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ART AND CULTURE

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In this issue:

- * *H.E.Rauf Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus at IRCICA*
- * *Visit of H.E.Dato Abu Hassan bin Haji Omar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia*
- * *IRCICA in the Resolutions of the 17th Islamic Conference (Jordan, March 1988)*
- * *IRCICA Activities*

Meetings, lectures, exhibitions

- * *IRCICA Library in brief*
- * *New IRCICA publication: catalogue of "Islamic Swords and Swordsmiths"*
- * *Spotlight on Cultural Events*
- * *Cultural Institutions: "Institute for Palestine Studies", Lebanon; "Western Institute of Islamic Culture", Spain*
- * *Book Survey*

Islamic Heritage Commission (ICPICH):

- * *17th Islamic Conference appreciates ICPICH activities*
- * *Contributors to King Fahd Awards 1986 honoured in Istanbul*
- * *Newsfile on Islamic Heritage: "Al-Aqsa Mosque: A Heritage Threatened" Conference on Architect Sinan Baghdad Calligraphy Festival ended*



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

CATALOGUE OF ISLAMIC MEDICAL MANUSCRIPTS IN THE LIBRARIES OF TURKEY, edited by EKMELEDDIN INSANOĞLU; prepared by RAMAZAN ŞEŞEN, CEMİL AKPINAR and CEVAT İZGİ, History of Science Series no.1, Istanbul, 1984; 24, 525 p.; 24 cm. (Arabic) Price: US \$30 post and package included.

This catalogue has been published on the occasion of the Third Congress on Islamic Medicine (Istanbul, 1984). It presents approximately 1000 original manuscripts and lists their copies available in the collections of 129 major libraries of Turkey. About 5000 items are covered.

THE MUSLIM PIOUS FOUNDATIONS AND REAL ESTATES IN PALESTINE, by MEHMED İPŞİRLİ, MOHAMMED AL-TANIMI, Istanbul, 1982; 30, 235, 4 p.; 27 cm. (Arabic) Price: US \$50 post and package included.

A publication containing information deciphered and processed from a 16th Century Ottoman State Tahrir Register pertaining to Waqfs and Muslim properties in five regions of Palestine: Al-Quds, Gaza, Safad, Nablus and Ajlun. There are indexes for names, places and terms.

INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY OF ISLAMIC CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS, Prepared by ACAR TANLAK and AHMED LAJIMI, Istanbul, 1984; VII, 337,4 p.; 24 cm. (English) Price: US\$10, post and package included.

The Directory gives the addresses of 3579 institutions in 106 countries working in the field of Islamic culture, civilisation, history and art.

L'ENSEIGNEMENT ARABO-ISLAMIQUE AU SENEGAL (ARAB-ISLAMIC EDUCATION IN SENEGAL), by MAMADOU NDIAYE, Istanbul, 1985; VII, 253,9 p.; 24 cm. (French) Price: US \$10, post and package included.

This work is one of the first objective studies on the introduction and preservation of the Arabic language in Black Africa and especially in Senegal. It also sheds light on the archive documents belonging to the colonial period and which restricted the teaching of the language of the Holy Qur'an in these countries. Enriched with statistics, the book gives the history of the evolution of the teaching of this language and the difficulties and problems encountered during this process.

EDITORIAL

The last couple of months were quite active for the Centre and we had very encouraging results concerning our work. The Seventeenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Affairs Ministers of Member States of the OIC held in Amman in March 1988 adopted a resolution commending the efforts of the Centre. Two distinguished statesmen to IRCICA, H.E.Mr. Rauf Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and H.E. Dato Abu Hassan bin Haji Omar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, expressed their appreciation of IRCICA's work during their visit to the Centre's premises.

During the same period, one of our research projects was completed with the publication of a catalogue titled "Islamic Swords and Swordsmiths". This work is introduced to our readers in this issue of the Newsletter. The preparation of this book was announced some time ago and researchers and scholars have been looking forward to it. We hope they will find it interesting. In addition to its scholarly value as a historical study of the Islamic swords and swordsmiths, it is also an artistic book with high quality printing. IRCICA is grateful to the Ministry of Information of the State of Kuwait for its valuable cooperation in publishing this research work. Our special thanks go to Sheikha Hussa Al-Sabah, Director of Dar Al-Athar Al-Islamiya, Kuwait and member of IRCICA Governing Council for her valuable support.

Several other research projects on different subjects are continued at IRCICA and new publications are expected to come out in the near future. As most researchers and scholars would agree, there are

innumerable subjects for research and study in Islamic history, art and culture. On the other hand, efforts are needed to promote and coordinate the research activities carried out in different parts of the world and to establish a working relationship and cooperation among researchers and institutions. Taking into consideration that these requirements are felt by other researchers and research institutions as well, we have been exploring this matter for some time. Our studies proved that we should convene a meeting of professionals, specialists and representatives of cultural institutions to initiate a forum of discussion and consultation over a number of general issues concerning research. Our proposal for a seminar was approved by IRCICA's Governing Council last December. Preparations were made to hold an International Seminar on "Research in Islamic Civilisation: Outlook for the Coming Decade" to take place in September 1988.

This seminar is expected to provide a new vision in research work in the Islamic world, problems faced, possible ways of cooperation and coordination as well as future prospects. You will find detailed information about it in our "IRCICA Activities" section. We already received very good responses to our first announcement and hope that the seminar will be successful.

As this issue will appear right after Eid ul Fitr, I take this occasion to congratulate our Muslim brothers and wish all our readers happiness and prosperity.

Prof.Dr.Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu

H.E. RAUF DENKTAŞ, PRESIDENT OF THE TURKISH REPUBLIC OF NORTHERN CYPRUS AT IRCICA



President Rauf Denktaş examines the Newsletter together with Consul General Mr. Münür Muhtaroglu

H.E. Rauf Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus visited IRCICA on 8 January 1988. He was the third Head of State the Centre was honoured to receive, after H.E. Kenan Evren, President of the Republic of Turkey and H.E. Muhammed Zia ul Haq, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. As the Head of an Observer State of the OIC, H.E. Rauf Denktaş was already informed of IRCICA's activities; he was more closely acquainted with them after he received IRCICA Director General in Nicosia, in June 1986. At that meeting, a joint project between the cultural institutions of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and IRCICA was discussed, aiming to record the cultural heritage assets and monuments of the country, and to be undertaken under the auspices of the President himself. This project was among the subjects discussed during the President's visit to IRCICA.

H.E. Rauf Denktaş was accompanied by Mr. Münür Muhtaroglu, Consul General of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in Istanbul. He was briefed about the Centre's

studies; he saw the premises, the library and the photographic archives; he was shown old photographs of some outstanding monuments of Cyprus. The President also saw the preliminary results of another study undertaken by IRCICA in collaboration with the National Archives and Research Centre of the TRNC, aiming to prepare a catalogue of the historical manuscripts collection found at the Library of Sultan Mahmud II in Cyprus. This library comprises more than 2000 manuscripts. The President examined the bibliographic information that has already been collected about these manuscripts. H.E. Rauf Denktaş expressed his appreciation for the research projects and publications of the Centre. Before leaving, he recorded his impressions on the Centre's book (original: in Turkish):

"I observed here a great work of substantial historical importance, deserving merit in all aspects. I congratulate all those concerned and wish them a continual success."

Rauf Denktaş
President of the Turkish Republic
of Northern Cyprus

VISIT OF H.E. DATO ABU HASSAN BIN HAJI OMAR, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MALAYSIA



*H.E. Dato Abu Hassan bin Haji Omar presenting books to IRCICA
Director General*

IRCICA was honoured by the visit of H.E. Dato Abu Hassan bin Haji Omar, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, on 27 April 1988. The Minister was accompanied by Datin Wan Noor and a delegation comprising Mr. Adnan Osman, Head of the OIC Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and H.E. Dato Kamaruddin Abu, Ambassador of Malaysia in Ankara and Datin Jamaiyah.

On their visit to IRCICA, the Minister and his entourage were first received at Seyir Köşk. They were briefed by IRCICA Director General about the research projects and other activities of IRCICA, as well as its headquarters and the historical significance of the location in Yıldız Palace. The projects undertaken jointly with the relevant authorities and cultural institutions of Malaysia were emphasized; among others, their contributions to the preparation of the

"World Bibliography of Translations of the Meaning of the Holy Quran", and the research project on "Islamic Civilisation in the Malay World" undertaken jointly with the Governments of Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei. Then the Minister and his entourage saw the Yaveran and Çit Qasrs, where they received information on the restoration of these buildings. They had an overview of the research library and examined a collection of books about Malaysia. In the photographic archives, they saw historical photographs of Johor and Penang.

The visit to different sections of the Centre was followed by a press conference at IRCICA's conference hall. In his welcoming speech IRCICA Director General expressed the honour and pleasure given to the Centre by this visit. He pointed out that Malaysia had always played an important role in the OIC

and supported IRCICA's work. He said that a long-standing cooperation was established between the cultural institutions of Malaysia and IRCICA and resulted in joint projects in various areas.

In his speech, H.E. Dato Abu Hassan bin Haji Omar expressed his and his delegation's pleasure for the invitation to visit IRCICA and to acquaint themselves with its objectives and operations. He said he was impressed with the work done by the Centre and expressed his conviction that the Muslim world certainly needed a centre like IRCICA which can promote Islamic culture, history and civilisation for its own benefit and that of the non-Muslims. The Minister also said that Malaysia had always been supportive of the good work done by the Centre and that it would remain so. He pointed out that Malaysia

had established a National Committee on IRCICA at the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in order to assess, coordinate and implement IRCICA-sponsored projects in the country. As a token of their goodwill and cooperation, two checks were handed to the Director General as contributions of Malaysia to the Centre's budget, as well as a collection of Malaysian books. The Minister wrote the following words in the visitors book:

"May I take this opportunity of congratulating Dr. Ekmeleddin and all the staff of this Centre for the great progress undertaken since its inception. I am positive that under your able leadership and the cooperation of the staff, plus the full backing of OIC member countries, this Centre will continue to grow and will eventually be the pride of Islamic Ummah".



The Minister and his entourage examining IRCICA's photographic archives

IRCICA IN THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE 17TH ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

Amman, Jordan, 21-25 March 1988



H.M. King Hussain inaugurates the Conference. On his right is H.E. Dr. Abdullatif Al-Filali, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Morocco and on his left, OIC Secretary General H.E. Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada

The Seventeenth Islamic Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of OIC was held in Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on 21-25 March 1988. The Conference agenda included a number of issues in the fields of political, economic, cultural and social affairs, subjects related to cultural heritage and organisational matters. The Conference took several resolutions in these fields, concerning accomplished, on-going and future activities of the OIC.

Pronouncing the inaugural speech, His Majesty Hussain bin Tallal, King of Jordan emphasized the current political situation and problems and threats facing the Islamic world. He made a call for the mul-

tiplication of efforts to strengthen solidarity and wished that the Conference takes firm resolutions that would consolidate the links among Islamic countries. Then, speeches were made in the name of Arab, Asian and African delegations. In his speech, H.E. Mr. Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, Secretary General of the OIC informed the Conference about the work accomplished by the General Secretariat and the methodology followed in the treatment of various issues concerning the Islamic world. He underlined the subjects related to spiritual and civilisational values and cultural issues in particular.

The agenda issues were taken up by the specialised commissions of the

Conference. The Cultural and Social Affairs Commission examined and adopted the report submitted by IRCICA containing its work programme for 1987-88. The Administrative and Financial Affairs Commission discussed and adopted IRCICA's budget for the same year. IRCICA was represented at the Conference by Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Director General and Messrs. Ahmed Lajimi, Mohammed Tamimi and Nezh Marouf.

The 17th Islamic Conference adopted the Resolution no. ICFM/17-88/CS/DR.15/REV.2 concerning IRCICA. In the operational paragraphs of this resolution, the Conference

1. Commends the efforts of the Centre as represented by its leading achievements,
2. Approves the report which includes the plan of action of the Centre for the current year,
3. Expresses thanks and appreciation to the host country for the material and moral support it has constantly extended to the Centre, thus enabling it to satisfactorily perform its tasks,
4. Requests the Member States to pay their contributions regularly in order to enable the Centre to carry out its current plan of action and plan for the future,
5. Calls upon the Member States, institutions and philanthropists from the Muslim world to continue to support the Centre in furnishing and equipping the newly restored building according to the needs and requirements of the Centre and expresses its thanks to those that offered assistance.

Other activities in Jordan

During the period of the Conference, IRCICA Director General had meetings with many intellectuals and representatives of cultural institutions attending the Conference. These meetings concerned different aspects of IRCICA's cooperation with the Member States and their cultural institutions.

On the other hand, the Director General was interviewed by Jordanian journalists and informed them about IRCICA's activities, underlining the role the Centre plays as a scholarly research institution specialised in the fields of Islamic history, art and culture.

The Director General, together with researcher Mr. Ahmed Lajimi, visited the Royal Society for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al-Albait Foundation) and the Scientific Research Centre of the University of Jordan, where they had meetings with Prof. Dr. Nassir Al-Din Al-Assad, Minister of Higher Education of Jordan and President of the Royal Society, Prof. Dr. Adnan Bakheet, Dean of Scientific Research at the University of Jordan, Prof. Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Douri, faculty member at the University of Jordan and member of the Royal Society and Prof. Dr. Ihsan Abbas, faculty member at the Department of Scientific Research. During these meetings, the Director General gave information about the work of IRCICA in general and the international seminar on "Research in Islamic Civilisation: outlook for the coming decade" that IRCICA will organise this year; the idea and initiative were appreciated by the professors; they agreed to participate actively in the seminar.

IRCICA ACTIVITIES

Research Project on "ISLAMIC CIVILISATION IN THE MALAY WORLD": Second Regional Workshop held in Brunei Darussalam

The research project on Islamic Civilisation in the Malay World undertaken jointly by the relevant authorities and institutions of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia with IRCICA as the initiator and coordinator, is in progress. The principle of the project was approved by IRCICA Governing Council at its Third Meeting in November 1984; then, the 15th Islamic Conference of Foreign Affairs Ministers of OIC Member States (Sana'a, Yemen A.R., December 1984) endorsed the research project. Following a series of meetings held by the involved parties to discuss the framework of the project, a First Regional Workshop was held in April 1987 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (Newsletter no.15, August-September 1987, p. 11-12). A plan-of-action was agreed upon at that meeting.

The Second Regional Workshop was hosted by the Islamic Da'wah Centre, Negara Brunei Darussalam, on 21-23 February 1988. IRCICA was represented by Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Director General and Raja Fuziah bte. Raja Tun Uda, Deputy Director General and Project Coordinator at IRCICA. The Director General chaired the meeting.

Ustaz Haji Ibrahim bin Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Laila (Begawan Mudim) D.S.U. Haji Ismail, Director of the Islamic Da'wah Centre and Chairman of the National Committee of Brunei Darussalam for the project welcomed the participants and informed them that their Committee was carrying out research on the history of Islamic Civilisation in Brunei Darussalam since the coming of Islam to the State until 1959 when Islam was made an official religion. He



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
 PEMBUKAAN RAHMI
 BINGKAI KERANTAU KE-2 PROJEK KAJIAN TAMADDUN ISLAM
 DI ALAM MELAYU
 PADA 3 hb. rejab 1404 bertepatan 21 hb. Januari 1983



Minister of Religious Affairs The Honourable Dr. Haji Mohd. Zain bin Haji Serudin addressing the inaugural ceremony. On his right: Ustaz Haji Ibrahim bin Haji Ismail, Director of Islamic Da'wah Centre and Chairman of the National Committee of Brunei for the project

said that the coming of Islam to Brunei in this context could be seen in two stages: first, in a restricted form, i.e. when it was accepted by only a small part of the local population and second, the period that started when the first Sultan of Brunei Awang Alak Betatar embraced Islam and later changed his name to Sultan Muhammad.

Then, IRCICA Director General expressed his gratitude to the Government of His Majesty The Sultan and Head of State of Brunei Darussalam for their hospitality in co-hosting the workshop. He conveyed the greetings and good wishes of H.E. Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, Secretary General of OIC for a successful workshop. He said that since the initiation of the project, the parties involved had gone a long way to realise the spirit and the enthusiasm felt towards making a commitment to this research project. He pointed out that the successful implementation of the study would serve in drawing the attention of the Islamic world toward the greatness of the Islamic cultural heritage in the region.

The meeting was officially inaugurated by The Honourable Pehin Orang Kaya Ratna Diraja Dato Seri Utama Dr. Haji Mohd. Zain bin Haji Serudin, Minister of Religious Affairs of Brunei Darussalam. H.E. the Minister pointed out that the Islamic Civilisation in the Malay World was a field not yet fully studied by local and foreign Muslim researchers. He said that most of the existing literature about Islam and civilisation in South East Asia including the Malay world was written by Western orientalists and contained confused and unbalanced views, and that this research project would enable Islamic writers to give justifiable ideas on the coming, the development and the civilisation of Islam in the region and correct erroneous opinions on the subject.

During the working sessions of the meeting, the decisions, recommendations and action programs of the First Workshop were adopted. The country representatives presented progress reports outlining the organisation and implementation of the project at the national level. Bibliographies prepared on the

lines agreed at the First Workshop were presented and discussed. The next step will be to enlarge the scope of the bibliographies and to proceed with the preparation of the texts of the study, which will lead to a comprehensive reference work covering all aspects of Islamic civilisation in the Malay world.

Other meetings in Brunei Darussalam

During the period of his stay in Brunei Darussalam, IRCICA Director General was received by His Majesty The Sultan and Head of State Has-sanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and paid homage to the Sultan on behalf of IRCICA. He presented information about the Centre and its activities; His Majesty expressed his appreciation and interest for the Centre's work.

The Director General also had meetings with H.R.H. Prince Muda Mohamed Bolkiah, Minister of Foreign Affairs; H.E. Dr. Haji Mohd. Zain bin Haji Serudin, Minister of Religious Affairs; H.E. Haji Awang Abdul Aziz bin Begawan, Minister of Communication. The Director General gave explanations to the Ministers about the Centre's research projects and publications, and possibilities of cooperation between the Centre and relevant institutions of Brunei Darussalam were discussed. H.E. Haji Awang Mohd. Yusof, Minister for Culture, Youth and Sports received the Deputy Director General of IRCICA; the establishment of a working relationship and cooperation between IRCICA and the cultural authorities and institutions of Brunei Darussalam were discussed during this meeting; the Minister received information on IRCICA's on-going projects and forthcoming activities. IRCICA Director General also met with the Chairman of the Handicrafts Board Mr. Haji Awang Mohd. Taha and the Head of the

Brunei Arts and Handicrafts Training Centre Mr. Haji Mustapa bin Haji Ahmad to discuss mutual cooperation and exchange of information; he also visited the National Museum of Brunei and was received by Mr. Haji Matusin bin Omar, Director of the Brunei Museum, and the Historical Centre of Brunei where he met with Dr. Haji Awang Mohd. Jamil Al-Sufri, Head of the Historical Centre. These contacts were very useful to better introduce IRCICA's activities to the concerned authorities of Brunei Darussalam and lay the foundations of a fruitful cooperation.

International Seminar on RESEARCH IN ISLAMIC CIVILISATION: OUTLOOK FOR THE COMING DECADE

IRCICA will organise this year an International Seminar on the theme of "Research in Islamic Civilisation: Outlook for the Coming Decade". The venue will be IRCICA's premises at Çit Qasr, Yıldız Palace and the dates, 26-29 September 1988. The aim of this project is to bring together the professionals - policy-makers, administrators and scholars engaged in the fields of Islamic history, art and culture, in order to promote cooperation and exchange of ideas in the planning and actual implementation of research programs and activities. Particular emphasis will be put on the needs of the researchers and the problems encountered in the performance of research in these fields. Background papers will be presented by specialists and scholars and participants will have the opportunity to discuss issues and topics of interest at thematic workshop sessions. The discussions are expected to lead to recommendations concerning the amelioration and development of research activities in the Islamic world in the coming decade.

In taking the initiative to convene this international forum, IRCICA was prompted by the need felt by researchers and research institutions for greater awareness about each other, exchanges of views and policy-oriented consultation. The Governing Council of IRCICA at its Sixth Meeting (Riyadh, 19 December 1987) had adopted the project and reaffirmed the necessity to organise such a seminar. It is expected that an overall cooperation would thus be initiated, for the first time in the fields of Islamic history, art and culture, to assess the problems and shortcomings, and to recommend for the better.

In short, what is aimed by this project can be termed as the study of research itself in relation with Islamic civilisation. Four subject areas are determined for discussions on issues and concern areas related to research, as follows:

- I. Data and information in research
- II. Research methodology
- III. Research programs: establishment of priorities
- IV. Resources: funding and manpower needs.

IRCICA just made the first announcement to the concerned authorities and institutions of the OIC Member States and international organisations; technical and administrative preparations for the seminar are continuing.

CONFERENCES/MEETINGS

Participation in the "Hittin Symposium" at Ain Shams University, Cairo

The last of the series of symposia held on the occasion of the 800th anniversary of Salah al-Din al-Ayyubi's Hittin Victory (1187) over the crusaders took place on 7-9 March 1988 in Cairo. The symposium

was organised jointly by the Faculty of Letters of Ain-Shams University and the Institute of History of Egypt. More than 20 papers were presented and discussed. Among these, communications by specialists of the subject such as Dr. Abdulfettah Said Ashur, Head of the Institute of History of Egypt, held the attention of the audience. Dr. Ramazan Şeşen, IRCICA's expert known for his studies on Salah al-Din al-Ayyubi and his period was invited to the symposium; he presented a paper titled "The Army of Salah al-Din at Hittin". After the symposium, Dr.Şeşen gave a lecture in the same University, on the subject of the different types of scripts used in old Islamic manuscripts.

Lecture in Abu Dhabi: "Introduction of Modern Sciences to the Muslim World"

IRCICA Director General visited the Cultural Foundation in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates upon the kind invitation of Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Suidi, Director of Culture and Arts at the Foundation. He participated in the cultural sessions of the Foundation and gave a lecture (13 March). The lecture focused on the position of the Muslim World vis-à-vis the modern sciences which progressed continuously in Europe from the Renaissance onwards, and the introduction of these sciences to the Muslim world.

IRCICA Director General first highlighted the contributions made by the Muslims to world science and civilisation in the first centuries of Islam. He then talked about the Renaissance period in Europe and the weakening of Muslims' place in world science. He reminded the audience of an idea put forward by some, that after their scientific weakening, Muslims had their first contact with modern sciences during



the French expedition in Egypt in 1798-1801. He showed, based on original documents and new findings, that the Ottomans were aware of modern scientific developments well before the French expedition; in this context, he gave examples of translations of Western works of geography, astronomy, medicine, military arts etc. into Arabic and Turkish done prior to the said period. He also pointed out that no negative reaction was shown to these transfers of science by the Ottoman religious authorities; on the contrary, they encouraged these sciences until the last quarter of 19th century. The Director General also discussed the reasons why the Muslim world could not establish scientific activity domestically although it followed the scientific discoveries of the West. He said that it was not science itself that was transferred but only the techniques needed for immediate purposes. The aim was not to obtain scientific knowledge and lay the bases of indigenous science, but to strengthen the State and increase prosperity in the country as rapidly as possible. Coming to the state of science in the Muslim world today, the Director General analysed it from the point of view

of the sociology of science. He looked into the situation of manpower engaged in science in the Muslim world, as well as the magnitude of government funds allocated to science. He presented statistics of scientific manpower and funds spent on research and development in Muslim countries, and compared them to the figures concerning developed countries. IRCICA Director General ended his lecture by emphasizing the necessity to support and encourage studies on scientific activities in the Muslim world and to establish and promote scientific institutions, so that Muslims could again have a share in world science. He said that an important task incumbent upon policy-makers, scientists and educational and cultural institutions is to promote interest in science among young generations, to establish and strengthen the foundations of indigenous science and to reinforce scientific institutions.

IRCICA Director General's visit to the United Arab Emirates was also useful in the context of the cooperation between the Cultural Foundation and IRCICA. Meetings were held with the Foundation's

authorities on various subjects of common interest. The Director General also visited the University of the United Arab Emirates in the city of Ain, where he gave a lecture about IRCICA and its projects.

The Ruler of Sharjah receives
IRCICA Director General

on the Gulf region and cultural issues in general. H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al-Qasimi very kindly offered to IRCICA Director General the work titled "The Myth of Arab Piracy in the Gulf", his PhD thesis at Exeter University in England.



*IRCICA Director General received by H.H. Sheikh Sultan bin
Mohammed Al-Qasimi, Ruler of Sharjah*

H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed Al-Qasimi, member of the High Council of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Sharjah received the Director General of IRCICA in his court on 15 March 1988. During the meeting held in a friendly atmosphere, the Director General talked about the Centre's studies and activities, especially the International Seminar on Research in Islamic Civilisation to be held soon. The Ruler of Sharjah showed to the Director General his library and archives and the precious books, manuscripts and paintings they contain; a discussion and exchange of views was made over subjects concerning scholarly studies

EXHIBITIONS

Participation at the 20th Cairo Book Fair

The 20th Cairo International Book Fair, third biggest of its kind in the world, took place from 21 January to 3 February 1988. 1700 publishers and booksellers from 52 countries took part in the fair this year and 12.5 million books were presented.

IRCICA participated in the fair for the fifth time this year. This activity proved useful, as in the previous years, in promoting the Centre's publications and acquiring

new books for its library. It also provided an opportunity to disseminate recent information on the Centre's activities in general; Mr. Halit Eren, Director of IRCICA Library who represented the Centre in the fair gave an interview to the Egyptian radio, as well as some daily and weekly press media; among others, "Al-Akhbar" dated 27 January 1988 introduced IRCICA's publications.

Exhibition on traditional decorative arts



Miniatures, and samples of motifs and patterns used in Islamic decorative arts were displayed at the Centre from 25 January to 1st February. The works displayed were made by Mrs. Kadriye Aras, Turkish artist whose aim was, in this and her previous nine exhibitions, to contribute to the preservation and better introduction of the traditional Islamic decorative arts. She reproduced the miniatures and ornamental motifs on panels of wood and glass by means of special paints.

Exhibition of British books on "Ottoman Culture and Modern Turkey"

This exhibition was organised jointly by IRCICA and the British Council and opened on 11 April 1988 at IRCICA's exhibition hall. On display were around one hundred books published in the U.K. and concerning a wide range of topics related to the history, culture, economy, geography, arts and architecture and other aspects and characteristics of the Ottoman State and the Republic of Turkey. These books altogether constitute a valuable bibliography of references for those interested in Ottoman and modern Turkish history, culture and arts. During the exhibition, documentary video films on "Süleyman the Magnificent" and "Modern Turkey" were shown to the visitors.

IRCICA's participation in the Abu Dhabi International Book Fair

IRCICA participated in the Second Abu Dhabi International Book Fair organised by the Cultural Foundation, Abu Dhabi, from 30 March to 12 April 1988. The exhibition was inaugurated by H.E. Sheikh Ahmed Khalifa al-Suwaidi, personal representative of the President of the United Arab Emirates. 290 publishers and booksellers partici-



Inauguration of Abu Dhabi Book Fair: H.E. Sheikh Ahmed Khalifa Al-Suwaidi, personal representative of the President of the United Arab Emirates visits IRCICA's stand

pated in the fair; about 500 000 titles of books in different languages were displayed and aroused great interest. IRCICA was represented in the fair by Mr. Mohammed Tamimi and presented samples of all its publications. The Centre would like to take this occasion to convey its thanks to the organisers of the book fair for the assistance and facilities provided.

LECTURES

"The aesthetical structure of calligraphy"

A lecture was given on the above theme on 2 January by Dr. Savaş Çevik, member of the Faculty of Fine Arts of Mimar Sinan University, in the framework of IRCICA's series of local lectures on Islamic art and culture. Here is a summary of the ideas put forward by the lecturer:

"Calligraphy has a special place within plastic arts. It also has distinguishing features compared to other types of writing. With respect to the forms of the letters and the types of compositions it uses, its plastic and aesthetical structure differs substantially from the other types of writing. Calligraphy has an organic consistency and encompasses also the Quf'i style which is in a certain sense, geometrical. Despite the fact that it is much more complicated and hard to perform than writing in Latin script, calligraphy allows flexibility of form and composition because of the shape of the characters and the possibility of combining the letters that come one after the other. Calligraphy is by itself an authentic artistic phenomenon. Because of its inner aesthetical unity, it contains elements of the art of drawing too; however, these similarities must not lead us to consider it as a drawing art".

"Islam and Foreign Relations"

Prof. Dr. Alexander Hendrik de Groot from the Faculty of Letters of Leiden University, Netherlands gave a lecture at IRCICA in the evening of 13 January 1988, about "Islam and Foreign Relations - the example of Ottoman policy towards Western European States and vice versa". The lecture was organised with the cooperation of Mr. Eric T.J.T. Kwint, Consul General of the Netherlands in Istanbul and attended by a number of distinguished guests. The lecturer holds various academic honorary offices and functions, such as President of the Selection Committee for Research in Islamic Studies of the Netherlands Organisation for the Advancement of Pure Scientific Research, member of the Royal Asiatic Society (London) and the Societe Asiatique (Paris), member of the International Committee for Pre-Ottoman and Ottoman Studies (CIEPO).



Prof. Dr. Alexander Hendrik de Groot

Prof. Dr. de Groot pointed out that the Ottoman State had established good relations with Western Europe in its foreign policy and maintained these relations for centuries. After a long experience, a certain tradition of a mild attitude towards non-Muslim countries was established. This approach was also reflected in the internal policy of the State towards non-Muslims

living on the Ottoman territory. The lecturer explained that the legal authorities of the Ottoman State did not object to this approach and there was an understanding that the Sultan as the protector of the law should also try to ensure an atmosphere of peace as long as it was possible.

**"The form of the ship
in Islamic crafts"**



Various descriptions and interpretations of the form of the ship can be seen on decorations in museums, libraries, palaces, cemeteries, old houses as well as documents and artistic objects made of different types of material. The utilisation of the form of the ship as a motif in Islamic crafts was the theme of a lecture given on 16 January by Mrs. Engin Özdeniz, expert of traditional decorative arts. The lecturer gave historical information about samples of artefacts bearing motifs of the ship, showing either the originals, reproductions, photographs or photocopies of these documents/objects and providing explanations on their materials and techniques. These range over a wide spectrum, from embroidery and weaving to wood and marble carving.

**Commemoration of Calligrapher
Sami Efendi**

Sami Efendi is considered by many as the master of the djali calligraphic style unrivalled since mid-19th century. He was born in 1838 in Istanbul. His inborn talent added to the training he received from the masters of his time such as Recai Efendi, Ismail Hakki Efendi, Ali Haydar Bey and Nasih Efendi made him excell in most of the calligraphic styles. He thought this art for any years until his death in 1912; well-known calligraphers such as Kamil Akdik, Necmeddin Okyay and Aziz Efendi were his pupils.

A public lecture was given at IRCICA on 5 March on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the calligrapher's birth. The lecturer was Prof. Uğur Derman, IRCICA's Art Advisor; he dwelt upon the life and the works of the calligrapher and showed slides of his calligraphies.



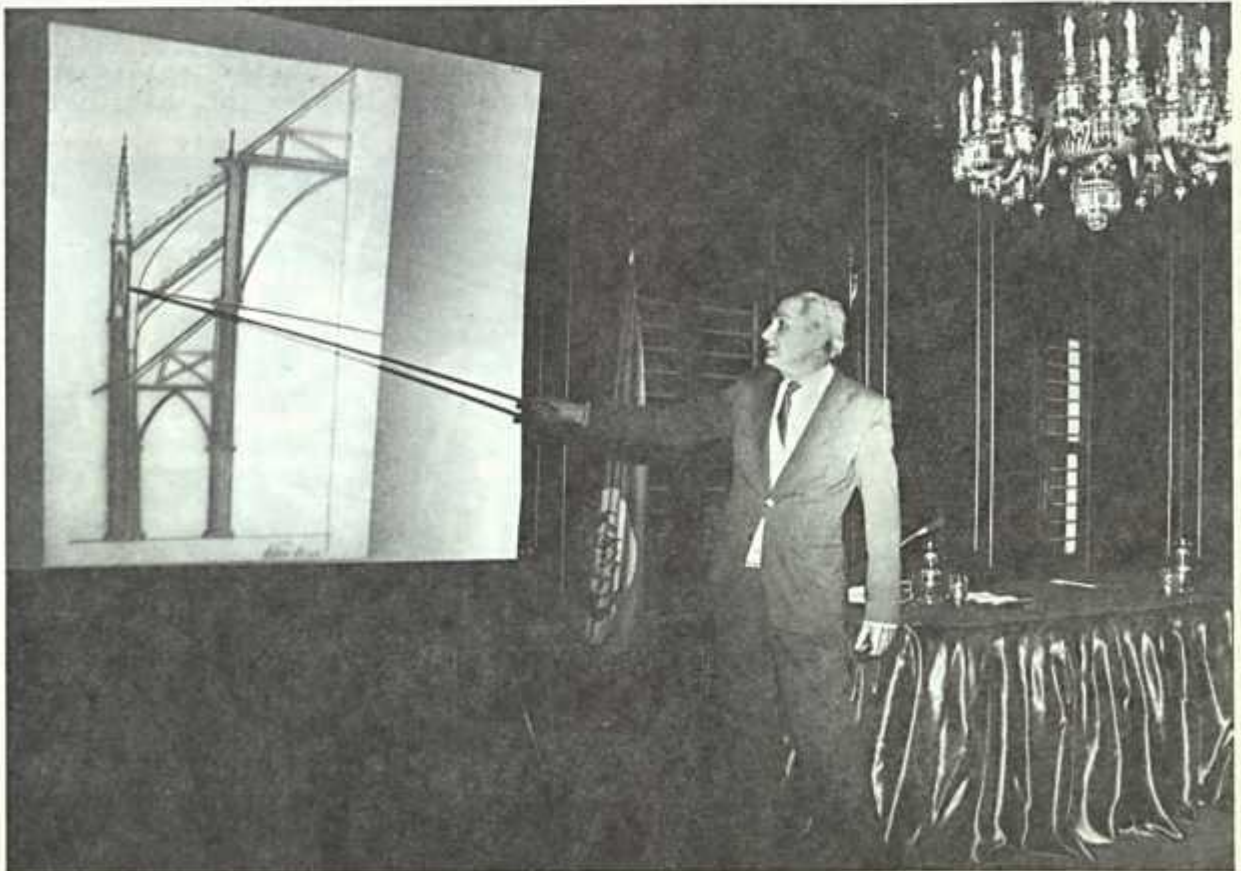
Calligraphy by Sami Efendi

"Mimar Sinan and the Süleymaniye Mosque"

Another Saturday public lecture was given at IRCICA on the above theme, on 19 March by Arch. Ercüment Tarcan, member of the Faculty of Architecture of Mimar Sinan University. A large audience attended this lecture which was organised on the occasion of the 400th anniversary of the great architect's death.

The lecturer talked about the life and the works of Mimar Sinan and the Süleymaniye Mosque built by him. He said that each new architectural design of Sinan differed much from the previous ones, what was an indication of his creative talent. He pointed out that these designs had inspired many Western architects but that he was equalled by no one in creativeness. He showed slides of architectural designs which were modelled on Sinan's

works and gave technical explanations on the errors made while they were copied. He also compared the masterpieces of Sinan with those of the Renaissance and Gothic periods in the West. On Sinan's personality and approach to his art, he said that Sinan aimed not to erect spacious and impressive buildings but to create a peaceful and comfortable atmosphere for people to live, work and pray. He said unlike the architects of the Renaissance who used geometrical forms extensively changing the natural shape of the things, Sinan thought nature was free. Sinan also tried to give a certain rhythm to his architecture and was influenced by music. Mr. Tarcan concluded his lecture by showing a film he had produced himself, featuring the Süleymaniye Mosque and its architectural features.



Arch. Ercüment Tarcan lecturing



(ICPICH) INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF ISLAMIC CULTURAL HERITAGE

17TH ISLAMIC CONFERENCE APPRECIATES ICPICH ACTIVITIES

The 17th Islamic Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the OIC, held in Amman, Jordan on 21-25 March 1988 examined and discussed the activity report submitted by the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage (ICPICH). The report covered the accomplishments of the Commission since the 16th Islamic Conference (January 1986), and the concrete steps taken in the implementation of some of its projects. The Conference expressed its appreciation for the two competitions organised by ICPICH, namely the King Fahd Awards Competition for Design and Research in Islamic Architecture and the First International Calligraphy Competition.

ICPICH was represented at the 17th Islamic Conference by Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary of the Commission and Dr. Mohammed Saleh Gazdar, Director of the Liaison and Coordination Bureau of H.R.H. Prince Faisal bin Fahd bin Abdulaziz, Chairman of the Commission. In the operational paragraphs of the Resolution no. ICFM/17-88/CS/DR.15/REV.2 concerning ICPICH, the 17th Islamic Conference:

1. Commends the Commission for organising the first competition of "King Fahd Award for Design

and Research in Islamic Architecture", and the first "International Competition for Calligraphy".

2. Expresses sincere gratitude to His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Bin Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz, Chairman of the Commission, for his continued patronage and guidance to the Commission.
3. Calls upon the Commission to continue cooperation with the Member States for the preservation of the Islamic heritage, with a view to collating Member States' efforts in this field.
4. Expresses satisfaction with the full coordination existing between the Commission and the Istanbul Centre as the executive organ of the Commission.
5. Approves the future Plan of Action included in the Commission's report.
6. Calls upon the Commission's Secretariat to organise a training course for specialists in the restoration of manuscripts, in cooperation with the Suleymaniye Library in Istanbul, for the benefit of Member States which need such a rare expertise.

CONTRIBUTORS TO KING FAHD AWARDS 1986 HONOURED IN ISTANBUL

As reported in the previous issue of our Newsletter, the presentation ceremony of King Fahd Awards 1986 in Islamic Architecture was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on 20 December 1987.

The winners of the competition received their prizes during that ceremony; the members of the Jury were given medals and certificates of honour. However, two of the distinguished Jury members, an award-winner and some of those who contributed to the successful organisation of the competition could not attend the Riyadh ceremony; in order to present them their awards and certificates, a smaller-scale ceremony was organised at IRCICA, the Secretariat of the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage on 28 January 1988.

H.E.Dr. Abdulaziz Mohieddin Khoja, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia honoured the ceremony and distributed the awards in the name of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd. Members of the diplomatic missions, scholars, architects, representatives of press agencies and the staff of the Commission Secretariat were present.

Prof.Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Secretary of the Commission and Head of the Organising Committee of the Competition inaugurated the ceremony by a speech giving brief information on the objectives and results of the competition, as well as on the activities of the Commission in general. He thanked all those who contributed to the competition and congratulated the winners.

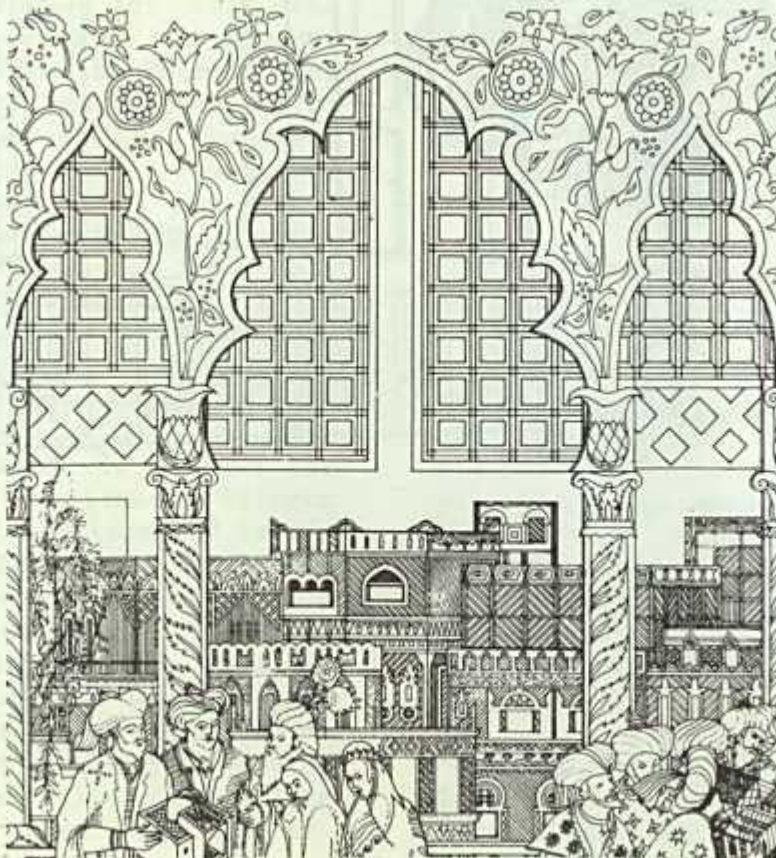


From the right: Professors Haluk Sezgin, Bülent Özer, Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, H.E.Dr. Abdulaziz Mohieddin Khoja, Prof.Dr. Aptullah Kuran and Mrs. Ayla Ayverdi, widow of late Dr. Aliqül Ayverdi



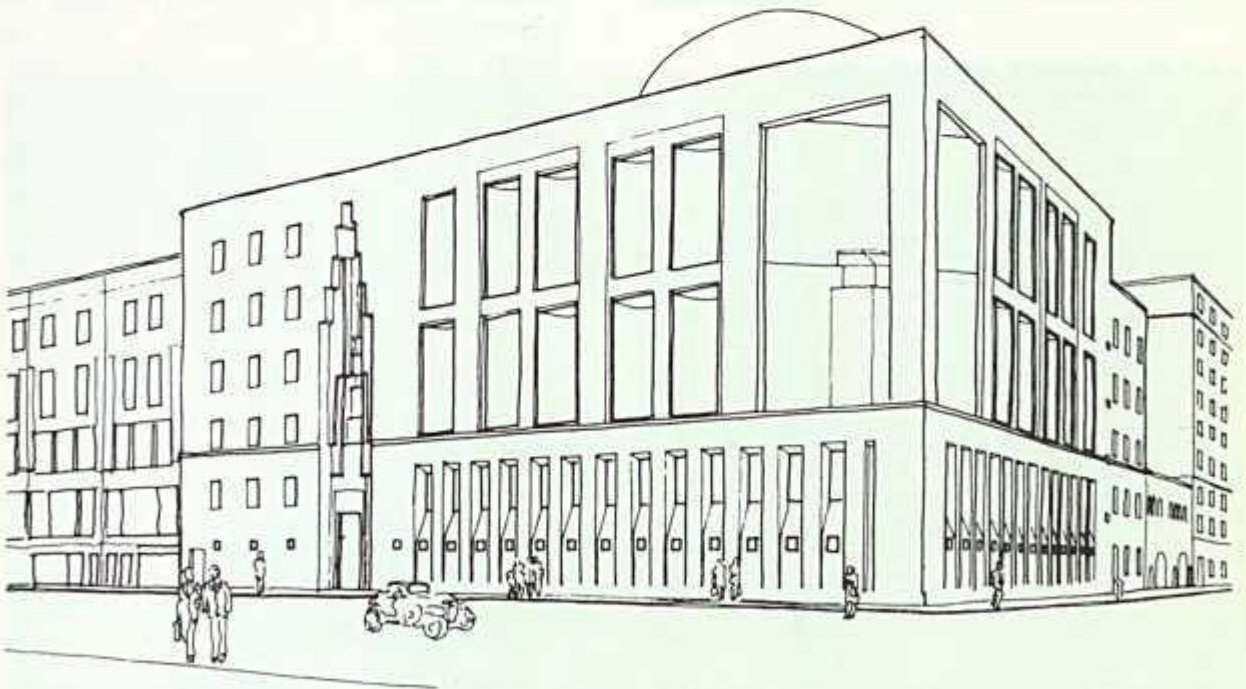
*H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Mohieddin Khoja,
Ambassador of Saudi Arabia*

Then, the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia took the floor on behalf of the Saudi Arabian Government; he expressed his thanks to the Jury members of the King Fahd Awards 1986 Competition and his congratulations to the winners. He also thanked the Organising Committee of the competition and members of the Commission Secretariat in Istanbul and said they had performed an excellent work. He emphasized that the International Commission for the Preservation of the Islamic Cultural Heritage and the projects it undertook are a vigorous evidence and symbol of the determination of Islamic countries to preserve their heritage and culture. Concluding his speech, H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Mohieddin Khoja presented medals and certificates of recognition to Prof. Dr. Aptullah Kuran and Prof. Dr. Bülent Özer, members of the Competition Jury,



and to Prof.Dr. Haluk Sezgin, tutor of a winning design; he gave an award to Arch. Aynur Göka who had won the symbolic prize which was instituted in the name of late Arch.Dr. Aligül Ayverdi, the first Secretary of the King Fahd Awards Competition.

The Ambassador of Saudi Arabia then distributed certificates and medals to those staff members of the Commission Secretariat who contributed to the organisation of the competition.



NEWSFILE ON ISLAMIC HERITAGE

Audio-visual presentation in London: "Al-Aqsa Mosque: A Heritage Threatened"

An audio-visual programme on the history and re construction of Al-Aqsa Mosque was presented to the public on 7 March at Chelsea Town Hall in London, followed by a panel. The programme was commissioned by the Al-Aqsa Restoration Fund, under the auspices of the Office of H.R.H. Crown Prince Hasan bin Tallal of Jordan; it was written and directed by Tuma Hazou and produced in London by Zara Nutting & Co. It is now being installed as a permanent feature at the King Abdullah Mosque in Amman, to be shown to visitors. Mr. Alistair Duncan, Director of the World of Islam Festival Trust (London) which was among the sponsors of the programme, informed us that the presentation portrays the history of the mosque from the "Miraj" (the Night Journey of the Prophet P.B.U. H.) to the present. It describes the restoration and preservative work carried out down the centuries, particularly in the present century by Ottomans and later Palestinian and Jordanian authorities, until the occupation of Al-Quds in 1967. It also points out the damages caused by the attempt to burn down Al-Aqsa Mosque in 1969 and, on the other hand, it reviews the subsequent international efforts made in order to restore and repair this third Holy Mosque in Islam. The audio-visual presentation as a whole is a story of efforts by Muslims to maintain this physical manifestation of deep faith against continuous threats of destruction. Part of the photography presented are by Mr. Duncan while other unique pictures were drawn from the archives of Al-Aqsa Directorate.

Conference on Architect Sinan in Morocco

On the occasion of the 400th anniversary of his death, the great architect Sinan (1489-1588) is commemorated almost everywhere and especially in Islamic countries. In the context of the commemoration programmes, an exhibition of Sinan's works in photographs was organised in Rabat, upon the initiative of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs of Morocco and with the collaboration of Turkish authorities. The exhibition was opened on 15 March.



The signature and seal of Sinan

In conjunction with this activity, IRCICA, organised a lecture in Rabat, on 17 March, about the life and the works of Sinan. The lecture was given by architect Prof. Dr. Bülent Özer, Vice-Rector and Head of the Chair of Architectural Theory and History of Mimar Sinan University. We give below a summary of Prof. Dr. Bülent Özer's lecture:

"In the period when the Ottoman State was powerful, extremely dynamic and at the peak of its development, Sinan managed to give

his architecture an impulse which placed him at the top of the art of building in the pre-industrial era. The existence of masterpieces such as the Ulucami in Bursa, the Üçşerefeli Mosque in Edirne, the Fatih, Beyazıt and Selim Mosques in Istanbul, as well as the old churches of Saint Sophia, Saint Serge and Saint Bacchus in Istanbul must have been for him challenges he could not escape. In my opinion, this is the major reason that lead him to a daring, spontaneous pluralism; thus, Sinan had to compete with these previous architectural achievements and always

ments, such as the Mosque of Sinan Paşa which is "almost a replica of the prototype Üçşerefeli in Edirne", and other works which followed in this category, the Mosques of Kara Ahmet Paşa, Semiz Ali Paşa, Molla Çelebi, Sokollu and Atik Valide. He said:

"The Selimiye in Edirne stands not only as the culmination point of his own career, but also as that of the domed architecture in general... The Mosque of Sokollu in Azapkapı was, in a sense, the continuation of the great experience of Selimiye but doubling the



Süleymaniye Mosque in Istanbul, built between 1550-56

tried to surpass and transcend them, or, in a few cases, to rebuild them with a certain aim in mind, at least to transform or improve them. Almost at the beginning of his career, he was tempted by Saint Sophia and also by the Beyazıt Mosque to have his say in this category, and he built the Şehzade Mosque, followed by the Süleymaniye Mosque (of Sultan Süleyman the Magnificent) which is closer to its prototypes. Still in this category, the Mosque of Kılıç Ali Paşa was to constitute, later in his life, a rather corrective and purifying contemporary reinterpretation of Saint Sophia".

In the same context, the lecturer gave other examples of mosques Sinan built to better understand and exercise over existing monu-

number of the conchas. From this angle, it can be compared to San Vitale in Ravenna; in other words, instead of the four diagonal half-domes in Selimiye, the Sokollu has eight conchas of different dimensions, which gives to the interior space a very sophisticated rhythmic acceleration. While it justifies the liberty of stylistic creation provided that the authenticity of each new accomplishment is respected, the pluralism of Sinan indicates at the same time the judicious path to be followed vis-à-vis the past, i.e. the historical and traditional examples. In fact, what impresses us in him is that he never enslaved himself to them. In my view, it is here that we find the real and timeless spirit of his heritage at the 400th anniversary of his death".

Baghdad International
Calligraphy Festival
ends with success

The festival programme also included a seminar. Twelve papers were presented on calligraphy, decorative arts and related subjects.



Inauguration of the Baghdad Calligraphy Festival

The first Baghdad International Festival of Arabic Calligraphy and Islamic Decoration was held from 24-30 April 1988, under the auspices of the Ministry of Culture and Information of Iraq. About 250 artists and specialists of Islamic arts from 29 different countries as well as lovers of art and journalists participated in the event.

H.E.Mr.Latif Naseef Jasem, Minister of Culture and Information of Iraq inaugurated the festival and welcomed all participants. He said the festival was an important activity because it emphasized the crucial place of writing in life; even the history of mankind had started with writing. The Minister also inaugurated the exhibition of the festival, where 678 works of calligraphy, gilding and illumination were displayed. There were calligraphies in the well-known styles such as the thuluth, the nasih, the diwani, the qufi, the taliq, as well as artistic applications on metal, wood and leather. Awards were distributed to the best thirteen works.

IRCICA, the Secretariat of ICPICH contributed to the seminar with three papers. One was by IRCICA Director General Prof.Dr. Ekmel-eddin İhsanoğlu, titled "The Future of Calligraphy"; the paper was read by Mr.Mohammed Tamimi since the Director General was in Istanbul to receive the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Malaysia at the Centre. The second paper by Prof.Uğur Derman, expert in Islamic arts was titled "Calligraphy in the Ottonman period"; the presentation was accompanied with a show of slides of famous calligraphic works. Third, Mr.Mohammed Tamimi, Secretary of the First International Calligraphy Competition organised by ICPICH, presented a study on the competition and its results.

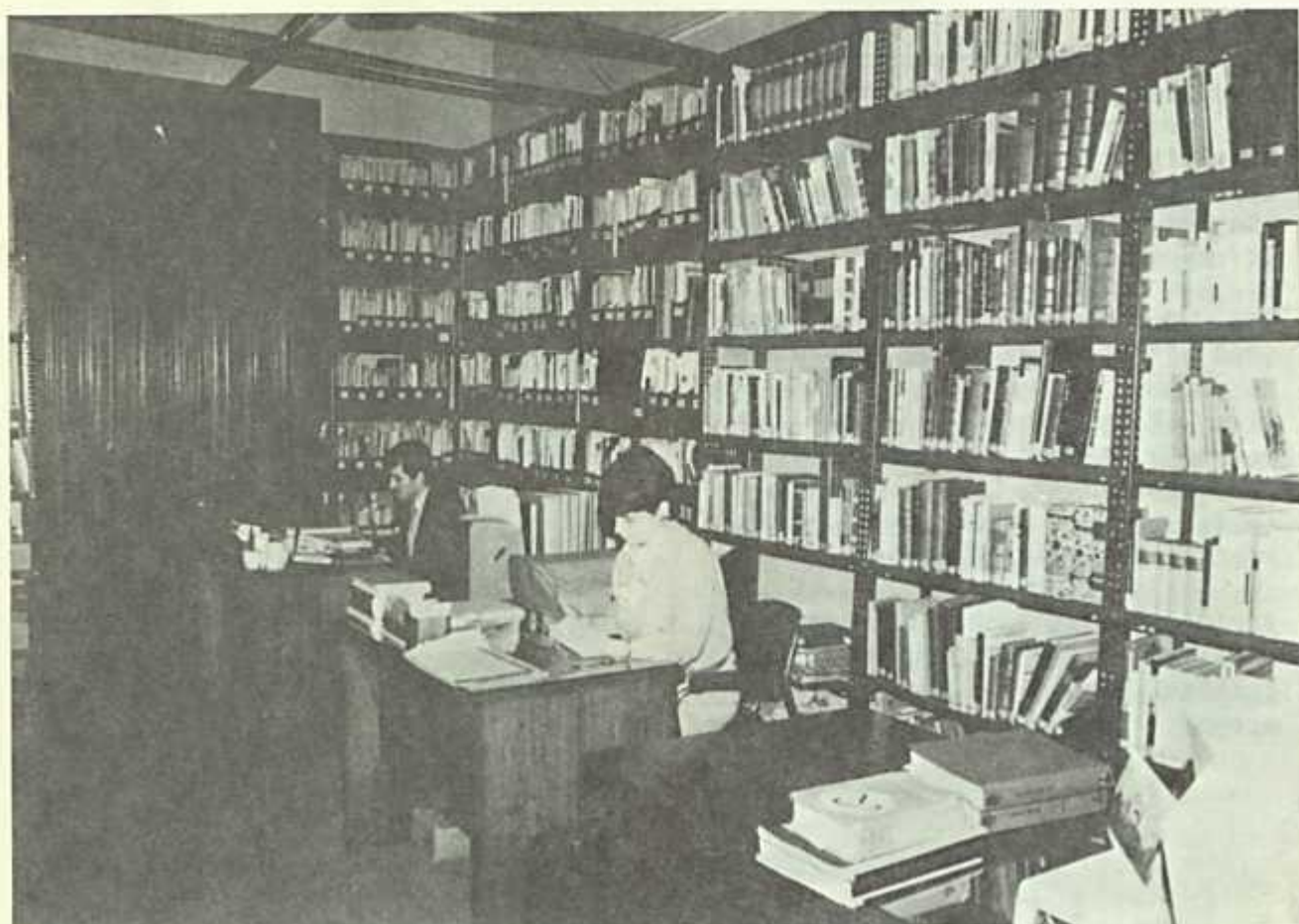
At the closing session, the participants discussed the possible ways of promoting calligraphy and protecting and helping the calligraphers. They issued a Final Declaration and recommended the following, in summary:

1. Efforts should be made to establish a faculty in Iraq, to teach Arabic calligraphy and Islamic decoration;
2. A request should be made to the Ministries of Education of Arab and other Islamic countries to consider teaching calligraphy in the first and second level of education, promoting calligraphy and protecting calligraphers;
3. Publishers and information agencies should be requested to respect the principles and rules of Arabic calligraphy in the information they publish and disseminate; efforts should be made to prevent deliberate attempts to distort the Arabic letters by pretending to modernisation;
4. Ministries of Culture and Information in Islamic countries should take the responsibility of promoting Arabic calligraphy by organising exhibitions, festivals, symposia and competitions as they do for other arts;
5. Calligraphers should be protected and grouped in official institutions to be created in Islamic countries; an International League of Calligraphers should be established in Baghdad, in order to upgrade and promote calligraphy, solve the difficulties and remove the obstacles which hinder its progress;
6. A permanent commission should be established to follow-up the execution of the decisions and recommendations of the Baghdad International Festival of Arabic Calligraphy and Islamic Decoration and to make preparations for the second festival;
7. Each participant in the festival should carry its message to his home country and communicate his impressions and observations;
8. The programme of the second festival should include a competition to select the best calligraphies and organise an exhibition which would travel to different countries;
9. A brochure about the festival activities should be published to serve as a reference for those who are interested;
10. The works to be presented in future festivals should be original and not displayed before in any other exhibition; it would be preferable if they were written exclusively for the purpose of the festival.



Exhibition of the Festival

IRCICA LIBRARY IN BRIEF



The establishment and development of a reference library on Islamic history, art and culture is one of the principal tasks of IRCICA. In the performance of this task, the Centre took into account the needs of researchers and research institutions of OIC Member States as well as the scholarly circles all over the world; it tried to ensure that the subject-wise coverage of its library collection be as exhaustive as possible. At the same time, it made efforts to promote awareness about its library by publishing accession lists and catalogues and engaged in cooperation and exchanges of books and periodicals with other libraries throughout the world. The holdings of the library are continuously being enriched by new acquisitions as well as by donations of books from personalities and institutions. A number of incunabula and rare books further increase the

value of the library collection. We provide below brief information about the recent developments concerning the Centre's library.

IRCICA's library holds presently 20000 volumes of books, all of which are products of researches and studies and the majority, reference works. 12000 volumes out of the total have been classified and catalogued and put on open shelves for the use of the readers. These works can easily be searched by the reader by means of the computer. On the other hand, the number of titles of periodicals reached 1038; the majority of these periodicals are of academic nature while the rest are the newsletters and bulletins of various scholarly and cultural institutions.

The library acquired the microfilms of unpublished doctorate and masters theses concerning Islamic

countries and prepared in American and European universities. The classification and cataloging of these theses has been completed and they are now available for the use of researchers.

The library also possesses around 5000 offprints and grey literature. The first issue of an "Accession List of Offprints" was published recently. The general "Library Accession List" is published quarterly; it is supplemented with a monthly "New Titles" bulletin.

IRCICA Library exchanges books with more than 200 libraries, research institutions and universities around the world. The exchange



programme was useful in increasing the holdings of books and it allowed the Centre's library to establish working relations with other libraries.

The library administration recently embarked on a new project aiming to collect the national bibliographies and basic encyclopaedias of Islamic countries. It is expected that this collection will constitute the basis of a reference data bank of the Islamic world. IRCICA hopes to benefit from the cooperation and assistance of the concerned authorities of Islamic countries in the execution of this project.

NEW IRCICA PUBLICATION

ISLAMIC SWORDS AND SWORDSMITHS,
by Ünsal Yücel, translated by
Tahsin Tahaoğlu; IRCICA and the
Ministry of Information of Kuwait,
Kuwait, 1988, 28x21.5 cm., 145 p.,
illustrated (Arabic). Price: US\$15
for all countries post included

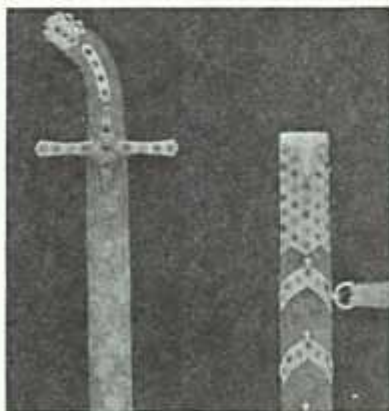
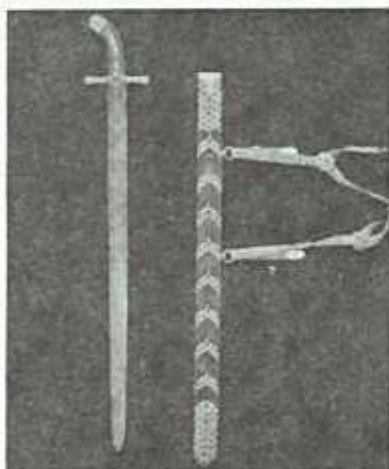
This is a catalogue comprising 114
swords kept at the Topkapı Pal-
ace Museum and the Military Museum
in Istanbul. These swords belong
to the 1st-10th centuries Hijra
(7th-16th centuries) and the majo-
rity did not appear before in any
similar publication.

The work consists of three parts.
The first part is related to the
"Blessed Swords" and contains 22
swords attributed to the Prophet
(P.B.U.H.), the four Khalifas and
the companions of the Prophet. The
second part deals with the charac-
teristics of Islamic swords and
their forms; the analysis here is
based on 92 swords used by Ome-
yads, Abbasids, Ayyubids, Mameluks,
Muslims in the Maghreb and Ottomans.
The passage from straight swords
to bent swords and the consequent
changes in the shapes of their
handles and blades are studied. As
to the third part, it is devoted



to swordsmiths. 44 swordsmiths of the periods referred above were determined in the study.

The book contains 186 photographs showing the swords; 46 are colour photographs and the other 140, black and white. There is also an index of the swords given in chronological order according to the date of manufacturing, and a list of references. The catalogue was



Sword attributed to Halid bin Walid, companion of the Prophet. Decorations added and the sheath covered with velvet in 1611



One of the swords of Sultan Mehmed II the Conqueror

compiled by Assoc.Prof. late Ünsal Yücel, translated into Arabic at IRCICA by Tahsin Tahaoğlu; valuable contributions were made at the editing stage by Prof.Ahmad Issa.

IRCICA is grateful to the Ministry of Information of the State of Kuwait for the precious cooperation extended in the publication of this work.

SPOTLIGHT ON CULTURAL EVENTS

ENGLAND

Global Conference of Spiritual and Parliamentary Leaders on Human Survival

Nearly 100 spiritual leaders from all major religions, scholars and academicians and another 100 parliamentarians from 52 countries came together at this conference held on 11-15 April 1988, at Christ Church College, Oxford University. The conference was organised by the Global Forum of Spiritual and Parliamentary Leaders on Human Survival, a permanent body co-chaired by the Very Reverend James Parks Morton, Dean of the Cathedral of St. John The Divine and President of the Temple of Understanding (an interfaith organisation founded in 1960), New York, U.S.A. and Sat Paul Mittal, Member of Parliament, New Delhi, India. The Global Forum was instituted in New York in 1985 by a group of lawmakers from different parts of the world and two representatives for each of the world's five major religions; Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism. In the organisation of this Global Conference, the Global Forum was supported by the Global Committee of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (New York) and the Temple of Understanding.

The purpose of the conference was to find ways in which the spiritual and parliamentary groups, both attuned to the needs and the voice of the people and concerned with the well-being of humanity, can work together to forge new and more fruitful approaches to the problems of human survival. It proved to be a unique and fruitful gathering where spiritual and parliamentary

leaders discussed and consulted each other on a variety of issues related to human survival and problems facing humanity on a global scale. There were plenary sessions with presentations by theme speakers and working group sessions for discussions. IRCICA Director General Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu was invited to the conference as a member of the Muslim group.

The opening ceremony heard the welcoming speech of The Right Hon. Lord Jenkins, Chancellor of Oxford University; the spiritual keynote address was given by Dr. Robert Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury and the parliamentary keynote address by H.E. Kodzo Mawupe Vovor, former President of the National Assembly of Togo. Mr. Marco Vianello-Chiodo, Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF representing Executive Director Mr. James P. Grant, addressed the ceremony on behalf of the United Nations Organisation. At the outset of the first plenary session, Mr. Akio Matsumura, Executive Coordinator of the Global Forum gave an account of the origin and development of the conference. The general themes and speakers of the plenary sessions and the titles of the presentations were:

First session: "Physical and Spiritual Resources" - Speakers: His Holiness the XIVth Dalai Lama on human values and Dr. Evguenij P. Velikhov, Vice President of the Soviet Academy of Science, on nuclear energy and peace.

Second session: "Global Crisis and Human Responsibility" - Speakers: Mr. Manuel Ulloa, Senator of Peru on "Human Society and Human Violence" and Mr. Fred Sai, Senior Population Advisor to the World Bank, on "The Family and Family Values".

Third session: "Global Opportunities" - Speakers: Dr. Soedjatmoko, former Rector of the United Nations University, on "Education in a Time of Global Crisis", Mr. Tarzie Vitachi, journalist and international civil servant, on "Media and Human Values" and Mr. Thornton Bradshaw, business leader and Chairman of the MacArthur Foundation, on "Social Ethics".

The fourth and final plenary session heard the reports of working groups which met to discuss and explore the possible ways and areas of cooperation between religious and parliamentary leaders. At the end of their deliberations, the participants issued a final statement "For Global Survival" in which they affirmed a "shared vision for survival" and "commitment to work for a fundamentally changed and better world". Formulating specific proposals, the conferees committed themselves to;

- promote reconciliation and peace where international or civic relationships are broken by conflict or injustice;
- avoid competition and promote respectful and equal partnerships of young and old, women and men, of people of all races, religions, traditional cultures and political persuasions, where opportunities for practical cooperation exist;
- develop modes of education, communication and dialogue where misunderstandings or ignorance keep [them] apart.
- while striving for basic human rights, which should be inspired by religious teachings and safeguarded by political systems, to exercise human duties as individuals and communities to protect the earth and each other.

Three areas of "critical concern" were identified: "eliminating nuclear and other arms"; "finding the appropriate balance between resources and people" and "the well-being of vulnerable groups, parti-

cularly women and children". The participants also decided that the Global Forum of Spiritual and Parliamentary Leaders on Human Survival, as a permanent organisation, will ensure the follow-up of the conference and continue to advance the post-conference dialogue via contacts, meetings and its quarterly newsletter, "Shared Vision".

FRANCE

Exhibition on "The Art of Illumination in the Maghreb", Paris

The salient features of the art of illumination in the Maghreb from the 12th to the 20th century were highlighted at an exhibition that took place at the "Institute of the Arab World" in Paris from 19 January to 7 February 1988. The exhibition consisted of photographic reproductions of the manuscripts contained in Al-Hassaniya Royal Library in Rabat, Morocco. The reproductions were extracted from the newly published work "Royal Illuminated Manuscripts of Morocco" by Dr. Mohammed Sijelmassi (this work is introduced in the section Book Survey in the present issue).

SAUDI ARABIA

King Faisal International Prize for 1989

The General Secretariat of the King Faisal International Prize announced that the 1989 Prize in Islamic Studies will be awarded on the topic of "Studies on the Islamic City". Academic works to be considered are those dealing with the topic historically and culturally, from the rise of Islam until the 13th century Hijra (19th century AD). The King Faisal International Prize is allocated each year in the following areas: The Service of Islam, Islamic Studies, Arabic Literature, Medicine, and Science.

Bibliographical data bank about the Islamic world

The King Faisal Centre for Research and Islamic Studies in Riyadh has established a bibliographical data bank to contain information on the literature concerning Islamic countries. The data bank comprises the works published in the West since the beginning of this century. Books, articles and studies of international organisations are included. Subject-wise, the data bank covers history, economics, politics, sciences and culture.

Studies on the literature of Islamic nations

Imam Muhammed bin Saud Islamic University in Riyadh published the first volume of a series of books on the literature of Islamic nations. This volume by Dr. Mohammed Abdellatif Haridi is on Turkish literature; it studies the origins of Turkish literature, its development, different phases, and how it was influenced by Arabic literature. The second volume will be about Islamic literature in Urdu language. The series of books aims to better introduce the literature of Islamic nations, its greatest authors and main themes and to highlight common features and similarities.

SOUTH AFRICA

Academic Lectures on Muslims in South Africa

A programme of lectures and courses was organised at the Department of Adult Education and Extra-Mural Studies of the University of Cape Town, from 25-29 January 1988, on the theme of "Muslims in South Africa". The programme was open to all and aimed at providing various perspectives of the Muslim society

in the country, its historical roots, educational developments, trends in Islamic thought, etc. It was coordinated by Mr. Muhammed Haron, Acting Head of the Department of Arabic at the University of Western Cape and included lectures by specialists from the Universities of Western Cape and Cape Town.

On the other hand, the University of Western Cape plans to establish an Islamic Centre to cater for the needs of Muslim students on the campus, the number of whom is 1500 over a total of 11000. Attached to this centre will be a "Centre for Arabic and Islamic Studies Research" and an Islamic reference library and archives.

TUNISIA

Colloquium on the History of Arab Mathematics

The Study Group on the History of Arab Mathematics of the "Institut Supérieur de l'Education et de la Formation Continue" (High Institute of Education and Continuous Training), University of Tunis has announced that it will organise, jointly with the Tunisian Association of Mathematical Sciences, a Colloquium on the History of Arab Mathematics. The colloquium will take place in Tunis, on 1-3 December 1988 and it will be the second meeting in a series. The first colloquium was held in Algiers in 1986.

TURKEY

First Turkish Congress on the History of Medicine

The First Turkish Congress on the History of Medicine was held in Istanbul, on 17-19 February 1988 under the chairmanship of Prof. Dr.

Ekrem Kadri Unat, President of the Turkish Institute of History of Medicine. The inaugural ceremony was followed by a commemorative session devoted to Prof.Dr. Süheyl Ünver, eminent figure of Islamic medicine, specialist of Islamic arts and culture and calligrapher who passed away in February 1986. During the same session, a plaque and a certificate were presented to Prof.Dr. Ekrem Kadri Unat, winner of the award that was instituted in the name of Prof.Dr.Süheyl Ünver.

The working sessions of the Congress heard 47 scientific papers altogether on various aspects of the history of medicine in the Islamic world in general and in Turkey in particular. Themes of the papers were related to: medical institutions, particularly hospitals and schools of medicine established in the past centuries in different parts of the Islamic world; the state of medical knowledge in different centuries and in relation with different fields of medicine as well as pharmacology and dentistry; eminent medical figures of the past and their contributions to the development of medicine; approaches and methods in medical practices, among others. IRCICA Director General was among the contributors, with a paper on the "Sanitary establishments in Syria in the late Ottoman period". Each paper presentation was followed by intensive discussions. An exhibition of stamps concerning the history of medicine was organised on the occasion of the Congress.

First International Seminar of Turkestan Culture and History

This seminar was organised by the Eastern Turkestan Foundation chaired by Mr.Isa Yusuf Alptekin, ex-General Secretary of the Government

of Eastern Turkestan. It took place in Istanbul, on 6-8 April 1988. Scholars and specialists from different countries attended the seminar; around 20 papers were presented, dealing with various aspects of Turkestan culture and history, such as: the importance of Turkestan studies and problems encountered in these studies; the need to study Turkestan dialect; Uyghur and Karahanid Turkish; Uyghur and Karahanid history; independence movements in Eastern Turkestan; Turkestan's historical relations with other States, etc. The seminar ended with social activities including performances of Turkestan traditional music and folkloric dances.

U.S.A.

Exhibition of a Mughal Art Album in New York

An outstanding imperial Mughal collection of paintings and calligraphy was exhibited at the Metropolitan Museum of Art from 21 October 1987 through 14 February 1988. Ms. Carolyn Kane, Curator at the Department of Islamic Art of the Museum informed us through the exhibition's press release that "The Emperors' Album: Images of Mughal India" consisted of the display of approximately forty leaves from an album known as the "Kevorkian Album" named after its owner since 1929. The leaves date from the 17th and early 19th centuries; as explained in the press release, the 17th century leaves include masterpieces of Mughal portraiture and natural history studies made for and gathered by the emperors Jahangir (1605-1627) and Shahjahan (1628-1658). Also on display were 15th century Persian calligraphies collected by the two emperors and mounted for the royal library in superb borders.

CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

All but one of the miniatures in the album were created in the imperial Mughal ateliers by outstanding masters. Together with the calligraphies, they were meant for private enjoyment and were shared by the imperial family and their close friends. The full album is reproduced by The Metropolitan Museum of Art in the publication "The Emperors' Album: Images of Mughal India".

Centre for Turkish Music at the University of Maryland

A Centre for Turkish Music recently established in the Department of Music (Program in Ethnomusicology) of the University of Maryland offers permanent courses in performance of Turkish music. The courses are conducted by Dr. Karl Signell, specialist in Turkish music and Executive Secretary of the Centre. An international group of students follow the courses; this ensemble gave its first performance in April 1988.

As soon as it was established in 1986-87, the Centre started to constitute an archive of Turkish music; it acquired the necessary instruments and in September 1987, it began permanent class in performance. Last February, it organised a gala concert of classical Turkish music. The purpose of the Centre is to promote understanding of the classical and folk musical traditions of the Turkish people by study, performance and dissemination. It plans to allocate scholarships for graduate students from Turkey, organise regular concert series, publish books and records and hold scholarly conferences.

In each issue of the Newsletter, we try to introduce briefly research institutions dealing with subjects related to Islamic culture. By doing so, we aim at promoting awareness among these institutions and providing to our readers an idea about what is being done through institutionalised research effort in the field of Islamic culture. Of course there are some factors which determine the selection of the institutions we present: the supply of information to us is one. Another factor is the relevance of the objectives and areas of interest of the institutions, taking into account both IRCICA's purview, and the needs and requests of the Newsletter's readers. And, we also make an effort to introduce institutions from different parts of the world.

Thus we thought it would interest our readers to hear this time about one institution from the East, namely the Institute for Palestine Studies in Lebanon, and another from the West, the Instituto Occidental de Cultura Islamica (IOCI) located in Spain.

THE INSTITUTE FOR PALESTINE STUDIES, LEBANON

This Institute based in Beirut was established in 1963 as an autonomous, non-profit body to work scientifically for the cause of Palestine by making objective and well-documented studies.

The Institute's activities are planned by a Council of Secretaries



composed of 41 policy-makers and scholars of different Islamic countries. An Executive Commission is in charge of the implementation of research projects and publications of the Institute as well as administrative affairs. Sources of finance for the Institute's activities are donations, membership dues, contributions of Arab institutions and universities to joint research and publication projects and receipts of book sales.

The research, information and documentation projects of the Institute deal with various aspects of the problem of Palestine and historical, social and cultural issues. By the end of 1985, the Institute published a total of 283 books; 136 of them were in Arabic, 117 in English, 28 in French, 2 in Spanish. The Institute publishes a seasonal "Journal of Palestine Studies" in English, French, Arabic and Spanish. The books published by the Institute include bibliographies, catalogues and series of articles.

The research and publication programme comprises mainly the following series:

- Series of researches
- Series of reference works
- Documentary series
- Yearbooks on the problem of Palestine
- Series of field studies
- Series of textbooks on Palestine.

The Institute has a specialised reference library on Palestine comprising encyclopaedias, yearbooks, bibliographies, official reports, maps, books, periodicals and documents and a microfilm unit. The headquarters of the Institute for Palestine Studies are at: "Enis Musuli Av., 11-7164 Beirut, Lebanon". It also has offices in Washington, Paris and Nicosia.

THE WESTERN INSTITUTE OF ISLAMIC CULTURE, SPAIN

This Institute was established in 1981, with the basic objective of working for a better understanding of the Islamic civilisation and culture. It is an independent, non-profit institution located in Madrid; its members are scholars and researchers of Islamic culture and professionals of different discip-

lines: medical doctors, engineers, architects, etc., making up nearly a hundred members and collaborators, most of them Spanish, gathered under the Chairmanship of Dr. Cherif Jah Abderrahman, Moroccan scholar in Islamic sciences. The Director General of the Institute is Dr. José Manuel Muñoz y Sánchez, well-known islamologist.

IOCI's communication to IRCICA says: "The impulse behind our activity originates from the appreciation of the fact that the Islamic culture is not sufficiently known in proportion to the great influence that it has had in the course of history. However, having this knowledge is essential for the comprehension of the actual Spanish culture ... We understand that the real value of every intellectual development and cultural work is within the rescue and diffusion of a living and constructive science that invites analysis, reflection and deepening of knowledge. It is for this reason that we try to get a wide treatment of general character but at the same time, objective and severely scientific". This is the spirit that governs the research projects IOCI undertook as well as the seminars, conferences and exhibitions it organises.

IOCI publishes the results of the studies in the form of articles and books. It cares to ensure that these studies be of international reach. IOCI attaches a special importance to cooperation with other institutions at national and international levels, in all kinds of activities such as research projects, scholarly meetings, promotional programmes, etc., concerning any aspect of Islamic culture. The Institute's preferred languages of correspondence other than Span-

ish are English, French, Arabic and Italian.

Last year was marked by substantial programmes within the framework of the Institute's promotional activities. "Journeys on Islamic Culture" were organised in April 1987 in the city of Toledo. This public activity comprised a Congress on "Al Andalus, Eight Centuries of History" where a lively debate open to the public was held for four days, on history, art, science, philosophy, music, literature, architecture, archeology, culinary arts, and many other aspects of life in the Muslim Andalusian era. Research papers were presented by specialists under the following session themes: "Society and Tradition", "The Historical Fact" (Muslims vs. non-Muslims), "The Material Universe: Sciences and Techniques", "Thought, Philosophy and Religion", "Artistic Manifestations", "The World of Intercultural Relations". Round-tables were held during the conference period, about the "Principal Spanish-Muslim Monuments" in relation with the periods they belong, and "Muslim Toledo". In addition to musical performances and practical culinary demonstrations, with explanations on historical developments there were also which exhibitions with shows of slides and films and lectures to best inform the public about the art and culture of Muslim Andalusia. The exhibitions held through April-May were about "The Spanish-Muslim Art" and "The Influence of Muslims in Popular Arts". The Institute will publish soon the proceedings of the Congress and a scientific catalogue of the exhibition on Spanish-Muslim Art. The address of the Western Institute of Islamic Culture (IOCI) is as follows: c/Francisco de Ricci, 4-3G, 28015 Madrid, Spain.

BOOK SURVEY

Mohamed Sijelmassi, Royal Illuminated Manuscripts of Morocco (Al-Hassania Library), Foreword by André Miquel, ACR Edition, Paris, 1987; 28,5x26 cm., 236+34 pages (English, French, Arabic)

An excellent work attesting to the exceptional care, the beauty of mind and spirit and the respect for knowledge with which Islamic civilisation extolled the book. Starting from the first centuries of Islam, calligraphers and illuminators decorated the written text of the Holy Quran in veneration, as well as the works of authors who contributed to sciences, philosophy, literature and other fields of learning. Thus, the dissemination of knowledge was heightened with an artistic performance which enriched its significance and augmented its value. The ornamented manuscript became a rare and precious asset sought by sovereigns, high officials, intellectuals and the well-to-do, to whom these works were often dedicated. With the impulse of the interest and high status attributed to the book in the Muslim society, the "art of the book" developed continuously and gave birth to innumerable masterpieces of calligraphy, gilding, illumination and bookbinding. In their evolution and geographic expansion, these arts were enriched by a variety of styles and particular features which allow us to distinguish between works produced at different times and in different parts of the Islamic world. Thus, for example, the decorations on manuscripts of the Middle East are characterized by a more frequent use of miniature paintings showing people, animals and scenes of daily

life, while those of the Western part of the Islamic world - the Maghreb and Spain - are made up of a combination of lines, geometric elements and floral motifs.

The work of Dr. Mohamed Sijelmassi is the outcome of a study of the art of illumination in the Islamic world and particularly in the Western part of it. It highlights the major characteristics and basic elements of form and composition of this art in the Maghreb, by providing the reproductions of samples of marvelous illuminations which come from Al-Hassania Library in Rabat and its annex in Marrakesh, Morocco. These illuminations were taken from 136 manuscripts selected from among thousands of works contained in these libraries, written mostly in the Maghrebian style. While he enjoys the fine colours and subtle designs, the reader is helped by the captions of the illustrations to understand the aesthetical and technical characteristics of each illumination, as well as its symbolic role in the context of the manuscript. The book also contains an index which gives the title, subject, and names of the author and the calligrapher of the manuscripts from which the illuminations were extracted. In the Introduction, Dr. Sijelmassi elaborates upon the history of the "art of the book" in Islam, underlining the importance given to the manuscript as a product of study, knowledge and artistic expression. The Introduction also explains how geometric decoration, calligraphic decoration and the stylized floral motifs are combined and laid out to highlight the text.

The author, medical doctor and ex-Chief of the Pediatric Services in Casablanca, is at the same time a specialist in Islamic arts. He was a first-term member of the Governing Council of IRCICA and the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage between 1980-1985; he also participated in experts' meetings on Islamic arts at the UNESCO. He organised exhibitions of Moroccan painters. Dr. Sijelmassi is the author of several books on painting, calligraphy and traditional arts and crafts.

Mur el-Uyun wa Jami el-Funun (The light of the eye and the collector of the arts) by Salaheddin bin Yussef el-Kahhal el-Hamaoui (696H/1296 CE). Edited by Muhammed Zafar el-Wafai; revised by Muhammed Rouwes Kal'aji, King Faisal Centre for Research and Islamic Studies, Riyadh 1407H/1987; 17x24x5 cm., 677 pages (Arabic).

This book, a specialised research effort of high standard, brings a scientific work of the 13th century again to light and the outstanding contributions of past Muslim scientists to the fore. This extensive study of the eye and its diseases contains medical knowledge that is still relevant. The editors took up three manuscript copies of the work: the oldest and most complete manuscript written in 1128 is at the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris; the second manuscript dated 1154 is at Alexandria Library in Egypt and the third and most recent copy is at Gotha Library in West Germany. Other manuscripts of the same work are found in Istanbul. It is on the oldest manuscript that the critical edition is based. The editors compared it with the two other copies, indicated their differences and provided explanations and annotations to facilitate the task of the reader. They joined a number of indexes and a list of 94

Greek, Persian and Arab references used by the author, most of which did not reach us. There are also several drawings about the structure of the eye, the theory of the sight as well as the instruments used in ophtalmologic surgery.

The work consists of ten parts divided into many chapters, as follows:

- Part 1: The eye, its structure, surgery related to the eye and the eyelids
- Part 2: The sight, theories of physicians about visual perception
- Part 3: Hygienic diseases
- Part 4: Diseases of the eye
- Part 5: Illnesses of ducts, their causes, symptoms and treatment
- Part 6: Illnesses of the retina and their causes and treatment
- Part 7: Diseases of the cornea and their causes and treatment
- Part 8: Diseases of the eyelid, cataracts, their causes and treatment
- Part 9: Illnesses having invisible symptoms, their treatment, headaches resulting from diseases of the eye and their treatment
- Part 10: Medicines, other remedies and their effects on the eye.

The author Salaheddin bin Yussef lived in Hama, Damascus in the 13th century. His work provides a record of the ophtalmologic knowledge of his time.

Görgy Hazai and Barbara Kellner-Heinkele, Bibliographisches Handbuch der Turkologie (A bibliographical handbook of Turcology), Hungarian Academy, "Bibliotheca Orientalis Hungarica XXX", Budapest, 1986, 17x24,5 cm., 583 p.

This reference book is a bibliography of bibliographies on Turcology, covering the period from the 18th century to 1979. The geographical spread of Turkic people in

the past - from Central Asia to the Balkans and from China to North Africa - and their socio-cultural contacts with other peoples are reflected in the international literature of Turcology consisting of scholarly studies. The emphasis in this bibliography of bibliographies is on the regional aspects of this movement. The material is presented starting from larger regions to smaller ones. The book is divided into the following main chapters:

1. Sources of international bibliographical information;
2. General bibliographies on Turkish-speaking countries;
3. Bibliographies of Oriental studies;
4. Bibliographies of Islamic studies and Muslim countries in the Near East and Middle East;
5. Bibliographies of studies on individual countries;
6. Regional bibliographies on Turcology;
7. Philology;
8. Ethnography and folklore;
9. Literature;
10. History;
11. Archaeology, anthropology, numismatics and history of art;
12. Theology;
- 13 A. Geography;
B. Travelogues.

This subject-wise exhaustive survey of the bibliographical sources will be completed with the second volume, to comprise the library catalogues, institutional and academic publications, catalogues of manuscripts, biographic works, other references related to Turcology, registers and indexes.

This first volume is a valuable reference work for those involved in Turcology and related areas of study like Balkanology, Arabic studies, Iranian studies, Sinology, Hungarology etc. in which they can depict useful bibliographical

sources. The authors, both Turcologists of international repute, have done an enormous work and the Hungarian Academy has published it in a wonderful way.

Afghanica, The Afghanistan Studies Newsletter, no. 1, September 1987 appeared in Oxford, U.K.

The first issue of Afghanica, The Afghanistan Studies Newsletter appeared, dated September 1987. It aims to create an effective way for communication among scholars and researchers interested in Afghanistan, both foreign and Afghan. The Newsletter will represent humanistic studies and in particular linguistics, literature, anthropology, sociology and history.

Dr. Jadwiga Pstrusinska, Editor of Afghanica explains in the Editorial that the idea of an Afghanistan studies newsletter had come out in April 1987, at a workshop on "The Future of Afghan Studies" organised by an international group of scholars during the symposium "The Crisis of Migration from Afghanistan - Domestic and Foreign Implications" which was held at Oxford University and co-sponsored by the Refugee Studies Programme and the Department of Ethnology and Prehistory.

Afghanica includes announcements of seminars, conferences and lectures organised by universities and research institutions in the world, research projects, awards, publications and films, i.e. all past and upcoming scholarly events about Afghanistan. It will be published twice a year, as Spring and Autumn issues. Enquiries and material for inclusion in Afghanica may be addressed to: the "Editor, Dr. Jadwiga Pstrusinska, Afghanica, P.O.B. 2/3, Oxford OX1 1AQ, United Kingdom".

Impressions of the visitors

* "It was the greatest honour and pleasure to have been able to visit the distinguished Centre and to have seen the valuable work that is, so dedicatedly, being done. There is no doubt that, by the grace of God, this will be the foundation of a great institution of research and learning. The whole team will, I pray, perform great services for the whole of the Islamic community. May this become the fountainhead of true Islamic scholarship and may new vitality and inspiration flow from it for generations to come".

H.H. Prince Muffakham Jah,
President, Board of the Islamic
Culture journal, Hyderabad, India
4 January 1988

* "I am proud to record my impressions on the Book of this Centre ... I express my appreciation to the Centre's authorities. This institution gives you confidence about the future of Islam as long as there are people who care for it. I pray God to guide us towards welfare and happiness." (Original: Arabic)

Mr. Ibrahim Muhammed Al-Hadidi,
Member of the National Council of
the United Arab Emirates
19 January 1988

* "I am very happy today to visit this Centre and proud especially after having seen its different sections. Taking the opportunity given to me to be acquainted with this Islamic asset, I would like to express my appreciation to Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu for his generous efforts which gave their fruits in this Centre. I pray God to guide us in the service of the Islamic world and its heritage." (Original: Arabic)

Mr. Ali Ahmed Abu Rijal, Deputy
Director, Cabinet of H.E. the
President of the Arab Republic of
Yemen, * 7 March 1988

* "We are very happy to visit the headquarters of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture, subsidiary organ of the OIC and to meet its Director General. We saw the Centre and were very pleased to observe the efforts made in the fields of research, documentation and publication. Although it is young, this Centre succeeded to gain recognition among the research centres and institutions of all Islamic countries. We wish success to the Director General and his colleagues." (Original: Arabic)

Dr. Eng. Raif Mahanna, Professor of
Architecture, Damascus University;
Dr. Eng. Nihad Al-Abdallah, Dean of
the Fac. of Civil Engineering,
University of Teshrin;

Dr. Eng. Abdelghani Al-Shihabi, Dean
of the Fac. of Civil Engineering,
University of Aleppo;
Dr. Eng. Tawwal Aquili, Dean of the
Fac. of Civil Engineering, Damascus
University, Syria, 8 March 1988

* "... The day of my visit at this Centre made me proud. I saw here one of the Islamic citadels and one of the monuments of research and history. I observed here an elite of able Muslims working silent as a priest, with a deep experience, trying to collect the heritage ... they are in touch with the roots and the origin of Islamic civilisation. I was very happy; I wish this work will even double and that God will bless it. I hope these efforts will lead us to welfare, so that the flag of Islam rises again on the basis of science, learning and culture." (Original: Arabic)

Mr. Ali Ahmed Hamdi, Advisor to
the Director General, Arab League
Educational, Cultural and
Scientific Organisation (ALECSO),
League of Arab States,
22 March 1988.



WORLD BIBLIOGRAPHY OF TRANSLATIONS OF THE MEANING OF THE HOLY QUR'AN: PRINTED TRANSLATIONS 1515 - 1980, prepared by İSMET BİNARK, HALİT EREN; Edited and Prefaced by EKMELEDDİN İHSANOĞLU, Istanbul, 1986; XCIX, 880, 34 p.; 24 cm. (English) Price: US \$80 plus package and postage (US\$ 20 for America, URSS, Japan and China; US\$ 10 all others).

Gives information about 2672 works which are the originals, copies and different editions of 551 complete and 883 incomplete translations and selections in 65 languages. The Preface gives the history of Quran translations from the beginnings of Islam to our time.

UNION CATALOGUE OF PERIODICALS IN ARABIC SCRIPT IN THE LIBRARIES OF ISTANBUL (1828-1928), Compiled by HASAN DUMAN, Istanbul, 1986; 664 p.; 24 cm. Price: US \$25 plus package and postage (US\$ 10 for America, URSS, Japan and China; US\$ 5 all others).

Contains information about 1804 titles of periodicals in different languages printed in Arabic script. The preface, the bibliographical explanations and indications for indexes are trilingual in English, Arabic and Turkish.

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY OF EARLY TURKISH WORKS ON CHEMISTRY (Printed works, 1830-1923), Prepared by EKMELEDDİN İHSANOĞLU, History of Science Series no.2, Istanbul, 1985; IX, 148 p.; 24 cm. (Turkish) Price: US\$ 10 post and package included.

Gives the results of researches conducted on more than 250 references assessed through the scanning of numerous sources and about 20 library collections. There are 259 entries of works published between 1830-1923 given in chronological order according to the date of publication and indexes of authors, educational institutions and the names of printers and publishers.

OTTOMAN ARCHIVES, Prepared by NECATİ AKTAŞ, İSMET BİNARK; Translated by SALİH SADAVİ SALİH; Edited and Prefaced by EKMELEDDİN İHSANOĞLU, published by IRCICA and the Centre for Archives and Manuscripts, University of Jordan, Amman, 1986; 14, 251 p.; 24 cm. (Arabic). Price: US\$ 30 post and package included.

The Ottoman Archives is a unique and authentic source for the history of many Islamic countries. This work contains a brief history of the Ottoman Archives, a description of the present classification system used in the archives and explanations of archive regulations and procedures. A glossary of Ottoman archival terms and a bibliography are included.



CATALOGUE OF MANUSCRIPTS IN THE KÖPRÜLÜ LIBRARY
by RAMAZAN ŞEŞEN, CEVAT İZGİ, CEMİL AKPINAR,
Istanbul, 1986; 3 vols. (XII, 609, 34; 647, XII;
639, XII, 22 p.); 24 cm. (Ar.) Price: US\$ 60 plus
package and postage (US\$ 10 for America, URSS,
Japan and China; US\$ 5 all others).

The Köprülü Library in Istanbul contains an important collection of manuscripts: nearly 2773 volumes under 3500 titles in the fields of history, philosophy, natural sciences, mathematics, etc. The catalogue provides full bibliographic information about them. The Preface gives the history of the collection.

THE OTTOMAN SCIENTIFIC AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, 1st National Symposium on Turkish History of Science, 3-5 April 1987, edited by EKMELEDDİN İHSANOĞLU, published by IRCICA and the Department of History of Science, Faculty of Letters, Istanbul University; History of Science Series 3, 1987; VIII, 264 p.; 24 cm. (Turkish) Price: US \$5 post and package included.

A collection of papers presented at the symposium which was jointly organised by IRCICA and the Department of History of Science, Faculty of Letters, University of Istanbul. The introduction gives information on some of the scientific and professional associations which were established in the Ottoman State. Two essays on the subject were prepared before the symposium. Some associations which were not known before were introduced in these papers and the establishment of the Ottoman associations, their problems, activities and accomplishments were discussed.

ISTANBUL, A GLIMPSE INTO THE PAST (Photo-Album)
by Ekmeleddin İHSANOĞLU, Istanbul, 1987; 97 p.,
1 map; 22 cm. (English, Arabic and Turkish) Price
US \$20 post and package included.

This album contains a collection of the rare photographs of Istanbul almost one hundred years ago, which were chosen from the archive of the Centre. The photographs introduce different sectors of life in Istanbul at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century. Each photograph has an explanation. This album was published by the Centre in cooperation with the Arab-Turkish Bank in Istanbul on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of their foundation.

IRCICA PUBLICATIONS



TURKISH ARTS AND ARCHITECTURE by Prof. Dr. Oktay ASLANAPA, translated by Ahmed ISSA, Istanbul, 1987; 21, 442, 282 p.; pictures, 1 map; 28 cm. (Arabic) Price: US\$ 60 post included.

A comprehensive encyclopaedic work covering the history of Turkish-Islamic architecture and various branches of art such as carpet-making, the arts of the book including calligraphy, miniatures and binding, etc. Originally published in English. A glossary of 600 art terms has been added.

ISLAMIC SWORDS AND SWORDSMITHS, by Ünsal YÜCEL, translated by Tahsin TAHAOĞLU, IRCICA and the Ministry of Information of Kuwait, Kuwait, 1988; 145 p., pictures, 28x21.5 cm. (Arabic), Price: US\$15 post and package included.

Descriptive catalogue of 114 swords kept at the Topkapı Palace Museum and the Military Museum in Istanbul, with 186 photographs. These swords were used from the first to the tenth century Hijra (7th-16th centuries A.D.). Chapters deal with: Blessed swords related to the Prophet (P.B.U.H.), the four Khalifas and the companions of the Prophet; Characteristics of the Islamic swords and developments in their forms; Muslim swordsmiths.

BOOKS IN THE PRESS

PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE COMMON PRINCIPLES, FORMS AND THEMES OF ISLAMIC ART, edited by Ahmad ISSA

This book contains thirty-nine research papers presented by scholars from various countries at the International Symposium on the Common Principles, Forms and Themes of Islamic Art organised by IRCICA in April 1983. The papers are in Arabic, English and French and deal with architecture, decoration, calligraphy, miniature painting and other fields of Islamic arts.

HOLY KA'BA KEYS AND LOCKS, prepared Tercan Yılmaz

The catalogue describes 56 pieces of locks and keys kept in Topkapı Palace Museum in Istanbul, with colour photographs. The introduction gives information on the method of manufacturing of the keys and locks and materials used as well as explanations on their inscriptions and decorations.

VIDEO CASSETTES

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

- * "Life and Works of the Calligrapher Hamid Al-Amidi and Calligraphic Arts"
- * "Arts of Illumination and Gilding".