in conformity with the guidelines and principles set forth in its Statute. It undertook numerous research projects on different topics and disseminated the results of its studies through publications. It organised lectures, exhibitions and seminars on various subjects falling within its fields of activity. In addition to its own mandate, the Centre assumed the functions of Secretariat and Executive Organ of the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage upon establishment of this Commission in 1983.

Today, the Centre is proud to observe that its activities and publications meet growing interest at an international scale. After more than five years of unceasing work and tireless efforts on the part of a handful of staff, the Centre is known today in all the Member States, as well as in scholarly and cultural circles all over the world. Researches and other activities of the Centre will be explained in detail in other sections of this issue.

Objectives

The main objectives of the Centre are stipulated in its Establishment Statute. These are, in summary:

- To undertake research and publish

books in the fields of Islamic history, art and culture.

- To serve as a meeting place for scientists, historians, writers and artists from Islamic countries, where they will carry out research on the common Islamic legacy.
- To organise periodical seminars and symposia at the Centre or in the Member States.
- To promote close cooperation among Muslim historians and writers in order to put an end to prejudices originating from non-Muslim sources as regards the history, art and culture of Islamic peoples.
- To endeavour to correct erroneous information existing in textbooks in some Islamic countries.
- To ensure gatherings of scientists, intellectuals and researchers from Member Countries.
- To promote cooperation and exchange of publications among universities and research institutions in the fields of history, art and culture.
- To publish a quarterly about Islamic history, art and culture.

As stipulated in its Statute, the Executive Bureau of the Centre, headed by its Director General, is responsible for the realisation of tasks in pursuance of the above-mentioned objectives. The Executive Bureau is responsible before the Governing Council of the Centre, which supervises the Centre's work and approves its annual work programmes and activity reports.

The Governing Council of the Centre is composed of scholars and experts representing the Member States of OIC. These members are nominated by the Islamic Conference of Foreign Affairs Ministers upon proposal by the Secretary General of OIC, for a mandate of three

years. The mandate of the first Governing Council of the Centre expired last year and new members were appointed by the 16th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs held in Fez, Morocco on 6-10 January 1986.

Members of the First Governing Council of the Centre were:

- Dr. Afif Bahnassi, Director of Museums and Antiquities, Damascus, Syria (President of the Council)

erning Council, which held three meetings at the Centre's headquarters until now. IRCICA's second Governing Council will meet for the first time this year. It is composed of the following members:

- H.E. Dr. Abdullah H. Masry, Assistant Dep. Minister for Antiquities and Museum Affairs, Ministry of Education, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- H.E. Dr. Abdurrahman Al-Tayib Al-Ansari, Head of Monuments Divi-



A meeting of the first Governing Council of IRCICA

- Eng. Abdel Kader Koshak, Secretary General, Organisation of Islamic Capitals and Cities, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
- Mr. Abdulsattar Al-Jawary, Iraqi Academy, Baghdad, Iraq
- Prof. Dr. Emin Bilgiç, Faculty of Language, History and Geography, Ankara University, Turkey
- Raja Fuziah bt. Raja Tun Uda, Director General, Malaysian Handicraft Development Corporation, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Dr. Mahmoud Zouber, Director, Ahmed Baba Islamic Centre, Tombouctou, Mali
- Mr. Muhammed Sijelmassi, M.D., Casablanca, Morocco
- Prof. Dr. Saleh Al-Mahdi, Director General of National Cultural Activities, Tunis, Tunisia
- Arch. Sami M. Angawi, Director, Hajj Research Centre, Mecca, Saudi Arabia
- Eng. Abdel Kader Koshak, Secretary General, Organisation of Islamic Capitals and Cities, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
- Dr. Afif Bahnassi, Director of Museums and Antiquities, Damascus, Syria
- Raja Fuziah bt. Raja Tun Uda, Director General, Malaysian Handicraft Development Corporation, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- Dr. Husa Al-Sabah Al-Salim, Director of Archaeology Museum, Kuwait National Museum, Safat, Kuwait
- H.E. Prof. Dr. Ihsan Doğramacı, Chairman of the Council of Higher Education, Ankara, Turkey
- Dr. Javed Mohamed Iqbal, Chief Justice of Lahore High Court, Lahore, Pakistan
- Dr. Mahmoud Zouber, Director, Ahmed Baba Research Centre, Tombouctou, Mali
- Dr. Muhammed Ahmed Al-Shariff, Secretary General, World Islamic Call Society, Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

In the performance of its work, the Centre always benefited from the support and counsels of its Gov-

IRCICA'S ACTIVITIES

PUBLICATIONS

IRCICA disseminates the results of its research projects through publications. Almost all of these publications are prepared, composed and set-up at the Centre's word-processor. This reduces printing expenses and ensures a closer control at the printing stage.

IRCICA observes with satisfaction that its publications are arousing great interest not only in the Member States of OIC but also in academic circles and among researchers of other countries.

In this section, publications printed until now are listed first, representing the results of completed research projects. Then, works which will be published after completion of the related studies are enumerated.

WORKS ALREADY PUBLISHED

1. Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture, 1981, 36 pp., Eng., Fr., Ar., illus. (out of stock)

First introductory brochure of the Centre.

2. A Guidebook of Islamic Cultural Institutions, 1981, 288 pp., Eng. (out of stock)

This book contains the names and addresses of 445 cultural institutions in the member countries of OIC and gives information about 110 of them.

3. Newsletter, published in April, August and December each year.

The periodical publication of the Centre is printed in the three official languages of OIC (English, French and Arabic) and distributed free in almost 60 countries. It was published biannually at the beginning. In view of the expansion of the Centre's activities, it is issued three times a year since August 1985. Furthermore, the total number of copies printed in the three languages rose from 2000 to 10000. Starting with no.9, a special supplement for the OIC Islamic Heritage Commission has been added to the Newsletter.

4. The Muslim Pious Foundations and Real Estates in Palestine, 1982, 235 pp., Ar.-Eng. (out of stock).

Based on the documents in the Ottoman Archives in Istanbul, the Centre made a study to assess the Muslim properties in the Palestinian region. The book gives detailed information about the waqfs and estates in the provinces such as Al-Quds Al-Sharif, Gaza, Safed, Nablus and Ajlun.

5. Addresses of Cultural Institutions in the OIC Countries, 1982, XII+4+150+5 pp., Eng., (out of stock)

A guidebook containing the names and addresses of 1242 cultural institutions in 45 member countries.



6. Ottoman Yearbooks (Salnames and Nevvâs), 1982, 142 pp., Ar.-Eng. (out of stock)

A bibliographical work on the yearbooks (salnames) of the Ottoman State and provinces, which were issued between 1847-1918. These documents are accepted as direct sources of information about the places and periods to which they belong.

7. Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture, 1983, 47 p., Eng., Fr., Ar., illus.

Second introductory brochure of the Centre.

8. Documentary films on Islamic arts: two documentary films were prepared by the Centre. One is about the late calligrapher Hamid Al-Amidi and calligraphic arts, and the other on the arts of illumination and gilding. The films are available in video-cassettes.

9. International Directory of Islamic Cultural Institutions, 1984, 350 pp., Eng.

This directory contains the names and addresses of 3579 Islamic cultural institutions in 106 member and non-member countries.

10. Catalogue of Islamic Medical Manuscripts in the Libraries of Turkey, 1984, 625 pp., main part in Ar.

Islamic manuscripts constitute important sources about the history of Islamic sciences. The Centre started its studies in this field by examining the medical manuscripts found in the libraries of Turkey and published this catalogue, as a first volume in the field of "Studies and Sources on the History of Islamic Sciences".

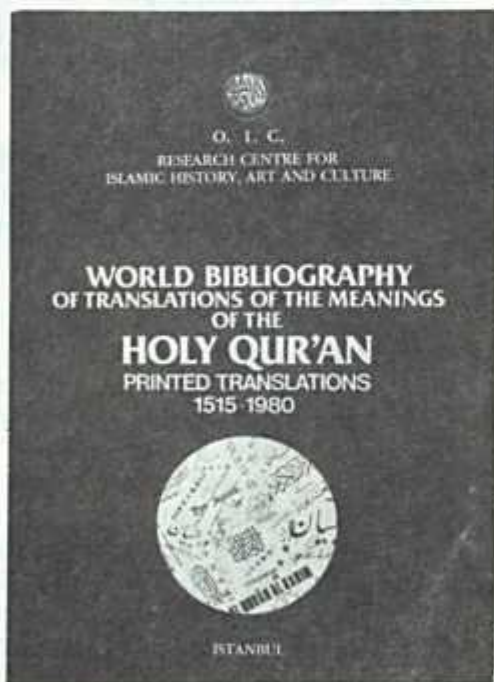
11. L'Enseignement Arabo-Islamique au Senegal, Dr. Mamadou Ndiaye, 1985, 260 pp., Fr. One of the objectives of IRCICA is to promote researches undertaken in the Islamic world on subjects related to its fields of activity, present them to the world of learning and contribute to their publication. As a first activity within this framework, the

Centre selected and published the PhD thesis of Dr. Mamadou Ndiaye from Senegal, which gives a detailed analysis of the introduction of Arab-Islamic education in this country.

12. Early Printed Books on Modern Chemistry, 1985.

This book gives annotated bibliographic information about more than 259 works on chemistry printed between 1830 and 1928 and contains also a study on the introduction of modern sciences in the Muslim world.

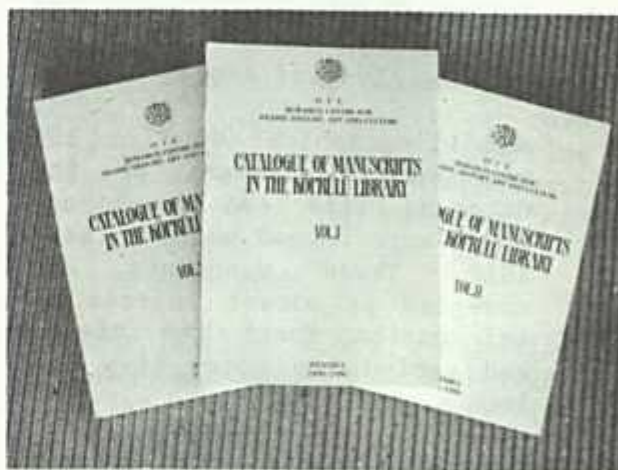
13. World Bibliography of Translations of the Meanings of the Holy Quran, Printed Translations (1515-1980), 1986, 1000 pp., Eng.



Since its establishment, the Centre endeavoured to collect information on the translations of the Quran in different languages of the world. This bibliography contains the results of the first phase of the project, which was related to printed translations (for more information, see back cover of this issue).

14. Catalogue of Islamic Manuscripts at the Köprülü Library, 1986, 3 vol., 2000 pp., Ar.

Islamic manuscript collections found in the famous Köprülü Library in Istanbul are valuable historical references on Islamic sciences. The Centre published a catalogue of these manuscripts in three volumes in order to present them to the world of learning (for more information, see back cover of this issue).



ONGOING PROJECTS AND FORTHCOMING WORKS

In this section, we enumerate the Centre's research projects which are in progress and the books which will be published when these projects are completed.

1. Guide of Ottoman Archives, Ar.-Eng.

The Ottoman archives in Istanbul contain important historical references which are needed by researchers. This guidebook

gives information about the documents themselves and the rules and regulations to be followed in their use.

2. Catalogue of periodicals in Arabic script

The aim of this project is to prepare a union catalogue of periodicals about Islamic culture, belonging to the period of 1828-1928 and printed fully or partly in Arabic script, regardless of the language. Main Istanbul libraries are being searched to collect full bibliographic data on these periodicals. Preparation of the catalogue is almost completed.

3. Islamic Swords

Within the framework of this project, the swords which were used from the 1st Century Hijra to the 10th Century Hijra are examined. The results of the study will be published soon in the form of a descriptive book, which will also contain a section on swordsmiths. The necessary data is collected through a study of sword inscriptions, archive documents and other written material on the subject. The work in regard to the Topkapı Museum collection is finished. A new study is planned in the Military Museum in Istanbul.

4. Proceedings of the "International Symposium on the Common Principles, Forms and Themes of Islamic Art" (April 1983), ang.-fr.-ar.

Collection of the papers about different aspects and branches of Islamic arts, that were presented at the Islamic arts symposium organised by IRCICA in April 1983.

5. Album of Masterpieces of Calligraphy, multilingual.

The Centre undertook the preparation of a calligraphic album which will give the history of the 14-centuries old calligraphic arts. In addition to the text of around 100 pages, the album will contain reproductions of around 200 calligraphies, as well as the best examples of the art of gilding.

6. Cultural Dimensions of Development in O.I.C. Countries, Eng.

This study aims at making a critical analysis of the cultural scene in OIC countries. The state of education, research and development, mass-media, libraries, museums, and cinemas and theaters in the Member States is examined and suggestions are put forward to solve problems encountered in these areas.

7. Bibliography of Publications on Arabic, Turkish and Persian Manuscripts in the Libraries of Turkey, Eng.

This research project is completed and the resultant bibliography is ready for printing. It is hoped that this publication will be of assistance to researchers and scholars interested in Islamic manuscripts and will encourage further research on the subject.

8. Islamic History Series

The need for re-writing and re-interpreting the history of Muslim nations has been emphasized on various occasions and mentioned in the Statute of the Centre as well. It is a sad-

dening fact that today, Muslim nations are learning each others' history from non-Islamic and even anti-Islamic sources. This leads to some misunderstandings and wrong opinions. Undoubtedly, the best way to correct such errors would be to re-write the history by giving correct and precise information.

The Centre started researches about Islamic history as soon as it was established. The first volume of the series about the "History of Turks", covering the history of Muslim Turks until the foundation of the Ottoman State, will be published soon. The second volume, related to the Ottoman history, is in preparation.

After the publication of the series on the history of Turks, the Centre will undertake studies about the history of the Islamic territories in Africa, South Asia and South East Asia. Within the framework of preparations for studies about the history of South Asia, the Centre organised a symposium on "Islamic History, Art and Culture in South Asia" in cooperation with the Islamic University Islamabad.

9. Catalogue of the Holy Ka'ba Keys, Ar.-Eng.

The Islamic arts of metal-working and the instruments and equipment made of metals have not been examined properly until now. Especially, the manufacture of keys and locks is among the most unknown subjects. In order to introduce this branch of Turkish craftsmanship to the world, the Centre is preparing a catalogue of the collection of Ka'ba keys found at the Topkapı Palace museum. The book will also contain the photographs of the keys.

10. Catalogue of Ka'ba Curtains, Ar.-Eng.

Still another unexplored subject is the Ka'ba curtains and other objects sent to the Holy Ka'ba each year during centuries. A rich collection of such articles exists at the Topkapı Palace museum. The Centre prepared a catalogue of them, in the light of the historical trends and motives. The book will also contain pictures and photographs.

11. Documents about "Surra"

The aim of this project is to record events and developments relating to Surra and present them in chronological order, with explanations about the ceremonies concerning this event.

12. Studies on the History of Art

Despite its originality, its diversity and riches, Islamic art is not introduced sufficiently throughout the world. One reason is the lack of specialised literature. As a first activity in this field, the Centre plans to publish an Arabic translation of Prof. Dr. Oktay Aslanapa's important work on Islamic-Turkish arts, which was first printed in the United States. The book contains hundreds of coloured photographs and graphs.

13. Manuscript and oral translations of the Quran

Immediately after publishing the "World Bibliography of Translations of the Meanings of the Holy Quran, Printed translations, 1515-1980", IRCICA started preparations for the second bibliography within the framework of the same project, which will cover the Quran translations found in manuscript form. The third

phase of the same project will cover the oral translations of the Holy Quran. The Centre is about to start researches to collect the recordings of oral translations. To this aim, an agreement of cooperation has already been reached with the "Institut Fondamental de l'Afrique Noire" (IFAN) in Dakar, Senegal in order to record the oral translations in local languages such as Wolof and Peul and to collect data and information related to these translations.

14. Bibliography of Islamic books printed outside Istanbul

As known, an important part of the Islamic cultural legacy resulted from efforts made in cities other than Istanbul. One way to learn about these efforts is to have access to publications found in these cities. To this aim, the Centre started preparations to publish a bibliography of such publications. Until now, bibliographical information about 3000 works has been collected.

15. Documents concerning restorations made in Mecca and Medina in the 16th-19th centuries

The Centre aims to uncover the original documents existing in archives of Istanbul and pertaining to Al-Haremeyn Al-Sharifeyn in Holy Mecca and Medina and particularly to repairs and constructions.

16. Yıldız Photographic Albums

The Yıldız Photographic Albums, which contain historical photographs of different places and monuments in Islamic countries, constitute one of the most important collections of photographs of the world. These



Yıldız Palace Hamidiye Mosque

photographs are kept in the Central Library of Istanbul University. They were considerably destroyed by the passage of time and careless usage. With the aim of preserving these photographs and putting them at the service of researchers, the Centre undertook to reproduce them. The work is almost completed and an archive of thousands of reproductions is being established. Preparation of catalogues and indexes is going on.

17. Islamic architecture in Albania

Upon proposal by Dr. Michael Kiel, Dutch scholar who devoted his life to studies about Islamic monuments in East Europe, IRCICA intends to print and distribute this scholar's unpublished work about Islamic architecture in Albania (1385-1912). The work is rich in information about mosques, citadels, bridges and other monuments. It will be published first in English and then in Arabic.

PREMISES AND RESTORATION ACTIVITIES



The Yaveran Building

IRCICA started functioning at the Seyir Köşk, one of the historical buildings within the Yıldız Palace complex in Istanbul. However, the Centre's activities developed fast; its personnel increased and its library expanded. Consequently, this building did not suffice to meet the growing needs in space. In order to help the Centre to solve this problem, the Turkish Government allocated to the Centre a second building within the same Palace, namely the Çit Qasr. Thanks to donations received from Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and Turkey and some institutions and personalities, the first phase of the restoration of this building was completed in July 1983, and the Centre started using this building to accommodate its research staff, library and computer sections. This building of 812 square meters also has a large multi-purpose hall and an exhibition room.

Although the Çit Qasr enabled the Centre to house its sections other than the Finance and Administration unit and the Secretariat, it did not provide, after some time, enough room for the rapidly expanding library and for guest researchers. Furthermore, additional space was needed for the Islamic art workshops, photographic archives and laboratories that the Centre plans to establish. Conscious of such new requirements, the Turkish Government allocated to the Centre a third building within the Yıldız Palace.

The Centre immediately started the necessary technical and financial preparations for the restoration project. Actual restoration work started in April 1985 and progressed well thanks to the donations extended by Islamic institutions and personalities, to whom the Centre is grateful. Technical plans for the interior of the building

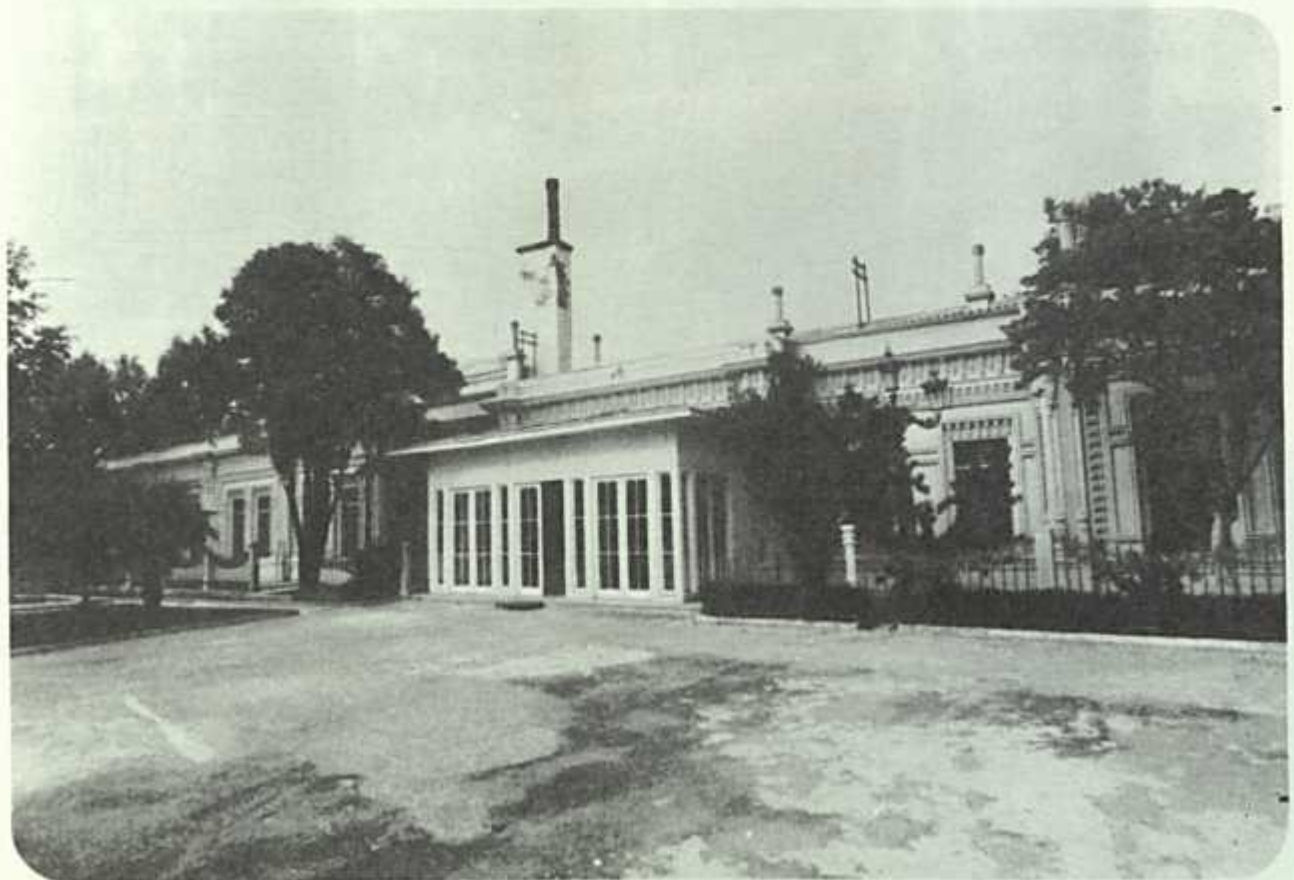
are such that optimum use will be made of this building which has 850 square meters of usable space while preserving its original form. The restoration is nearly completed and once the building will be put to use, space problems of the Centre will be resolved. Larger rooms will be available for documentation, the computer unit, research sections, and as working space for visiting researchers and scholars. Islamic arts workshops will be set up where training courses will be opened to

teach the Islamic arts of calligraphy, gilding, marbled paper, book binding, ebru, etc. to young talented people from allover the world.

In addition to providing more working space to the Centre, these restoration activities are at the same time a contribution to the preservation of the Islamic heritage in these historical buildings of the Yıldız Palace.



The Seyir Köşk



A view of the Çit Qasr

PREMISES



IRCICA UNITS WITH PARTICULAR CHARACTERISTICS

LIBRARY

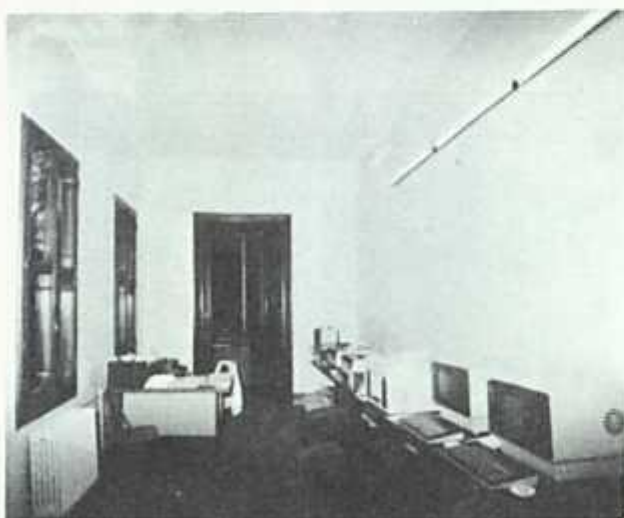
One of the priority areas in IRCICA's activities has been the establishment of a reference library. Today, there are 17000 volumes of books, 500 titles of periodicals and 3000 off-prints in IRCICA's library. 10000 titles of books have been registered, 6800 out of them have been catalogued, classified and shelved. 10000 titles out of the total amount have been fed into the computer. It is hoped that by the end of this year, all books and other publications will be classified on open shelves and recorded on cards according to authors and titles. The computerized library system is designed in such a way that easy access to books is ensured. This facilitates the task of researchers who wish to use the library.

The library subscribed to numerous periodicals published in different countries, which are suitable for the Centre's objectives and the needs of guest researchers. The collection of periodicals develops continually. A catalogue of this collection will be prepared soon for the use of researchers.

Other than books and periodicals, there are also maps, photographs and other material useful for research. Last year, the Centre acquired the microfilms and microfiches of about 400 PhD theses on Islamic subjects submitted by Muslim students in universities of Europe and the U.S.A. On the other hand, the library is enriched by donations of book collections, offered to the Centre by the following Islamic personalities:



IRCICA UNITS



- Collection of Dr.Zaki Ali: Eminent scientist Dr.Zaki Ali donated to the Centre his rich collection of books on Islamic culture.
- Collection of Prof.Dr. Necmettin Bammate: Before his death, the late Prof.Dr. Necmettin Bammate, great Muslim scholar and eminent personality of the Islamic world, donated to the Centre his precious collection of books on Islam composed by his father Haydar Bammate Bey and himself.
- Collection of Mrs. Nezahat Nurettin Ege: This collection consists of the late Ottoman period literature. It contains books on history, philosophy, sociology and literature.
- Collection of Mustafa Münif Pasha: Mustafa Münif Pasha is famous for his works in the field of medicine and his contributions to the establishment of "Awqaf-i Islamiye" museum in Istanbul. His collection of books on history, literature and Islam was donated to the Centre by his son.

Some other collections acquired by the Centre at symbolic costs are also considered as donations. They are listed below.

- Collection of Prof.Dr.Oktay Aslanapa: Prof.Dr.Oktay Aslanapa, known in many countries for his works on the history of art, donated his collection of rare books to the Centre.
- Collection of Prof.Vedat Eldem: The rich book collection of Professor Vedat Eldem, well-known Turkish economist, was recently added to IRCICA library. It contains rare books and incunabula of Islamic culture.

An important activity of the IRCICA Library is the exchange programmes established with libraries and ins-

titutions in different countries. IRCICA publications are exchanged with publications of institutions working in similar fields. One of the numerous advantages of this programme is that IRCICA can obtain publications that are difficult to find in the book market.

Another service rendered by the library is the preparation of a quarterly "Library Acquisition List" which contains the newly acquired publications, so that researchers may be informed of available reference works that could be useful for them. This bulletin is distributed to libraries of institutions and universities. Five issues were published until now. On the other hand, a cumulative catalogue of the library acquisitions is in preparation; its first volume containing 10000 entries will be printed soon.

The library also established contacts with institutions producing microfilms and other audio-visual material, in order to form a complete unit containing such material useful for all kinds of research.

Special emphasis is put to the upgrading of technical, scientific and linguistic abilities and skills of its staff. A training programme of six months duration was organised last year for the library staff of the Centre at the General Egyptian Book Organisation in Cairo, Egypt.

COMPUTER

Since 1983, the Centre is using its own computer in all its research activities and publications, its library and to keep its mailing lists. All documents and books issued by the Centre and its News-



letter are composed and set-up on the word-processor. Originally of 13.5 megabites, the capacity of the computer was increased to 33.5 megabites one year after its installation in view of the fast expansion of the volume of work. The Centre intends to further increase the capacity of its computer and acquire additional machines when it moves to the Yaveran building upon completion of its restoration.

The computer unit provides word-processing facilities in all national languages of the Member States. Naturally, it is being used at the Centre mainly for the three official languages of the OIC, namely English, French and Arabic. Besides accelerating all activities at the Centre, the computer also facilitates the work of guest researchers who visit the Centre to use its library and other facilities. Search of books and documents in the library is easier and faster with the help of the computer.

NUCLEUS OF A MUSEUM UNIT

With some historical and ethnographic objects acquired through

donations, the Centre constituted the nucleus of a museum unit. This unit will be housed at the Yaveran building when the latter is put to use.

The main body of this unit is composed of the considerable quantity of precious ethnographic material donated to IRCICA by Mrs. Hikmet Ögüt, daughter of eminent Turkish scholar Haji Cemal Ögüt. Some of the material and objects in this collection are gifts of the Ottoman Palace and they range from end of 19th Century clothes to household equipment of that time. Especially noteworthy are tesbihs (prayer beads) of high artistic value. This collection constituted the nucleus of an ethnographic museum at the Centre. Preparations for a catalogue of the collection have already started.

SCHOLARSHIPS

IRCICA approached Member States' relevant authorities and institutions in order to obtain a quota of the scholarships they allocate to foreign students. In such programmes, the Centre plays an intermediary role in the selection of the beneficiaries.

This programme started two years ago when the Turkish Government allocated to the Centre four scholarships for each academic year, for graduate studies in Turkish universities. Since that time, the Centre announces the scholarships in the Islamic countries and refers applications received to the relevant authorities.

On the other hand, the University of Yarmouk, Irbid, Jordan allocated four assistantships to the Centre for academic year 1985-86. The event was announced by the Centre and selected students joined the University.

CONFERENCES, SEMINARS AND LECTURES

Since its establishment, the Centre organised various symposia, seminars and conferences on subjects falling within its fields of activity, in order to disseminate the results of its studies as widely as possible. It also participated actively in meetings organised by other institutions. In the present section, we enumerate the meetings organised by the Centre itself or jointly with other institutions, and those to which it contributed, as well as lectures given at the Centre by guest scholars.

INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

1. Arab-Islamic Art and Asia

An international seminar on "Arab-Islamic Art and Asia" was organised jointly by UNESCO, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey and IRCICA in Istanbul in 1982. The influences of Islam on Asian arts were discussed at the seminar.

2. International symposium on "Common Principles, Forms and Themes of Islamic Arts"

This international symposium organised by the Centre on 18-22 April 1983 attracted a large number of thinkers, scholars and artists from all over the world. 44 papers in total were presented during the symposium, each dealing with different aspects of Islamic arts. Among the topics were the following: sources of inspiration and creativity in Islamic arts, common principles, various aspects of Islamic architecture, calligraphy and its essential elements, unity, authenticity and aesthetics of Islamic arts, Islamic music, etc. The Centre had carried a special report about this meeting in the November 1983 issue of its Newsletter.

This symposium was met with great appreciation in academic and artistic circles. As stated in the Istanbul Declaration issued at the end of the meeting, this symposium was a step in the study of Islamic arts and a guide for future studies.



International Symposium on Islamic Arts (1983)

3. Seminar on Computer Application in the Library

The Centre participated actively at the Seminar on "Computer Application in the Library" organised on 7-9 May 1984 by the Department of Library Sciences of Istanbul University. The paper presented by the Centre at the seminar explained the system of application of computer facilities in the Centre's library. The participants visited the Centre to examine the system, which they qualified as simple, economic and appropriate.

4. Third Conference on Islamic Medicine

The Third Conference on Islamic Medicine (Istanbul, 28 September-2 October 1984) was organised under the sponsorship of H.E. Kenan Evren, President of Turkey and jointly by the Ministry of Public Health of Kuwait and the Council for Higher Education of Turkey, with the collaboration of IRCICA. There were 130 participants from 21 Islamic countries, U.S.A. and West Germany, the majority of which were Health Ministers and Islamic scientists.

5. Symposium on National Palaces of Turkey

IRCICA participated at this symposium organised by the Grand National Assembly of Turkey between 12-17 November 1984 in Istanbul and presented a paper giving detailed information on the restoration by the Centre of its buildings within the Yıldız Palace complex.

6. Seminar on Islamic Studies

The Centre participated at the seminar on Oriental Islamic Studies organised by Ain-Shams University in March 1985 in Cairo, Egypt. Around 15 papers on different topics relating to Islamic history,

arts, culture and civilisation were presented by scholars from Egyptian and Turkish universities.

7. Participation at Conference on Arab-Turkish Relations, Amman

The Third Conference on Arab-Turkish Relations was held at Yarmouk University Liaison Office in Amman, Jordan on 25-28 April 1985, under the patronage of H.R.H. Crown Prince Hassan bin Tallal of Jordan. Scholars from Arab and Turkish universities and high-level Government officials of Jordan participating at the conference expressed their appreciation of researches undertaken by IRCICA and they decided support them.

8. Seminar on Woman and the Family in Islam

A seminar on "The Woman and the Family in Islam" was organised jointly by UNESCO and IRCICA at the Centre's premises on 24-28 June 1985. This constituted an important activity within the framework of the cooperation established between UNESCO and the Centre.

9. International Symposium on Translations of the Meaning of the Holy Quran

Detailed information about the event is given at a separate section in this issue.

10. International Seminar on Islamic History, Art and Culture in South Asia

Detailed information about the event is given at a separate section in this issue.

LECTURES GIVEN AT THE CENTRE

Under this heading, lectures given at the Centre by eminent scholars and scientists will be listed. These lectures were open to the public.

1. "The Sacred Geography of Islam" by Dr. David King, Associate Professor of Arabic and History of Science, New York University, U.S.A. (September 1983).
2. Intellectual evening with Muslim French Professor Mr. Roger Garaudy on dominant modern philosophies vs. Islam (November 1983).
3. "Libraries in India and their Islamic Manuscripts Collections" by Dr. Reza Bedar, Director of Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library, Patna, India (December 1983).
4. Conference on "Islamic Architecture in Central Asia" by Mr. Burchard Brentjes, Professor of Oriental Archeology at the University of Halle, G.D.R. accompanied by an exhibition of photographs (July 1984).
5. "Contributions of Aligarh Muslim University, Institute of Islamic Studies to Islamic Learning" by Dr. Akmal Ayyubi, faculty member at the Institute of Islamic Studies of Aligarh Muslim University in India (December 1984).
6. "Library Automation in the United States" by Prof. Dr. Michael Cooper, professor of library and information studies at the University of California-Berkeley and consultant on library automation (May 1985).
7. Seminar in commemoration of calligrapher Halim Özyazıcı (November 1985).
8. Talks about the late calligrapher Hacı Kamil Akdik (December 1985).
9. "Islamic Studies in the United States and Canada", by Prof. Dr. Mahmoud Ayoub, University of Ontario, Canada (December 1985).
10. "Overview of the Academic Study of Middle Eastern History in the U.S.A.", by Dr. Karl Brown, professor at Princeton University, U.S.A. (January 1986).
11. Commemoration of calligrapher and musician Mr. Nuri Korman (February 1986).
12. Commemoration of gilding artist Mrs. Rikkat Kunt (1st March 1986). Experts on calligraphy and gilding gave information about her life and showed slides of her works.



Late Mrs. Rikkat Kunt

Mrs. Rikkat Kunt, was born in Istanbul in 1903. She was the daughter of Hüseyin Kazım Kadri Bey, scholar and statesman. In her youth, she lived in Aleppo, Salonika and Beyrouth with her family and then returned to Istanbul in 1919, where she followed gild-

ing courses at the Academy of Fine Arts. After obtaining her diploma, she worked as Librarian at the same Academy for four years. Starting with 1948, she taught the arts of gilding and tiles at this Academy for 20 years. In 1970, at the age of 74, Mrs. Rikkat Kunt was officially invited to Lisbon, Portugal where she restored 31 different manuscript works at the Gulbenkian Museum, which were damaged by the flood in 1968. The number of her works is considerable. The exquisite gildings and illuminations on the Centre's motto are also her work. One of the documentary films on Islamic arts prepared by the Centre is concerned with Mrs. Rikkat Kunt and her works.

13. Commemoration of Prof. Dr. Süheyl Ünver, calligrapher and gilding artist (5 April 1986).



Professor Ahmed Süheyl Ünver, M.D. who passed away on 14 February 1986, was known all over the world for his contri-

butions in the field of Islamic medicine, as well as Islamic arts, history and culture. The scholar was born in Istanbul in 1898. He graduated from the Faculty of Medicine of Istanbul University in 1920. He specialised in dermatology and venereal diseases at the same faculty and in internal medicine in Paris. He returned to Turkey in 1930 and started to work as Assistant Professor of therapeutics and pharmacology at the Faculty of Medicine of Istanbul University. He became a Professor in 1939. In 1951, he established the Institute of Medical History and directed it for years. He was given the highest academic rank of "Ordinarius" Professor in 1954.

Prof. Dr. Ahmet Süheyl Ünver had become interested in art at a very early age. While he was a medical student, he entered the School of Calligraphy where he studied the arts of calligraphy, papermaking and bookbinding for six years. From 1936 to 1956, he taught miniature painting at the Istanbul Academy of Fine Arts. He published more than 2000 essays, books and pamphlets on medical history, science and Islamic arts. Prof. Dr. Ahmet Süheyl Ünver was a member of 18 scientific and medical organisations in Turkey and abroad and held awards and medals of different countries. Last year, he was awarded the Prize of Islamic Medicine, offered jointly by the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences and the Islamic Organisation for Medical Sciences of Kuwait (the news was carried in the Newsletter no.9, August 1985).

IRCICA'S EXHIBITIONS

IRCICA organised several exhibitions on different occasions, in order to introduce its activities or to promote Islamic arts and encourage Islamic artists. These exhibitions are listed below.

1. Seven international Islamic arts exhibitions were organised jointly with the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey in 1983, as part of the celebrations of the advent of the 15th Century Hijra. The exhibitions were opened in April 1983, simultaneously with the Islamic Arts Symposium organised by the Centre. These exhibitions were on the following subjects: "Sacred Relics", "Articles of Worship", "Islamic Tiles and Ceramic Arts", "Islamic Architecture", "Islamic Carpets", "Metal and Woodwork Exhibition" and "Calligraphy, Manuscripts, Miniatures and Sultans' Firmans".
2. Exhibition of "Calligraphy Carved on Wood", by Mr. Nail Arıkdal (May 1984).
3. Participation at Malaysian International Exhibition on Islamic Civilisation in May 1984, by displaying the works of calligrapher Mr. Hasan Çelebi.
4. Tesbih (Prayer Beads) exhibition titled "The Revival of Traditional Tesbih Craftsmanship" (May 1984).
5. Exhibition of "Calligraphy and Gilding by Contemporary Artists" on the occasion of the Third Conference on Islamic Medicine held in Istanbul (September-October 1984).
6. Exhibition of Photographs from the Yıldız Palace Albums on the occasion of the Symposium on National Palaces of Turkey (November 1984).
7. Photographic exhibition on "Sana'a at the end of the 19th Century", organised on the occasion of the 15th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers. During the same conference, IRCICA also organised an exhibition of its publications (Sana'a, Yemen A.R., December 1984).
8. Exhibition of samples of 13th Century interior decoration from Ulucami Mosque in Afyon, Turkey (March-April 1985).
9. Exhibition on "Islamic Cities in Photographs" (April-May 1985) on the occasion of the Conference on the Protection of Architectural Heritage in Islamic Cities, held in Istanbul in April 1985.
10. Exhibition of paintings in relief on "Life in Old Istanbul" by Ms. Mine Özüuygun (April-May 1985).
11. Calligraphic exhibition in Amman, Jordan, where the works of Mr. Hasan Çelebi were displayed (April-May 1985). During the same period, the Centre's documentary films entitled "Life and Works of Late Calligrapher Hamid Al-Amidi (Aytaç) and Calligraphic Arts" and "Arts of Illumination and Gilding" were shown to the public.
12. Exhibition of IRCICA's publications at Farnham Castle, England, during the Islamic

Arts Foundation's seminar held in July 1985.

13. Mother-of-pearl inlaying and metal-cutting exhibition by Dr. Mehmet Zeki Kuşoğlu (September - October 1985).
14. Exhibition of paintings about "Anatolia" by Ms. Makbule Uyar (October 1985).
15. Exhibition of gilding and miniatures consisting of the works of Ms. Münevver Mamure Öz (November-December 1985).
16. Exhibition of Mushaf copies and presentation of the Centre's activities through brochures, posters, photographs and publications, during the Second Session of the OIC Permanent Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs held on 31 October - 3 November 1985 in Dakar, Senegal.
17. Simultaneously with the 12th Session of the OIC Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on 11-14 November 1985, the Centre organised an exhibition of its publications and also displayed photographs, drawings and posters representing its different activities.
18. Exhibition on "Calligraphy-its Application on Wood" consisting of the works of Mr.Nail Arıkdal (November 1985).
19. Exhibition of calligraphies by Mr. Bekir Pekten (December 1985).
20. Exhibition of Mr. Mahmut Öncü's calligraphies (29 January-12 February 1986).
21. Gilding exhibition: works of late Mrs.Rikkat Kunt (27 February-9 March 1986).
22. Exhibition of old Mushaf copies on the occasion of the International Symposium on Translations of the Meaning of the Holy Quran organised jointly by IRCICA and the World Islamic Call Society of Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (March-April 1986).
23. Participation at Antiques Fair: An International Antiques Fair was organised at the "Armory" building of Yıldız Palace on 26-30 March 1986. IRCICA had a stand at this fair, where it displayed examples from the Yıldız photograph albums and some rare books existing in its library. The Centre also organised, on the first day of the fair, a show of slides on old Istanbul.
24. Exhibition of the Centre's publications, as well as various documents, posters and brochures introducing its activities, simultaneously with the International Seminar on Islamic History, Art and Culture in South Asia organised in Islamabad, Pakistan on 26-28 March 1986.
25. Exhibition of gildings, illuminations and miniatures of Prof.Dr. Süheyl Ünver (April 1986).



IRCICA's stand at Antiquities Fair

Participation at
International Book Fairs

In order to effectively introduce its publications, the Centre participates at international book fairs whenever possible. Some of the fairs at which IRCICA presented its books and periodical publications are:

- The Frankfurt International Book Fair: the Centre participated at this fair in 1984 and presented its publications entitled "International Directory of Islamic Cultural Institutions" and "Catalogue of Islamic Medical Manuscripts". A dummy copy of the forthcoming "Album of Masterpieces of Calligraphy" was also shown to publishers.

- The Cairo International Book Fair: Since three years, the Centre participates at the Cairo International Book Fair which is organised

annually by the General Egyptian Book Organisation. Lastly, IRCICA's publications were introduced at the 18th Cairo International Book Fair which was held between 21 January and 3 February 1986. All books published until now, the Newsletter, a sample representing the forthcoming Calligraphic Album and other documents and brochures were displayed at the Centre's stand. After opening the fair, H.E. Hosni M'barek, President of Egypt examined the different sections of the fair, including the Centre's stand. He showed interest in the Centre's books and received explanations about them. The Centre's participation at the fair was beneficial; its publications were introduced and contacts were established with Egyptian authorities and institutions.



*H.E. Hosni M'barek, President of
Egypt visiting IRCICA's stand*

COOPERATION WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS

One of the main principles of the Centre is that of cooperation and coordination with other institutions and organisations working on subjects related or similar to its fields of activity. The Centre undertakes such coordination and cooperation following the directives of the OIC General Secretariat and with the assistance of its Governing Council in order to realise its tasks and projects in the best and most efficient way and to avoid duplications and to benefit from works and experiences of other institutions, as well as scholars and scientists. Below are the names of some institutions, organisations and authorities with which the Centre cooperates and the fields of cooperation:

- Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al-Albait Foundation), Jordan: Islamic encyclopedia and union catalogue of Islamic manuscripts
- University of Jordan: Printing and publication of the book on Ottoman Archives
- Yarmouk University (Jordan): Scholarships, and organisation of the Arab-Turkish Relations Conference
- Islamic Centre of the University of Jordan: Agreement on cooperation for cultural affairs
- University of Dakar: Oral translations of Quran in local languages
- Institut Islamique de Dakar: Publication of the book titled "L'Enseignement Arabo-Islamique au Senegal"
- Muslim World League (Rabita): Restoration, Muslim minorities
- King Faisal Foundation (Saudi Arabia): Cataloguing of manuscripts, history of sciences, exhibitions
- Islamic University of Islamabad: Islamic history, art and culture in South Asia
- The Turkish Prime Ministry provides its valuable assistance to the Centre in the execution of researches. One recent example is that Centre's experts could scan the Ottoman archives and obtain photocopies of the documents.
- Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey provided its assistance to the Centre for studies on Islamic manuscripts found in Turkish libraries.
- Ministry of National Education, Youth and Sports, Turkey: scholarships for doctorate and research studies in Turkish universities
- Directorate of Religious Affairs, Turkey: Lunar calendar.
- Ministry of Culture of Malaysia: Publication of the Islamic History Series, student training
- UNESCO: Symposium, seminars, inventory of Islamic heritage monuments
- ALECSO (Tunisia): Islamic manuscripts and arts
- Hamdard Foundation (Pakistan, India): Information about Islamic cultural institutions; collecting the translations of

ISLAMIC HERITAGE COMMISSION

DECISIONS OF THE 16TH ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

The Sixteenth Islamic Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of OIC Member States was held on 6-10 January 1986 in Fez, Morocco. The Commission's activity report and work programme were submitted to the approval of the conference by Dr. Mohammed Saleh Gazdar, Coordination Officer of the Heritage Commission. The report contained detailed explanations about the Commission's projects and other activities.

The conference approved the Commission's report and work programme. In its resolution no.31 concerning the Heritage Commission, it also expressed the following decisions:

- The conference called upon the Member States to provide the Commission with the information and documents available to them in the area of Islamic heritage;
- The conference took note, with appreciation, of the practical steps taken by the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage under the Chairmanship of H.R.H. Prince Faisal bin Fahd bin Abdul Aziz;
- The conference expressed its gratitude to H.M. King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz for having graciously instituted an incentive prize in the field of Islamic architectural heritage, within the framework of the Commission's activities;
- The conference welcomed the full cooperation and coordination existing between the work of the Commission and that of the Istanbul Centre as the executive organ of the Commission;
- The conference called upon the Commission to continue coordinating its works with the plans for the preservation of Islamic heritage in Member States with a view to

combining Islamic efforts in this field;

- The conference expressed its thanks and appreciation to the Turkish Religious Waqf for the financial assistance it extended to the Commission as a contribution towards the restoration of the Demak Mosque in Indonesia.

Other resolutions of the Conference which are related to the field of activity of the Heritage Commission were the following: Resolution No. 12/16-C on the "Restoration and Maintenance of the Demak Mosque in Indonesia", Resolution No.16/16-C concerning the "Institution of an International Prize to be called the Al-Quds Award", and Resolution No.30/16-C on the "Preservation of the City of Fez".

In the first of these resolutions, the Islamic Conference urged the General Secretariat of OIC and the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage to continue to pay special attention to the restoration of the Demak Mosque in view of its spiritual importance and historical significance and to take such measures as they may deem appropriate to assist in the implementation of this restoration project. Concerning the establishment of an "Al-Quds Award" to contribute to the preservation of Islamic heritage in Al-Quds Al-Sharif and Palestine, the Conference requested the Heritage Commission to supervise and publicise this award.

Considering the city of Fez as one of the Islamic and cultural cities which must be preserved, continuously restored and safeguarded, the Conference recommended, among others, that bodies and commissions of the OIC include this subject in their programmes of activities. It urged particularly the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cul-

tural Organisation (ISESCO), the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage and the Islamic Solidarity Fund to initiate a dialogue with the Moroccan authorities for the implementation of the resolution.

NEWSFILE ON ISLAMIC HERITAGE

SYRIA

Conference on Museums and Antiquities

The 14th Conference on Museums and Antiquities was opened in Damascus on 1st February 1986 by the Syrian Minister of Culture and National Guidance Dr. Najah Al-Attar. The meeting dealt with subjects such as restoration and protection of monuments, excavations, research activities and publications about historical monuments, regulations for the protection and safekeeping of antiquities and the preservation of Damascus city.

TURKEY

Programme of 400th Commemoration Year of Great Architect Mimar Sinan

The year 1988 is proclaimed the "Commemoration Year of Mimar Sinan". Extensive programmes will be organised at national and international levels under the supervision of the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism to introduce this eminent figure of Turkish-Islamic architecture, whose magnificent works number more than 500. Some of the planned activities are:

- Second International Congress on History of Turkish-Islamic Sci-

ence and Technology and Mimar Sinan (28 April-2 May 1986)

- Opening ceremony of commemoration programme (1-5 January 1988)
- Commemoration ceremonies in Kayseri, Edirne and Istanbul (9 April 1988)
- The International Mimar Sinan Congress, and symposia and meetings throughout 1988

Publications:

- Mimar Sinan Album in different languages
- Mimar Sinan Bibliography
- Book on Mimar Sinan and his works (collection of papers)
- Mimar Sinan Commemoration Stamp
- Collection of papers of Mimar Sinan International Congress
- Album on the Arts in Mimar Sinan's period
- Articles in publications of UNESCO such as "Courrier" and "Features" and its other publications about historical events and famous personalities; broadcasts by UNESCO within the framework of "Great Anniversaries" series

Exhibitions:

- Mimar Sinan photographic exhibitions during 1987-88
- Exhibitions on Fine Arts in Mimar Sinan's period (one in Turkey and one abroad)

Competitions (1987-88):

- Mimar Sinan Drawing Competition
- Mimar Sinan Monument Competition
- Bust of Mimar Sinan Competition
- International Children's Drawing Competition
- Architectural Design Competition among university students

In addition to the above, there will be musical performances (Mimar Sinan Opera, Sinan Oratorio), plays and films during 1986-88.

CALLIGRAPHY COMPETITION

The First International Hamid Al-Amidi Calligraphy Competition, which is organised by the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage, met great interest world-wide, in artistic and cultural milieus as well as in the international press. Secretary of the Heritage Commission Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu had announced the event at a press conference given at the Commission's Secretariat on 24 December 1985. Then, the brochures and posters of the competition were distributed to various press organs, Ministries of Culture, Education, Information and all other relevant authorities of OIC member countries, to their institutions and organisations which might be interested in the event, to universities and museums, as well as to members of the competition jury and members of IRCICA's Governing Council, among others, kindly requesting them to disseminate information about the event and make the conditions of the competition known to prospective participants. These efforts gave satisfactory results: the competition was announced over the radio of some Islamic countries and in various newspapers and magazines, and it was emphasized that it is the first competition of its kind.

Until the end of April 1986, the Competition Secretariat received 577 applications from 32 different countries. These include Islamic countries as well as others such as Denmark, England, France, W. Germany, Spain and U.S.A. The Secretariat also received many letters of appreciation, commending the initiative taken by the Heritage Commission to organise this competition, which would encourage young artists and help revive and protect this noble art in accordance with

the rules and norms established by our ancestors. Some of these letters' authors even mentioned that they were participating at the competition not for material gain or fame, but just to contribute to reinstate this art to the place it deserves. It is noteworthy that through these letters, we came to know some Muslim and non-Muslim calligraphers living in Western countries; on the other hand, we discovered certain very talented persons who sent us samples of their works.

Announcement

Given the high number of applications and delays in the post, the Calligraphy Competition Secretariat decided to extend the registration period for two more months. Consequently, those who wish to participate at the competition may write to the Competition Secretariat until the end of June 1986. Winners will be announced towards the end of 1986 or early in 1987 as announced previously.

KING FAHD AWARDS COMPETITION

The registration deadline for the King Fahd Awards Competition for Design and Research in Islamic Architecture expired earlier this year. A total of 1285 applications were received from 88 different countries; their country-wise distribution is given below:

Design	1046
Institutions	711
Individuals	335

Research	239
Institutions	89
Individuals	150

The King Fahd Awards Competition Secretariat will continue to send the entry forms until the beginning of July 1986. The Jury will meet towards end of the same month and winners will be announced in August 1986 as scheduled.

OBITUARY

DR.ING. ALIĞÜL AYVERDİ,

THE COMPETITION SECRETARY OF THE
KING FAHD AWARDS FOR DESIGN AND
RESEARCH IN ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE,
PASSED AWAY ON 5 MAY 1986



We regret to give to our readers a saddening last moment news. Dr. Ing. Aliğül Ayverdi, the King Fahd Awards Competition Secretary of the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic

Cultural Heritage, passed away on 5 May 1986.

Dr. Ing. Aliğül Ayverdi was born in Istanbul in 1935. He completed his higher studies in Turkey and Japan between the years 1959 and 1964. For many years, he taught at the Faculty of Architecture of the Mimar Sinan University in Istanbul, Turkey and in other universities. During his professional career, he participated in many international conferences and competitions and received awards for his designs. Quite a number of his articles were published in international journals of architecture.

He joined the staff of IRCICA at the beginning of 1985, just before he retired from the University. The very short period during which he was with IRCICA as the Competition Secretary for the King Fahd Awards sufficed for us to know and appreciate him.

No words will suffice to express the sorrow felt by his friends, colleagues and students on Aliğül Ayverdi's sudden death. This dear friend whom we lost had a real sense of responsibility to his duty and his relationship with other people was exemplary because of his sensitivity and gentleness.

Dr. Ayverdi came from an old distinguished Istanbul family whose members were outstanding Islamic scholars and artists. His grandfather was the famous calligrapher Sheikh Abdul Aziz Rifai and his father was the well-known scholar and collector of Islamic arts, Architect Ekrem Hakkı Ayverdi.

We are deeply moved to take leave of Dr. Aliğül Ayverdi and pledge to continue with the functions of the Competition Secretariat in his memory.

- the meaning of the Quran
- World Islamic Call Society (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya): Provision of material and equipment, joint publications, translations of the Quran
 - Universities in Turkey: Librarianship, research, documentation, manuscripts, information
 - "Dar-ul-Hikma" (Tunisia): Bibliographies, manuscripts of Ibn Khaldoun
 - Ministry of Public Health of Kuwait: Islamic medicine
 - Ahmed Baba Centre (Mali): Oral translations of the Quran and Islamic manuscripts
 - International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA, (Finland, West Germany): Librarianship
 - ISESCO (OIC, Morocco): Different cultural activities within the framework of the OIC
 - Hajj Research Centre (Saudi Arabia): Documentation and information, related especially to Mecca and Medina
 - Libyan Centre for Historical Studies: Bibliographic research related to Tripoli, Benghazi and Fezan
 - Khuda Baksh Library (India): Islamic manuscripts
 - WAMY, Riyadh: Muslim minorities

On the other hand, the Centre signed cooperation agreements with some institutions in order to undertake joint projects. Preliminary studies for the execution of these projects have already started. These institutions are listed below.

- International Institute of Islamic Thought (Washington D.C., U.S.A.): Standardisation of library procedures
- "Institute Hispano-Arabe de Cultura" (Spain): PhD theses on Islam written in Spain
- Islamic Art Foundation (England): Islamic arts
- "Institut Fondamental d'Afrique Noire" (IFAN): Oral translations of the Quran into local African languages
- ICCROM (Italia): Preservation of Islamic cultural heritage, restoration

IRCICA also established relations with some other institutions and organisations for the exchange of information and publications.



IRCICA AS SEEN THROUGH THE EYES OF ITS FRIENDS AND VISITORS

Below are the contributions received from distinguished personalities of the Islamic world and friends of the Centre and guests, in the form of comments and observations. We would like to take this occasion to extend our thanks to all of them for their appreciative remarks, which encourage us in the pursuit of our objectives. We hope that the support and appreciation enjoyed by the Centre will be continual.



Message by H.E. Mr. Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, Secretary General of OIC

"The establishment of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture five years ago was a significant step in the collective efforts pursued by the Islamic Ummah to preserve, protect, revive and promote understanding and knowledge of its history, art and culture. It was indeed appropriate that the Centre should be located in Istanbul - a city which has witnessed the zenith of Islamic

civilisation and culture and bears to this day, in its magnificent monuments, palaces and gardens - an enormous treasure of Islamic art and culture.

During a short span of five years, the Istanbul Centre has achieved remarkable progress and growth, fully justifying the expectations entertained at the time of its establishment. Due to generous support from the Government of the Republic of Turkey which offered splendid buildings exemplifying the splendour of Islamic architecture for the Centre's headquarters, and the dedicated hard work of the small but talented team, headed by Professor Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, the Centre has already earned for itself the status and stature of a dynamic institution, contributing to the revival and promotion of Islamic history, art and culture.

The Istanbul Centre has undertaken impressive research work in various aspects and facets of Islamic art and culture. It has carried out projects, such as the publication of a Directory of Islamic Cultural Institutions, holding of exhibitions, symposia and seminars pertaining to Islamic arts and established cooperative relations with a large number of organisations, institutions and centres, within the Islamic world and outside, engaged in the study and development of Islamic arts and culture.

In its capacity as the Secretariat of the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage, the Istanbul Centre plays a vital role in motivating,

promoting and encouraging a variety of efforts which serve to open up new vistas of scholarly research in Islamic culture and arts and create growing awareness of the vitality and continued relevance of Islamic arts.

The Istanbul Centre's "Newsletter" has been performing the admirable task of informing scholars, students and the general public about the activities of the Centre. I wish both the Istanbul Centre and its "Newsletter" further success in their endeavours."

H.E.Mr.Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada,
Secretary General of OIC



"On the occasion of the fifth year of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture in Istanbul, I am happy to express to the Centre's Director General Prof.Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu and his colleagues my sincere congratulations and my appreciation for the work they realised in such a short period, which is an unparalleled accomplishment.

I visited the Centre two times and had the pleasure to see the sincerity of its staff and their firm will to realise the Centre's objectives. Activities undertaken by

the Centre since five years and its publications constitute important contributions to efforts made in order to highlight the multiple aspects of our glorious Islamic civilisation, to introduce it to Muslims as well as the whole world.

May God Almighty help the Centre to continue serving the Islamic spirit, paving the way of serious work for the future generations. I renew my appreciation and congratulations to the Director General and his colleagues and wish them all the success." (Original: Arabic)

H.R.H. Crown Prince Hassan bin Tallal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan



"Undoubtedly, the heritage of the Islamic Ummah is its rich civilisation. The elements of its renaissance, its identity and the basis of its future advancement are rooted in this civilisation. For centuries, the heritage of the Islamic Ummah contributed to the enrichment of human civilisation. It could face the numerous problems it encountered thanks to its reliance on its sublime Charter, the Quran and its intellectual heritage. Muslims attribute due attention to their civilisation and try to protect it, endeavouring at

the same time to promote their heritage. Even if these efforts arrived late, after the loss of a great part of the heritage, the essential is that they give positive results now. In the performance of its tasks, the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture affiliated to the OIC emphasizes these Islamic principles and values which enrich our cultural life.

During the last five years, the work of the Centre was in continuous progress, especially after the Turkish Government allocated three historical buildings as its premises, performing thus an Islamic duty. This allowed the Centre to achieve remarkable progress; an authentic library was established, comprising thousands of books and original manuscripts and using modern techniques such as the computer facilities. The Centre became thus a unit of scholarly research and a source of knowledge.

I am pleased to observe that the publications of the Centre reflect the precision and qualifications of its staff. Let me mention, in this context, the books titled "Muslim Pious Foundations and Real Estates in Palestine", "World Bibliography of Translations of the Meaning of the Holy Quran" and "Catalogue of Islamic Medical Manuscripts". The Newsletter published in three languages is, in its simplicity, one of the Centre's important accomplishments. It gives information about the Islamic world and constitutes a register of events relating to the Islamic civilisation. I take this occasion to thank you for devoting some pages of the Newsletter to the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage, of which I have the honour to assume the Chairmanship. I would like to thank especially Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu and

his colleagues at the Centre, on behalf of the members of the Commission, for this initiative that I consider as a manifestation of the spirit of cooperation required by Islam.

While endeavouring for the revival of Islamic heritage, it is necessary to highlight all efforts made and projects undertaken by the Heritage Commission and those working at the Centre are fully conscious of this necessity. May God help them in their work and show them the right path."
(Original: Arabic)

H.R.H. Prince Faisal Bin Fahd Bin Abdulaziz, General President of Youth Welfare of Saudi Arabia, and Chairman of the OIC International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage

"Since its establishment, the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture has achieved remarkable progress as a subsidiary organ of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference. The Centre makes fruitful efforts to re-write the Islamic history correctly and objectively in order to pass it to future generations. Within the same context, it studies the valuable historical documents existing in the libraries, archives and museums of Turkey and publishes catalogues and books to introduce these documents to the world of learning and enable Muslims to utilise their own sources.

The Turkish Government extends a continual support to this Centre which forms a solid bridge among Islamic countries based on their common culture. One manifestation of the Turkish Government's support and confidence has been the allocation of three buildings within the historical complex of Yıldız

Palace as the Centre's premises. The Centre restored these buildings in accordance with their original form and this has been a contribution to the preservation of Islamic architectural heritage.

We are proud to be the host country of this institution which contributes greatly to the establishment of close relationships between Turkey and other Islamic countries. I wish all the success to the Centre's Director General Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu and his colleagues." (Original: Turkish)

H.E. Mr. Vahit Halefoğlu
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the
Republic of Turkey

"Five years have elapsed since the establishment of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture. This is a short period, but how rich in events! ... The Centre accomplished important work aiming to introduce the Islamic civilisation which, as an authentic and original unity, had great influences on world civilisation. The studies of the Centre are, per se, valuable contributions for humanity and civilisation; the Centre's efforts in the field of information are geared to bring different aspects of Islamic culture out of oblivion. The publications of the Centre present in-depth information and they represent Islamic civilisation by providing irrefutable proof about its humanistic and modern objectives. I wish that the Centre continues on the same lines in order to realise the desired objectives of Islamic renaissance. This is not impossible at all for a group of eminent Muslim scientists who have put their capabilities at the service of their nation and the future of their people." (original: Arabic)

H.E. Mr. Bechir Bin Slama
Minister of Cultural Affairs
of the Republic of Tunisia

"I would like to express my appreciation for all efforts you make in the fields of research and publication, as well as in the area of library and documentation services and archives and at the computer unit. I am happy to observe that a continuous cooperation exists between us in the realisation of our tasks in the fields of Islamic history, art and culture." (Original: Arabic)

H.E. Dr. Mohammed Al-Ahmad Abu Nour,
Minister of State for Waqfs
of the Arab Republic of Egypt

"At the end of the fifth year of establishment of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture, I am pleased to convey my best wishes and congratulations to the Centre's staff members and express my appreciation of their activities. During my visit at the Centre one year ago, I observed their unceasing efforts and constant eagerness to complete the necessary preparations for each research project on different subjects relating to Islamic culture. I also witnessed the preparation of catalogues and the classification of the reference works about different aspects of Islamic civilisation and I am in the opinion that the volume of work undertaken exceeds the limits of the modest manpower and budgetary availabilities of the Centre. This is an indication of the sincerity and devotion of the staff. I would like to compliment the Centre's personnel and especially its Director General Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, whose incentive is the main factor in the accomplishments of the Centre. In the words of the poet, "If you observe the crescent grow, you'll be sure to see the full moon." (Original: Arabic)

Prof. Dr. Mohammed Marouf
Al-Dawalibi, Advisor to His
Majesty the King of Saudi Arabia

"The Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture under the directorship of Prof. Dr. E. Ihsan-oğlu is a cultural bridge among Muslim countries. This is a very important mission especially under today's conditions: unfortunately, what predominates in international relations is dissension and loosening. The Centre represents an initiative to reinforce brotherly relations in the cultural, artistic and intellectual areas. I therefore commend the Centre and its staff and wish that God Almighty may guide them for the good and the fruitful." (Original: Arabic)

H.R.H. Princess Wijdan Ali
President of the Royal Association
of Fine Arts, Amman, Jordan

"On the occasion of the publication of this special issue, I am pleased to welcome this initiative as a contribution to the success of the Centre and to the presentation of the important work achieved by the Centre since its establishment for the promotion of the glorious Islamic civilisation. Editors of the Newsletter and those who direct this Centre have explained their objectives and work in general but not in detail because of their modesty. However, it is necessary to introduce one's work; this has been ordered by God.

It is a task to collect information on Islamic heritage and to endeavour for its revival and promotion, since the knowledge and inspiration this heritage can provide would guide us in our daily life. It would also contribute to the establishment of a correct consciousness of our history; without it, how could we face a reality of

which we ignore the roots and different elements? Calmate, French historian, said that "the present contains the past and the future at the same time".

We intend to be conscious of what renaissance and development requires, in the light of the elements of our reality, the ambiguities of our time and the requirements of our objectives.

I would like to conclude my message by expressing my respect to those who work at the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture and I wish that this institution may be in constant progress and realise its objectives; I also wish that the young Newsletter develops continuously and be successful."

H.E. Mr. Othman Laouani, Ambassador
of Tunisia in Ankara, Turkey

"The period of five years that elapsed since the establishment of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture should not be viewed in terms of the number of years but as to its fertility. ... This brief period is full of accomplishments which would normally take more time and require more funds; they have been made possible thanks to the devotion and high morals of the Centre's staff. The ideas and decisions that were put forward at the outset necessitated continuous work and they finally concretized in this Centre, in appropriate premises comprising a rich library and housing cultural activities and original studies which attract the interest of researchers all over the world. The international symposium on Islamic

arts organised by the Centre in 1983 is particularly worth mentioning, since it will always be remembered as one of the most important events in the Islamic world.

The Centre has properly understood the objectives and tasks assigned to it and endeavours with sincerity for their realisation. The Centre's tasks cover large fields of study and what it has done until now shows that the Centre has become one of the focal points of Islamic intellectual and artistic development, managed using modern methods, so that its work could join efforts deployed in other parts of the world in order to ensure an even more brilliant future.

The route of research about the history of civilisation, the secrets of arts and the horizons of Islamic culture is long. We hope that the work programmes for the next five years will be full of projects which may ensure the realisation of the Centre's noble objectives as required by the OIC. The activities of the Centre are supervised by a Council composed of eminent Islamic scholars and experts in different fields of Islamic culture and arts. The first Council adopted the general work programmes. The Director General of the Centre Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu very efficiently ensured the execution of these programmes and the expansion of the activities to such an extent that the Centre published a complete inventory of all attempts to translate the Quran, in the form of a Bibliography of Quran Translations covering 2672 works. The Centre also published other catalogues. An indication of the con-

fidence enjoyed by the Centre is that it has been assigned still another function, that of the Secretariat and Executive Organ of the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage chaired by H.R.H. Prince Faisal Bin Fahd Bin Abdulaziz. The first projects of this Commission are the King Fahd Award for Design and Research in Islamic Architecture, the Calligraphy Competition and the publication of a special issue on Islamic heritage of an international journal.

Hence, the Centre has a great potential to disseminate information about cultural and artistic heritage and to protect and promote this heritage in every possible way.

The moral support extended by the General Secretariat of OIC and at its head the Secretary General H.E. Mr. Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, and the material support of the Government of Turkey are important factors of encouragement for the Centre's staff. I am confident that future activities of the Centre, to be undertaken under the supervision of its new Governing Council, will be characterized by the same devotion. May God give them success." (Original: Arabic)

Dr. Afif Bahnassi, Director General of Museums and Antiquities, Aleppo, Syria, and President of the First Governing Council of IRCICA

"I was honoured and pleased to participate in the work of the First Governing Council of IRCICA. With God's permission, we took many important decisions as members of

the First Governing Council and the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage chaired by H.R.H. Prince Faisal bin Fahd bin Abdulaziz. Despite the limited budgetary and manpower availabilities, these decisions were executed very efficiently and seriously by my brother Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Director General of the Centre and Secretary of the said Commission. May God bless him and the distinguished members of the Governing Council and the Heritage Commission for the efforts made at the service of Islam. I would like to invite Islamic countries to pay their contributions to the budget of the Centre so that the latter may continue to perform its tasks. Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the Turkish Government for its moral and material support which played an important role in the Centre's success." (Original: Arabic)

Dr. Salah Al-Mahdi, Director of Cultural Activities of Tunisia and member of the First Governing Council of IRCICA

"The Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture located in one of the famous palaces of Istanbul will certainly draw from this city some of the elements of its work and the main impetus for the realisation of its objectives, since numerous reference sources relating to the Centre's fields of study exist in Istanbul. Although it is very young, the Centre already achieved even more work than it was expected, as indicated by the Newsletter it publishes in order to explain its activities and completed projects. The Newsletter also introduces eminent contemporary scholars and researchers who contribute to the Islamic civilisation with their works in fields

in which Muslims had excelled at the apogee of their civilisation".

Al-Qadi Ismail bin Ali Al-Akwa
Director, Libraries and Archeological Museums, Sana'a, Yemen A.R.

"I am proud and pleased to remember the days when, during my functions as the Under-Secretary for the Minister of Culture, we undertook preparations and endeavoured, together with the Minister H.E. Rifki Danişman, for the success of the 7th Islamic Conference which met on 12-15 May 1976 in Istanbul, so that it gives the results that the glorious and dignified Islamic Ummah deserves. ... Both proceedings and results of the Conference were really fruitful and it was decided that two Islamic centres be established in Turkey: the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture in Istanbul-IRCICA and the Statistical and Economic Research Centre in Ankara. ... Since its establishment, IRCICA developed fast and became a full-fledged institution, thanks to its modern methods of operation, its communication network which encompasses the entire Islamic world, its rich library administered through modern techniques and its computerized composition and printing facilities helped in this rapid achievement. The Centre undertakes research about the history, art, culture, references and other particularities of the whole Islamic world. It published numerous works and brochures in these fields; other books are in preparation. The Centre also organises seminars, exhibitions and courses and tries to support and promote cultural and artistic activities ... ". (Original: Turkish)

Prof.Dr. Emin Bilgiç, Faculty Member, Faculty of Letters, History and Geography, Ankara University; member of the First Governing Council of IRCICA

"It was a pleasure to see [at the Centre] the spirit of dedication to Islamic scholarship as well as to the rich civilisation of Islam. The institute is in my view a model for other institutions of Islamic learning everywhere. The library, like the rest of the institute, is very efficiently managed and without any superfluties. ... It is my hope that other Islamic groups and governments will contribute in every way possible towards the enhancement of the institute and its facilities. Only as we learn about our past can we build a better future." (Original: Arabic)

Dr. Mahmoud Ayoub, School of Graduate Studies, Centre for Religious Studies, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

"... Your Newsletter constitutes a valuable source of news about culture, art and history. It represents one of the important achievements made by the Organisation of the Islamic Conference since the establishment of the Centre in Istanbul five years ago. ... The Islamic world should welcome and appreciate the existence of this Centre which continuously expands its activities. The important researches of this Centre are beneficial not only for experts in these subjects but also for people dealing with Islamic subjects all over the world. ..." (Original: Arabic)

Mr. Zaki Ali, M.D.
Geneva, Switzerland

"... The Centre is excellently contributing to the promotion of the study and research in Islamic culture and civilisation. ... Books published by the Centre are remarkable contributions to knowledge and are to be well received in

academic circles. ... Its library is also very rich and the use of computer in its library procedures and in research activities is noteworthy. Therefore, the Director General of the Centre, Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu and his colleagues are to be congratulated for doing meritorious effort to promote academic works and it is hoped that the Centre will develop expertise on every aspect of Islamic history, art and culture in the near future."

Dr. Akmal Ayyubi
Institute of Islamic Studies
Aligarh Muslim University, India

"I received your invitation for comments and observations ... IRCICA Newsletter is doing well. I receive it regularly and it keeps my knowledge up-to-date. ... Which are the organisations, and who are persons joining them, aiming to revive the Islamic heritage; what logical and systematic steps are being taken in the Muslim world for such revival; I think IRCICA Newsletter should have a longer "Newsnose" on such aspects ..."

Ikram Gelani
Lahore, Pakistan

"I was delighted to know, through your Newsletter No.10, that the forthcoming issue of the Newsletter will be a special issue to celebrate your five successful years. On this occasion, I suggest that IRCICA Newsletter be published quarterly instead of three issues a year ... "

M.S. Nizami
Karachi, Pakistan

Excerpts from observations
recorded in the Centre's Book
by the distinguished visitors

"It is a great pleasure for me to be visiting this Centre you have built up. Do carry on the excellent work. May Allah bless all your efforts."

H.E. Tan Sri Abdul Rahman Jalal
Assistant Secretary General for
Economic Affairs
Organisation of Islamic Conference
(OIC) 17 March 1986



"I would like to commend and express my appreciation for the activities of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture, which functions under the direction of Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu and with the extensive support of the Islamic World and the assistance of the Turkish Government. The products of the valuable work of this institution are disseminated from this significant part of Istanbul to the Islamic countries as well as all over the world ... Congratulating all those who work at this Centre, I wish the continuation of their successful work."

H.E. Mr. M. Vehbi Dinçerler, Minister
of State of Turkey 3 April 1986

"I am honoured and proud to see the considerable efforts made by Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu in order to preserve and revive the Islamic heritage. In the name of our Pales-

tinian people - which lived in Palestine, was moved away from it and struggles to return to this land - which has been the cradle of many civilisations - I have the honour to welcome the efforts of Dr. Ekmeleddin and commend his important work in the service of the Islamic Ummah as well as world civilisation."

Mr. Abou Firaz
Representative of the Palestine
Liberation Organisation
Ankara 13 March 1986

"The information I received about activities of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture makes me proud. The work of the Centre contributes greatly to the presentation of the Turkish-Islamic synthesis, in scientific and appropriate form, to the Islamic and Western world. ..."

Mr. Ismail Hakkı Batuk, Advisor
to the President of the Republic
of Turkey 10 March 1986

"I am happy to be visiting this Centre and especially to observe the regular efforts made in perfect solidarity in order to preserve Islamic heritage and civilisation. Meeting those who work at this Centre, one thanks God for entrusting them the task of protecting our civilisation and culture."

Mustafa Jasem Al-Shamali, Assistant
Under-Secretary of Economic
Affairs, Ministry of Finance and
Economy, Kuwait 11 March 1986

"I was very impressed with the activities and the library that I saw at the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture. I wish all the success to the Centre in its work."

Dr. Vladimir I. Danilov, Academy
of Sciences of the U.S.S.R., Ins-
titute of Oriental Studies
Moscow, U.S.S.R. 12 February 1986

SIXTEENTH ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Sixteenth Islamic Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Member States of OIC was held in Fez, Kingdom of Morocco, on 6-10 January 1986. The Conference dealt with the numerous points on its agenda in the political, economic, cultural and social as well as administrative and organisational fields and took important resolutions reviewing activities accomplished until now and determining future work and action. It also examined the activity reports and work programmes submitted by its different commissions, subsidiary organs and affiliated agencies.

H.E. Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, Secretary General of the OIC addressed the inaugural session of the Conference and reviewed the activities undertaken since the Fifteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers which was held in Sana'a, Yemen A.R. in December 1984. The Secretary General also pointed out the recent political and economic developments that occurred on the international scene and the situation of Muslim minorities living in non-Muslim countries.

Having reviewed the activity report and work programme submitted by IRCICA, the Conference took the Resolution No.19/16-C concerning the Centre. By this resolution, the Conference approved the new members of the Governing Council of the Centre which have been elected for a mandate of three years; it also

- Commended the exemplary efforts of the Centre as represented by its continuous achievements and innovative and distinctive work in the fields of research and publication as well as in the field of library, documentation, archives and information unit services;
- Also commended the efforts made by the Centre to restore the "Yaveran Building" which has graciously been given to the Centre by the Turkish Government;
- Approved the report which includes the plan of action of the Centre for the current year.
- Expressed thanks and appreciation to the host country for the material and moral support it has constantly extended to the Centre thus enabling it to optimally perform its tasks.
- Expressed its thanks to the Islamic personalities and institutions, inside and outside the headquarters country, and the Islamic Da'wa Association for having contributed to the implementation of the first phase of restoration of the "Yaveran Building" and appeals to Member States and to Islamic institutions and personalities to make generous donations to the Centre for the implementation of the second phase of this restoration project.
- Paid tribute to the fruitful efforts made by the Director General of the Centre and to his constant eagerness to see the Centre achieve the noble objectives for which it was established.

RECENT IRCICA ACTIVITIES

SYMPOSIUM ON TRANSLATIONS OF THE MEANING OF THE QURAN, ISTANBUL

The World Islamic Call Society, based in Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and the OIC Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) organised jointly an "International Symposium on Translations of the Meaning of the Holy Quran". The symposium was held in Istanbul on 21-23 March 1986. It was inaugurated at the Atatürk Cultural Centre; working sessions were held at IRCICA's conference hall.

H.E.Mr. Kazım Oksay, Minister of State of Turkey and H.E.Mr.Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, Secretary General of OIC inaugurated the meeting. In his speech, the Minister of State of Turkey expressed his appreciation of the activities

undertaken by IRCICA and commended the "World Bibliography of Translations of the Meaning of the Holy Quran" published recently by the Centre, wishing that it would be useful for the Islamic world. H.E. Mr.Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, Secretary General of OIC underlined the importance of studies in the field of Quran translations and wished that the meeting would give fruitful results that could pave the way for new studies and activities. Addressing the inaugural ceremony, the Secretary General of the World Islamic Call Society Prof.Dr. Muhammed Ahmed Al-Shariff pointed out the importance of the symposium's subject matter and the necessity of promoting studies in this area. Prof.Dr. Ekmeleddin

KUR'ANI KERİMİN TERCÜMESİ KONULU ULUSLARARASI SEMPOZYUM

الندوة العالمية حول ترمجمات معاني القرآن الكريم

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON TRANSLATIONS OF THE MEANINGS OF THE HOLY QURAN



From left to right: H.E.Mr.Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, OIC Secretary General; H.E.Mr.Kazım Oksay, Minister of State of Turkey; H.E.Prof.Dr.Muhammed A. Al-Shariff, Secretary General, World Islamic Call Society and IRCICA Director General



*View of the opening session of the
Symposium on Quran Translations*

Ihsanoğlu, IRCICA Director General gave information on the Centre's research project on Quran translations and gave some of the findings of the Centre's studies. He thanked the World Islamic Call Society for its contributions in printing the Quran translations bibliography prepared by the Centre.

Scholars from different parts of the Islamic world participated at the symposium. The following studies were presented, in the order of presentation:

- Prof. Dr. Mohammed Hamidullah, "The Meaning of the Holy Qur'an for Non-Arabic Speaking People"
- Prof. Dr. Mahmoud Ayoub, "Translating the Meaning of the Holy Qur'an: Traditional Opinion and Modern Debates"
- Dr. Hassan Ma'ayergi, "The Translations of the Holy Quran in Polish"
- Bekir Sadak, "Translations of the Holy Qur'an in Yugoslavia"
- El-Hadj A. Kerim Saitoh, "Report on Translations (Tafsir) of Holy Qur'an into Japanese Language"

- Dr. Maurice Bucaille, "Reflections on Mistaken Ideas Spread by Orientalists through Mis-translations of the Qur'an"
- Feti Mehdio, "The Translations of the Qur'an in Albanian"
- Dr. Fuat al-Ka'bazi, "Importance of Scholarly Exegesis of Qur'an to Call to Islam in the West"
- Dr. Ismet Ersöz, "Elmalılı Mehmed Yazır and his Tafsir"
- Dr. Aly Nour, "The Translations of the Meaning of the Holy Qur'an in Greek Language"
- Dr. Osman Kim, "The Holy Qur'an must be Translated for the Non-Arabic Speaking People"
- Dr. Munawwar Ahmad Anees, "Universal Bibliographical Control of Islamic Studies through Automated Data Bases"
- Dr. Abdulhakim Tabibi, "The Translation of the Holy Qur'an"
- Dr. Ali Hassanein, "A Brief History of the Translations of the Meaning of the Holy Quran"
- Halit Eren, "The Purpose in Translating the Meanings of the Holy Qur'an and Purposeful Translations"
- Ziauddin Sardar, "What do we Look for in English Transla-

tions of the Quran"

- Muhammed Sheikhan, "Orientalists and their Role in the Translation of the Quran"
- Dr. Bedreddin Çetiner, "The Translation of Quranic Interpretations in Turkey: an Outline"
- Prof. Dr. Zaki Badawi, "The role of the Tafsir and Translation of the Qur'an in the work of the Dawa'a"
- Dr. Thomas Irving, on the translations of the Quran
- S.A. Ali, "Translations of the Untranslatable"
- Dr. Parwiz Mansur, "The Translations of the Holy Quran in Swedish"
- Dr. Ali Fahmy Khushaim, "Is there Qur'an in languages other than Arabic?"
- Dr. Mahmud Abu Dhuma, "Qur'an as a Source of Islamic Thought and Defense against Orientalism"

Papers presented at the symposium will be published in the form of a book.

In the final report of the meeting, participants expressed the need to make efforts towards acquainting Muslims all over the world with Arabic language, given that it is the language in which the Holy Qur'an was revealed. They requested the World Islamic Call Society to undertake research work about the translations of the Quran by forming a committee to be called the "Holy Qur'an Committee". This committee would be charged with the examination, evaluation and assessment of the translations of the meaning of the Holy Qur'an and may collaborate with the Islamic institutions interested in the subject. The participants also commended the "World Bibliography of Translations of the Meaning of the Holy Quran" published by IRCICA and invited support to this Centre in the realisation of the subsequent

phases of its project, concerning oral and manuscript translations of the Quran.

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE IN SOUTH ASIA, ISLAMABAD

The Islamic University Islamabad, Pakistan and the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) organised jointly an international seminar on the theme of "Islamic History, Art and Culture in South Asia". The seminar was held on 26-28 March 1986 in Islamabad. The inauguration ceremony took place at the Auditorium of the University Grants Commission under the auspices of H.E. Zia ul Haq, President of Pakistan, and continued at the conference hall of Islamabad Hotel. Nearly 30 outstanding scholars, researchers and experts from Bangladesh, Canada, England, India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Turkey and U.S.A. attended the seminar and presented papers on a wide range of subjects.

President of the Islamic University, Dr. Mohammed Afzal welcomed the President of Pakistan H.E. Zia ul Haq, the Secretary General of OIC H.E. Mr. Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada and all participants at the seminar. He said that a universal outlook at the Muslim history and culture would reveal how great were Muslim contributions to world civilisation, making us proud inheritants of Islamic knowledge, arts, architecture and science. He explained that although the parameters of Islamic culture are determined by God, within these limits a Muslim has full liberty of capacity creation and capacity utilisation. He also informed the audience of his University's plans

to establish an independent faculty for Muslim history and culture. Then, Director General of IRCICA Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu took the floor and emphasized the importance of writing the Islamic history in the most correct way so that plain truth may be presented to coming generations. He said that one of the reasons why our Islamic Community has remained strong and firm is that events were always recorded on the basis of observations, with truthfulness and without delay. He explained that the Centre, being aware of the importance of making original sources available to historians, tries to serve this purpose by publishing bibliographies, catalogues and indexes for old manuscripts, books, periodicals and annals and that it also endeavours to throw light on important collections of antiquities such as arms, coins, documents and clothes which are kept in museums, as well as different architectural monuments. The Director General also gave an overview of other projects of the Centre and especially the series of books on Islamic history as written by Muslims.

H.E.Mr. Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, Secretary General of OIC addressed the inaugural session and said that the rich heritage of history, art and culture nurtured over centuries had spread to all parts of the world and that Islam had played a very important role in the social and intellectual development of millions of people. Then, H.E. Muhammad Zia ul Haq, President of Pakistan inaugurated the seminar. In his speech, the President asked the participants to identify a common ground for Islamic unity and called upon them to conceive the art and culture of Islamic countries within the indivisible universality of Islam. He emphasized that Islam is not just a methodology or religion confined to rituals; it is a universal "Deen".

Papers and discussions of the meeting dealt with contemporary and historic issues related to the subject matter. Drafts of the research papers were distributed during the meeting in two volumes; in the near future, a selection of these papers will be published in the form of a book. The papers are listed below:

- Dr. Abdullah Alterazi, Saudi Arabia, "Propagation of Islam by Arabs in the Indo-Pakistan Sub-Continent"
- Prof. Dr. Erdoğan Merçil, Turkey, "The Policy of Ghaznavids in India"
- Dr. Yasin Mazar Siddiqi, India, "Ulema's Role in the Spread of Islam"
- Dr. Mumtaz Ahmad, U.S.A., "Tablighi Jamaat in the Indo-Pakistan Sub-Continent"
- Dr. Omar Khalidi, U.S.A., "Conversion to Islam in the Dakan: Historical Perspective and Contemporary Problems"
- Dr. Malik Mujahid, U.S.A., "Conversion to Islam in India"
- Mr. Moulavi Kalideen, Sri Lanka, "Sri Lanka and the Muslim Community"
- Dr. Abdullah Al Ahsan, U.S.A., "Spread of Islam in Pre-Mughal Bengal"
- Dr. A.K.M. Yaqub Ali, Bangladesh, "Muslim Population of Sultani Bengal: Identity and Racial Origin"
- Dr. Mim Kemal Öke, Turkey, "Turkish Decision for Secularisation and the Question of Muslim Unity"
- Prof. A.F.M. Obaidur Rehman, Bangladesh, "The Shariat ma'arifat Dichotomy and its Impact on the Folk Culture in Bangladesh"
- Prof. M. Iqbal Ansari, India, "The Faraidi Movement and its Role in the Development of Islamic Culture in East Bengal"
- Dr. Akhlaq Ahmad, India, "Education in Medieval India - A Critical Study"



Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Director General of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture, Istanbul, presenting a publication of the Centre to President Mohammad Zia ul-Haq in Islamabad during the seminar

- Dr. Talat Sultan, U.S.A., "Education and Community Development in Pakistan: an Historical Analysis of Community-School Relationship in Pakistan upto 1970"
- Dr. A.Q.M. Shamsul Alam, Bangladesh, "Urdu as the Medium of Instruction - A Case Study of the Role of Osmania University, Hyderabad, India"
- Dr. Manzoor Ahmad, Pakistan, "Islamic Response to Contemporary Western Thought"
- Prof. Khalid Bin Sayeed, Canada, "Regional/Ethnic Identity and Islamic Identity in the Development of Pakistan"
- Prof. Dr. Theodore P. Wright, Jr., U.S.A., "Hindu Stereotypes of Islam and Muslims in South Asia"
- Dr. Abdul Haq Ansari, Saudi Arabia, "The Philosophy of the Islamic Shari'ah - A Study of Shah Wali Ullah's Hujjatullah Al-Baligha"
- Dr. A.H. Dani, Pakistan, "Spread of Islam and Culture Dynamics in the Northern Areas of Pakistan"
- Prof. Dr. Anis Ahmad, Pakistan, "Islamic Cultural Alternative"
- Dr. Manzar Ahsan, England, "The Penetration of Islam in South Asia: the Case of Bengal"
- Dr. Nisar Ahmad, Pakistan, "South Asian Muslim Response to Orientalist's Studies of Sirah"
- Prof. Dr. Yusuf Abbasi, Pakistan, "Imperialistic Challenge to Muslims of South Asia in the 19th Century and their Response"
- Dr. Qadeer Baig, Canada, "Shaykh Ahmad Sirhindi's position on Shariah as the Quintessential Source of Guidance".

Simultaneously with the seminar, IRCICA organised an exhibition to present its publications, the posters relating to its exhibitions and different documents introducing its activities. The exhibition was opened on the first day of the seminar, next to the Auditorium of the University Grants Commission. H.E. Zia ul Haq, President of Pakistan and participants at the meeting visited the exhibition. After the inauguration, the exhibition was moved to Islamabad Hotel where working sessions were held.

New collection of photographs
donated to IRCICA

Recently, the collection of photographs of Lieutenant General Ömer Fahreddin Türkkan (Fahreddin Paşa) (1868-1948) was donated to the Centre by his sons Major-General (Ret.) Selim Türkkan and Brigadier General (Ret.) Orhan Türkkan. The collection is in the form of original films of about 250 photographs.



Fahreddin Pasha was known for his services as commander of the army during the Hijaz operation in World War I and defender of Medina between 1916 and 1919. He had been the Ambassador of Turkey in Afghanistan between 1922 and 1926.

Fahreddin Pasha was at the same time a lover of the art of photography, which he practiced during his life. He had followed photography courses in his youth. His rich collection is composed of photographs he had taken while he was stationed in different parts of the Islamic world and showing Islamic monuments, different aspects of social life, military training and the like.

IRCICA would like to take this occasion to express its gratitude to Fahreddin Paşa's sons Major-General (Ret.) Selim Türkkan and Brigadier General (Ret.) Orhan Türkkan for donating this precious collection to the Centre.

The collection includes historical photographs showing, among others, the military training carried out in Medina and its surroundings, the geographical situation and architectural monuments of the city of Medina and Fahreddin Paşa's contacts with the tribes.



*Fahreddin Pasha at a ceremony
at Masjid Al-Nabawi*

SPOTLIGHT ON CULTURAL NEWS

RECENT OIC ACTIVITIES

The OIC fora was very rich in activities during the last couple of months. Some of the most important gatherings where concrete steps were taken to develop cooperation among the Member States were the Second Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) and the Second Ministerial Meeting on Food Security and Agricultural Development. These two meetings were held simultaneously on 14-16 March 1986 in Istanbul. The Second Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development reviewed activities undertaken since the first conference, which was held in October 1981 in Ankara, evaluated the recent developments in the food and agricultural situation of the Member States and made recommendations to develop cooperation in order to solve the problems and to promote self-sufficiency in food.

The OIC Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC), chaired by H.E. Kenan Evren, President of the Republic of Turkey, is one of the three standing committees established by the Third Islamic Summit Conference held in Mecca and Taif, Saudi Arabia in January 1981. The other two committees are the Standing Committee for Scientific and Technical Cooperation chaired by H.E. Zia ul Haq, President of Pakistan and the Permanent Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs chaired by H.E. Abdou Diouf, President of Senegal.

COMCEC had met for the first time on 14-16 November 1984 in Istanbul. In September 1985, a follow-up

committee had reviewed the implementation of decisions of the first meeting. The second session of the COMCEC was attended by the Ministers and high-level officials of the Member States in charge with economic issues, representatives of OIC subsidiary organs and affiliated agencies and delegates of international organisations. The meeting was inaugurated by H.E. Kenan Evren, President of Turkey and Chairman of COMCEC. H.E. Mr. Turgut Özal, Prime Minister of Turkey and H.E. Mr. Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, Secretary General of OIC also addressed the inaugural as well as closing sessions of the meeting. During the working sessions, the Committee dealt with various issues related to commercial and industrial cooperation and economic cooperation agreements among Member States.

Recommendations of the Committee concern, among others, trade financing, establishment of a trade information network, identification and implementation of joint ventures among Member States, as well as measures in support of Palestine and the OIC Member States stricken by drought and other natural calamities. Measures in favour of Palestine include the provision of facilities and preferential treatment to encourage the marketing of Palestinian products. To alleviate problems of drought-stricken Member States, the Committee recommended to intensify the efforts already made and to structure such assistance in a manner to improve the production potentials of drought-stricken countries.

EGYPT

Scholarships to Muslim students in 75 countries

Minister of State for Waqfs H.E. Dr. Al-Ahmadi Abu Nur declared that the High Council of Islamic Affairs would allocate scholarships to Muslim students in 75 countries for studies on Islamic sciences. The aim of the programme is to develop Egypt's relations with other countries and contribute to the promotion of Islamic studies.

FRANCE

Calligraphic exhibition

Well-known Iraqi calligrapher Abdelgani Al-Any's third exhibition in Paris took place from 23 April to 4 May 1986. In the display hall visitors could at the same time listen to Arab-oriental music. His calligraphies made on paper and papyrus attracted great interest.

INDIA

Symposium on Islamic Literature

The Muslim World League (Rabita) organised a Symposium at the headquarters of the Association of Scientists in Lagano, India in January 1986, under the presidency of Sheikh Abou Hassan Nadawi, President of the Association. Around 30 research papers were presented, mainly about the Islamic literature and commentaries. Among the participants from various Islamic countries, there were also the representatives of twelve universities of India. Some of the studies dealt with the role of tales in educating children, the Islamic aspects of science-fiction, Islamic criteria to be followed in commentaries, etc.

JORDAN

Islamic Civilisation Research Prize in the name of King Abdullah

The Royal Academy of Islamic Civilisation Research of Jordan (Al-Albait Foundation) organises a competition for the "Abdullah bin Al-Hussain Prize for Islamic Civilisation Research", to be held once every two years.

The theme of the first competition is: "The Principality of North Jordan: its origins and evolution in a quarter of a Century (1921-1946)." An award of 3000 JD will be given to the winner, as well as a plaque bearing the name and logo of the competition. The deadline for entries is the end of November 1987. Information about the competition can be requested by writing to: Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al-Albait Foundation), P.O.Box 95.361, Amman, Jordan.

MALAYSIA

Congress of Muslim Librarians and Information Scientists

The newly established Universiti Utara Malaysia will organise a Congress of Muslim Librarians and Information Scientists on 11-13 August 1986, in collaboration with the Association of Muslim Social Scientists (AMSS), the International Institute of Islamic Thought and other Islamic organisations. The venue of the congress will be the Universiti Utara Malaysia, Bandar Darulaman, Kedah, Malaysia.

The principal objectives of the congress are to assess the state of library and information services in Islamic countries, to determine their degree of efficiency in providing access to information for

the socio-economic and technological development of the Muslim world, to initiate action plans for better management and utilisation of information at national and international levels and to inaugurate the congress in order to serve as a regular forum for librarians and information scientists for the exchange of views and experiences. The main theme of the congress will be "Access to Information in the Muslim World". There will be paper presentations on various subjects centered at the following topics: access to information in Islamic studies, modalities and functions of an Islamic Information Centre, Islamic bases of a theory of librarianship and information services, literacy and reading habits, enhancing the quality and quantity of publications in the Muslim world, cooperation among libraries, modern technology in library and information services and institutionalisation of the Congress of Muslim Librarians and Information Scientists (COMLIS).

PAKISTAN

Fourth International on Islamic Medicine to be held in Karachi

The Fourth International Conference on Islamic Medicine will be held in Karachi, Pakistan on 9-13 November 1986. This conference is organised each year under the auspices of the Islamic Organisation for Medical Sciences, and constitutes an important forum where physicians and scientists from all countries meet to discuss a wide range of topics within the field of Islamic medicine. Papers and discussions at the fourth conference will deal with the following subjects:

- Heritage of Islamic Medicine, specifically emphasizing the history of Tibb al-Nabawi:

- attesting what was said by the Prophet (PBUH) in the area of medicine and references on this point,
- Muslim scientist's duty towards this heritage (research areas and documentation in this field, role of scientific researches derived from this heritage in scientific progress);
- Concepts of prevention and treatment.
- Applied research: applied aspects in Quranic and Prophetic texts, review of findings of scientific experiments, contribution of new information to medical practice concerning the things exhorted by Islam and those prohibited by Islam;
- The healing art in Islam is both a profession and a mission (medicine with legal decision and jurisprudence, the role of the physician to propagate Islamic concepts during his duty);
- Islamic concepts in preventive medicine.

Activities of World Muslim Congress on Palestine and the Muslim era in Spain

The World Muslim Congress (Motamar Al-Alam Al-Islami) based in Karachi, Pakistan organises different programmes to enlighten the general public about Palestine and the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people. We quote below from a letter received recently from the World Muslim Congress, inviting Muslim organisations to promote public awareness on the subject:

"The Jews continue to deteriorate the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the sacred inscriptions in Al-Quds Al-Sharif so that they collapse, allowing the Jews to build instead the monument of Soleiman. Thanks to God, nothing collapsed until now; however, it

should be kept in mind that they have already prepared the model of this monument and they continue to collect funds to this aim. ... We regularly give news about the subject in our weekly "The Muslim World" to draw the attention of Muslims to this question. ... In accordance with resolutions taken at the last OIC Conference, all branches of the World Muslim Congress organised meetings in Pakistan to inform the public about Zionist plots. ..."

In a second letter, the World Muslim Congress points out that in 1990, five centuries will have elapsed since the end of the Muslim era in Spain and invites Muslims to commemorate the event by organising meetings, preparing films and exhibitions and publishing books about the history of Muslim Spain. It is mentioned in the letter that Andalusia was once the land of philosophers and thinkers such as Averroes, Ibn Bija, Ibn Tufeil, Ibn Khaldun, Mohieddin Al-Arabi and Seyfeddin El-Emidi whose works were sources of inspiration for the West, and that commemoration activities would be useful in making known their scientific and intellectual contributions to world civilisation.

Pakistani Studies Centre in France

A friend of IRCICA reports from France that a "Research Centre for Pakistani Studies", containing also a library, was established in Paris last year. In November 1985, this Research Centre organised a conference about the great thinker, philosopher and poet of Islam, Iqbal.

PALESTINE

Palestinian Arts Exhibition in England

The British Friendship Association organised an exhibition of Pales-

tinian arts and crafts in London in December 1985. Numerous objects representing the traditional Palestinian arts and crafts were displayed at the exhibition, such as clothes, jewellery and pottery.

QATAR

Cultural Exhibition in Belgium

Simultaneously with the celebrations in Qatar on the occasion of the 14th Anniversary of the rule of H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Hamad Al-Thani as Amir of the State of Qatar, a cultural exhibition about Qatar was organised in Brussels, Belgium on 22-27 February 1986. The Ambassador of Qatar in Belgium H.E. Ahmed bin Ghanem inaugurated the exhibition which was visited by important personalities including Prince Albert.

The exhibition introduced the country by a great number of photographs showing historical mosques, the traditional architecture, people at work in different sectors of the economy such as fishing and petroleum extraction. A series of Qatari stamps, paintings of contemporary Qatari artists, examples of Qatari craftsmanship such as jewellery and arms were also on display. This was the first Qatari exhibition in Brussels.

Photographic exhibition in France

An exhibition of photographs on the theme of the traditional architecture of Qatar was held in Paris from 21 November to 20 December 1985. The exhibition was organised at the National Museum of French Monuments, with the collaboration of the Institute of the Arab World, within the framework of a cultural and scientific cooperation program undertaken since 1976 by Qatari authorities and a French archeological mission. The aim of the exhibition was to show how the traditional urban and rural architectural styles are threatened by

modern architectural models imported from the West.

SAUDI ARABIA

Sixth Conference of WAMY

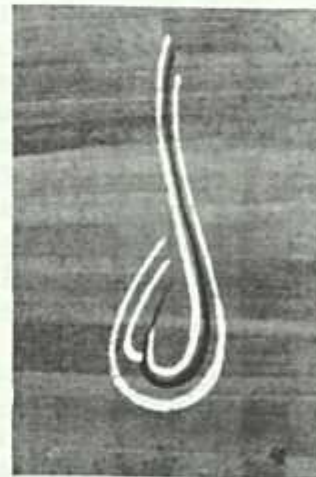
The Sixth International Conference of the World Assembly of Muslim Youth (WAMY) was held on 22-27 January 1986 in Riyadh. The theme of the conference was "Muslim Minorities in the World". Governor of Riyadh H.R.H. Sheikh Selman bin Abdulaziz opened the conference. 346 participants in total from 61 countries presented papers dealing with problems encountered by Muslim minorities in different regions of the world: U.S.S.R., China, India, Bulgaria, Africa, America etc. and the religious, political, social, economic, cultural and legal aspects of these problems. The conference made various recommendations, among others, to develop documentation, publications and flows of information about Muslim minorities, to elaborate a strategy in this field and to raise funds for investment projects aiming to create employment opportunities for Muslim minorities.

The Centre was represented by Mr. Halit Eren, Director of the library, who presented two papers: the first paper dealt with the situation of Muslim Turks in Bulgaria and the pressures of "Bulgarisation" exercised upon Muslims since World War II. The second paper was related to Muslim Turks in Western Thrace (Greece) and it emphasized that action taken by the Greek Government was in violation of the Treaty of Lausanne which guarantees the rights of Muslims in the fields of education and the administration of waqfs.

SWITZERLAND

Islamic arts exhibitions in Switzerland

After the magnificent Islamic arts exhibition held last summer in Geneva at Rath Museum, calligraphies of Mrs. Yolande Nami were presented at an exhibition held in Lausanne in November 1985. This exhibition contributed to better introduce this particular branch of Islamic arts by arousing the interest of visitors as well as press organs. The theme of the exhibition was the "Names of Allah" written in the special style of the artist.



*The Name of Allah written
by Mrs. Yolande Ömer Nami*

SYRIA

10th Symposium on the History of Arab Sciences

The Institute of Arab Scientific Heritage affiliated to the University of Aleppo organised its 10th International Symposium on the History of Arab Sciences on 22-24 April 1986 in Anikya.

The objective of the meeting was to provide a forum for paper pre-

sentations and discussions on the history of branches of sciences such as medicine and technology, fundamental research on the contributions made by Arabs in these fields and the importance of Arab scientists' works for scientific progress and development of civilisation.

Main topics were the following:

- Navigation;
- History of basic sciences: mathematics, chemistry, physics, botany, zoology, geology;
- Astrology;
- History of medicine and veterinary sciences;
- History of technology and industrial geometry, chemistry and ballistics.

TUNISIA

International Congress on the "Social Life of Arab Provinces in the Ottoman Period"

The Arab Committee of Ottoman Studies (ACOS) and the Centre of Studies and Researches on Arab Provinces During the Ottoman Period (CERPAO), both based in Tunis, Tunisia, organised jointly an international congress on the theme of "The Social Life of Arab Provinces and Their Documentary Sources During the Ottoman Period". The congress was held in Tunis on 15-21 March 1986, with the participation of researchers and scholars of different countries interested in this subject. 87 research papers were presented at the meeting, dealing with the social situation and social and agricultural reforms in different parts of the Islamic world. All papers were based on original and unpublished sources. Director General of IRCICA and Prof. Ahmed Isaa, his Advisor, represented IRCICA at this Congress. The Director General presented a paper entitled "A new

reference for the study of the Arab world at the end of the Ottoman period", introducing the historical photographs in the Yıldız Palace albums, which number more than thirty-five thousand and show the military, social and health organisations founded in Arab countries during the Ottoman period.

Fourth Meeting on Islamic-Christian Relations

The Economic and Social Studies Centre of Tunis University organised the 4th Meeting on Islamic-Christian Relations on 21-25 April 1986 in Tunis. The theme of the meeting was "Spirituality: an exigency of our century". The meeting aimed at providing an opportunity to scholars and researchers to express their views on religious and spiritual questions which are on the international intellectual agenda. Main topics were:

- The concepts of spiritual life and their relations with religion;
- Spiritual deficiency of our time: reality or hypothesis?;
- Spiritual education;
- Spiritual bases of political activity;
- The place of spiritual factors in the international dialogue among peoples.

U.S.A.

Exhibitions by an American Muslim calligrapher

Dr. Mohammed Zakariya, American Muslim artist, will display his calligraphies during the month of April 1986 in Arab countries including Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates and Jordan. The artist had converted to Islam more than twenty years ago and learned calligraphy from calligrapher Hasan Çelebi.

ISLAMIC CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

Centre de Documentation et de
Recherche Ahmed Baba (C.E.D.R.A.B.)
Tombouctou, Mali

"Ahmed Baba Documentation and Research Centre" in Tombouctou, Mali was established upon Decree no.12/PG-RM dated 23 January 1970 of the Government of Mali, and inaugurated officially on 8-9 November 1973. After completion of all necessary preparations, the Centre became fully operational in 1977.

Before giving information about the objectives of this international research centre, it would be useful to summarise the main developments that led to its establishment.

In 1966, an international expert committee met in Abidjan, Ivory Coast to finalise the guidelines of a project about the General History of Africa. In conformity with the recommendations of this expert meeting, the 14th General Conference of UNESCO had adopted a resolution concerning the "Studies on African Culture". As a follow-up of this resolution, the UNESCO organised an expert meeting in 1967 in Tombouctou, Mali, in order to discuss the utilisation of written sources about African history. This meeting emphasized the need to reinforce the existing infrastructure in this field, notably as far as Arabic manuscripts are concerned. It recommended that a regional centre be established in Niger Valley with the task of undertaking historical research and documentation activities, which would cover the Western Sudano-Sahelian region extending from Mauritania to the Lake Chad, including Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso and the Saharian parts of North Africa. It was in pursuance of this recommendation that the CEDRAB was established by the Government of Mali.

Objectives of the Centre:

- To assess and collect the documents in Arabic and African languages concerning the history and culture of Africa and take their microfilms;
- To classify these documents and prepare inventories;
- To preserve these manuscripts by using modern techniques;
- Disseminating the data obtained from the collected documents by means of appropriate publications;
- To introduce the African culture expressed in Arabic through documentation work;
- Contribute to the development of Arabo-Islamic culture, of which Tombouctou was one of the greatest centres;
- To act as an information centre open to researchers and an agent in the promotion of cultural relations between African and Arab countries and all other countries interested in African culture and civilisation.

Since January 1985, the Centre publishes a biannual journal entitled "Sankore". The journal presents the researches completed by the Ahmed Baba Centre, which are authentic studies on previously unexplored subjects; in addition, its pages are open to all researchers interested in West African Islamic history and culture.

The Director of the Centre is Dr. Mahmoud Zouber, an eminent scholar. Its address is:
Centre de Documentation et de Recherche Ahmed Baba (C.E.D.R.A.B.)
P.O.Box 14, Tombouctou, Mali

EDITOR'S POST

"I congratulate you for this important Newsletter dealing with scholarly as well as cultural subjects."

Mr. Mustafa Kemal Terzi
Director of Religious Affairs,
Prime Ministry of Tunisia

"We are in receipt of your Directory of Islamic Cultural Institutions. We studied this Directory in detail and we can say safely that it is a very useful attempt. ... The next attempt of your organisation should be to compile a Directory of Publishers and Booksellers on Islamic Subjects with complete postal addresses. This will be a very important effort as the need of such a directory is long felt. ..."

Arshi Foundation for Promotion of
Islamic Script, Education and
Culture, Phulwar, Rampur, India

"We received the Newsletter no.9 published by your esteemed Centre. I have the pleasure to express my appreciation for all the information and important Islamic subjects contained in this issue."

Mr. Ali Yahya Muhammed Al-Archi
Director of the Research Centre,
Faculty of Education, King Saud
University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

"We received your Newsletter no.9, which informed us about many important activities realised by your Centre. We are convinced that your Centre uses scientific methods in its researches and that it cooperates with other organisations interested in Islamic studies."

Mr. Omar Al-Maruf Ali, Editor,
Monthly Bulletin of the Association
for Revival of Islamic Activities,
Um Darmen, Sudan

"I read your Newsletter at the National Library in Rabat. I appreciated it since it gives information on the Islamic world and especially on Islamic history, art and culture. However, I have an observation as to its presentation, since I am sure you know the importance of presentation in encouraging readers. Your Newsletter deserves higher quality paper and printing. ... "

Moumnine Nouredine
Setat/Morocco

We thank our reader for his appreciative remarks. As to amelioration of the periodical's printing material, this is our wish too; we hope to be able to realise it in the near future.

REQUESTS FOR BOOK DONATIONS

NEW PUBLICATION

* "Basit Library", House no. C-S-1496, Mohalla-Hirabad, Mirpurkhas (Sind), Pakistan requests Islamic books, magazines, posters, calendars, cassettes, translations of the Holy Quran and other literature about Islamic history, art and culture.

* Shukura Muslim Students Association of Ghana, an institution aiming to educate Muslim youth and to propagate Islamic principles, is in need of assistance in the form of copies of the Holy Quran, books on Hadith and other religious books. The address is:
Shukura Muslim Students Association, P.O.Box 13434, Accra, Ghana

* Following institutions in Ghana are in need of Islamic books and copies of the Quran:

Ghana Islamic Students Studies Society, P.O.Box M. 415, Accra

Muslim Youth Association, P.O. Box 85, Konongo-Ashanti

Prophet of Peace International School, P.O.Box 3406, Accra

Ansarul Islamiya Arabic and English School, P.O.Box 5746, Accra.

* Esir Doğu Türkistan İçin (For the Enslaved Eastern Turkistan), Memoires of Isa Yusuf Alptekin, Ed. M.Ali Taşçı, "Publishing house for Eastern Turkistan", Istanbul, 1985, 575 pp.

Mr. Isa Yusuf Alptekin is the former Secretary General of the Government of Eastern Turkistan. In this book, he tells his life story in Eastern Turkistan for thirty years, from his youth until his emigration, during which he struggled for the freedom of his country. He explains in detail his aspirations, his unceasing efforts and what he could achieve. The work is more than his autobiography; at the same time, it describes different aspects of the political and social situation of the country and gives information on the events and developments of the period in question. It transpires from his memoires that one of his basic characteristics as a leader was that he fought for his cause in every field of life; his endeavours encompassed the political, social, cultural, economic and diplomatic areas. After his emigration from Eastern Turkistan, Isa Yusuf Alptekin tried to keep the voice of his country alive by publishing journals and presenting reports at international meetings.

IRCICA IN THE PRESS

* On 12 March 1986, a group of 40 journalists from different countries of the world visited the Centre to receive information about its activities. The journalists were the guests of the Turkish Directorate General of Press and Information and they had come to Istanbul on the occasion of the Second Session of the OIC Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (14-16 March 1986).

* Economic Dialogue

The special issue of the journal (based in Istanbul), published on the occasion of the Second Meeting of COMCEC held in Istanbul in March 1986, contains an article by IRCICA Director General, titled "OIC Cooperation and Contributions of Turkey". The article explains the principle of cooperation that has guided the OIC since its creation and emphasizes the importance of culture as a unifying factor among Islamic countries. The article also mentions those IRCICA publications which introduce previously unexplored sources about Islamic culture, which are found in Turkey.

* Al-Madina

"Al-Madina" (Saudi Arabia) dated 24 January 1986 published an article introducing the "Guide of Ottoman Archives" which will be published soon by IRCICA. The article emphasizes the importance of these archives and the need for such comprehensive and specialised catalogues. It also points out that this catalogue will facilitate the task of researchers interested in these documents and contribute to the presentation and protection of Islamic cultural heritage.

* Al-Dustur

On the occasion of the Fifth Annual Meeting of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al-Albait Foundation), the Jordanian newspaper Al-Dustur published, in its 23 April 1986 issue, an interview with IRCICA Director General who is a member of the Foundation. The article is related to the research projects undertaken by IRCICA in the fields of Islamic history and culture and the catalogues and bibliographies that it published. It also commends the First International Calligraphy Competition organised by the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage.

* Muslim World News

7 April 1986 issue of this Saudi Arabian journal presents an interview by Mr. Amar Abid, with the Director General of IRCICA. The article emphasizes efforts made by the Centre for the promotion of Islamic culture and cooperative relations that are established with other institutions. It also commends the work of the International Heritage Commission, which organised, among others, the King Fahd Awards for Islamic Architecture.

* Al-Akhbar

30 April 1986 issue of Al-Akhbar (Egypt) published an interview with IRCICA Director General. The interview was conducted by Mr. Ali Al-Maghribi, one of the journalists who visited the Centre in March 1986. Different activities of the Centre, its rapid achievements and the support extended by the host country were among the subjects of the interview.

NEW IRCICA PUBLICATIONS

WORLD BIBLIOGRAPHY OF TRANSLATIONS OF THE MEANING OF THE HOLY QURAN

This book is the product of continuous efforts made by the Centre during the last five years to collect the translations of the Holy Quran in different languages, examine them, scan numerous reference works and discuss with experts in libraries and museums. The resulting bibliography provides information about 2672 works which are the originals, copies and different editions of 551 complete translations and 883 incomplete translations and selections in 65 different languages.

The bibliography contains three separate indexes. The first one is for translators, editors and exegetists. The second is the title index while the third one lists the translations in the order of their dates of publication, comprising anonymous and undated works as well. The preface of the bibliography gives the findings of a detailed study of the history of Quran translations from the beginnings of Islam to our time, containing also some sayings by eminent exegetists.

1000 pp./US\$ 80.- (Plus package and postage: US\$20.- for America, USSR, Japan and China and US\$ 10.- for all other countries).

CATALOGUE OF MANUSCRIPTS IN THE KÖPRÜLÜ LIBRARY

The Köprülü Library in Istanbul contains one of the most important manuscripts collections of the world, composed of nearly 2773 volumes under 3500 titles, and covering the fields of Quranic sciences, history, philosophy, natural sciences, mathematics, etc. IRCICA published a catalogue of these manuscripts in three volumes which exceed 2000 pages in total. The preface of the book gives the history of the collection and explains the methodology followed in the preparation of the catalogue. Photographs of some of the original manuscripts are also presented.

The first group of manuscripts in the collection, compiled by Köprülü Fazıl Ahmed Pasha, is covered in the first volume of the catalogue. The second volume deals with the remaining part of the first group and the manuscripts collected by Hacı Hafız Ahmed Pasha bin Numan Pasha, while the third volume covers the collection of Mehmed Asım Bey who was also from the Köprülü family.

Price: US\$60.- for the whole catalogue; US\$25.- per volume (Plus package and postage: US\$ 10.- per volume for America, USSR, Japan and China and US\$ 5.- for all other countries).