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EDITORIAL

Dear Readers; here we would like to say a few words about two of the seminars on Islamic culture that were held since our last issue. The first one, held at the beginning of April 1985 in Calgary, Canada, was principally aimed at studying and discussing the views of scholars on the subject of "Interpretations of the Meaning of the Holy Quran". We regret to inform you that some orientalists among the participants of this seminar were motivated not by love of science and reality, but rather by their fanaticism against Islam and the opinions of Muslim scholars. It was surprising that their biased attitude was reflected in their remarks. Furthermore, Muslim participants were not allowed to reply to these charges and defend their ideas.

It was understood at this seminar that certain orientalists still have many false ideas about Islam and Muslims. Their soul is full of hatred which extinguishes the hope of brotherly co-existence between Muslims and Christians, especially at a time where a small group of people are endeavouring to establish a Muslim-Christian dialogue which could lay the basis of a peaceful co-existence among the followers of these two religions as well as spreading love and peace among men.

As to the second seminar, it was held in England at the end of July 1985 on the theme of "Islamic Art Resources in World Museums and Major Private Collections". The seminar attracted a lot of interest and was attended by Islamic scientists as well as distinguished Islamic personalities who are conscious of the importance and value of the Islamic cultural heritage. During the colonial period, this cultural heritage was distributed and scattered in museums and public and private collections all over the world.

The aim of the seminar was to acknowledge and register all our heritage in order to enable researchers of the Islamic world to have access to these precious properties, which in fact are their own heritage.

As it would be expected, this objective was not easy to realise. Attitudes manifested during the seminar in Calgary, Canada were also felt here, though at a lesser degree. This is probably why H.E. Mr. Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, Secretary General of the OIC in his key-note address said that in order to achieve a true understanding of Islamic art, it was essential to understand the Islamic civilisation

and its moral values. The Secretary General also spoke about the gaps existing in the field of documentation and information on the resources of Islamic art, the necessity to establish exhaustive and detailed archives covering the Islamic heritage scattered all over the world which belongs to our glorious past.

The Secretary General of the OIC gave hope to the audience when he reminded them that their organisation was conscious of its cultural responsibilities and for this reason established two important institutions entrusting the task of preserving and defending our heritage against foreign attacks which occur from time to time. These two institutions are the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture and the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage. Although the Centre has been in existence only for five and the Commission for three years, they have already accomplished numerous works which give us confidence and assurance in our future.

We do not want to take too much of your time, Dear Readers, but the subject of our cultural heritage holds our attention constantly, notably because there are still some people and orientalists in the West who try to harm this heritage and obstruct our having access to it. This is why we are stressing here, that it is our duty to prevent such attacks.

Since the beginning of the Newsletter, we have been trying to develop this Newsletter and to make it worthy of the noble objectives for which we work. Thus, we are changing its form a little and adding a supplement exclusively devoted to the projects and activities of the OIC International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage. This supplement also contains information on events concerning Islamic cultural and artistic heritage. We look forward to your comments and observations about our Newsletter, since our aim is to satisfy your needs and wishes.

Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu



COORDINATION MEETING OF OIC CENTRES AND AGENCIES

Activities undertaken by the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) are increasing geometrically both in volume and extent. Under the supervision and coordination of the OIC General Secretariat, different OIC subsidiary organs and agencies functioning under its aegis are sharing the tasks incumbent upon the OIC according to their mandates and respective sets of functions and objectives.

Conscious of the fact that such a structure necessitates efficient coordinative processes and mechanisms within the OIC framework, the OIC recently started to give more emphasis to questions of cooperation and coordination between OIC centres and agencies and the General Secretariat on one hand, and amongst these centres and agencies within their mandates, on the other. A "Coordination Meeting of Heads of OIC Centres and Agencies"

was held at OIC General Secretariat in Jeddah on 1-2 June 1985. The meeting was chaired by H.E.Mr.Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, Secretary General of OIC and was attended by the Director of Cabinet and Administration and Finance, the Director of Cultural Affairs and the Director of Economic Affairs at the General Secretariat, and the heads and representatives of the following subsidiary organs and affiliated agencies: as subsidiary organs, the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA, Istanbul), the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage (ICPICH), the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre (SESRTCIC, Ankara), the Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research (ICTVTR, Dhaka), the Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD, Jeddah), the Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade (ICDT, Casablanca) and the Islamic Commission for the International Red Crescent (ICIRC, Benghazi); as affiliated agencies, the International Islamic News Agency (IINA, Jeddah), the Islamic States Broadcasting Organisation (ISBO, Jeddah) and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO, Rabat), as well as the OIC New York Office.

Presentations and discussions during the meeting were centered around the measures and modalities to be adopted in order to ensure a more unified and harmonised pursuit of the common OIC objectives. It was stated that the OIC General Secretariat is already the focal point in cooperation and coordination among all OIC organs and agencies and that the latter institutions already have bilateral contacts with the General Secretariat and amongst each other to coordinate their activities, undertake joint activities and minimise duplication. The meeting dealt

with how to formalise, regularise and proliferate such contacts and activities. The importance of exchanging information on on-going and planned activities was emphasized, as well as the dissemination of such information to UN agencies through the New York Office and through ISBO and IINA to the rest of the world. The meeting decided to establish a Coordination Committee formed of the General Secretariat and some centres and agencies including IRCICA to follow-up coordination and cooperation issues. It was also decided that the Coordination Meeting be regularised to meet twice a year.

SEMINAR ON WOMAN AND FAMILY IN ISLAM

A Seminar on "The Woman and the Family in Islam" was organised jointly by UNESCO and the Istanbul Centre at the premises of the Centre, from 24 to 28 June 1985.

A Drafting Committee was formed by UNESCO in 1980, to prepare a six-volume book on the different aspects of Islamic culture. This Committee, composed of scholars and

scientists from various regions of the Islamic world, is at an advanced stage in the preparation of the different volumes of the book. Relating to the work on one of the volumes, the Committee had recommended the organisation of a seminar on the place of women and the family in Islam and it was decided that this seminar be realised



A working session of the Seminar
on Woman and Family in Islam

jointly with IRCICA. This constituted another activity within the framework of the cooperation established between UNESCO and the Centre. Previously, the Centre had taken part in the preparation of the sections of the same book concerning Islamic arts, under the presidency of late Professor Necmettin Bammate.

Participants at the meeting were scholars, scientists and experts on the subject of woman and the family in Islam, including Prof. Dr. Emel Dođramacı, Dean of the Faculty of Letters of Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey, Prof. Dr. Abdelwahab Bouhdiba from Tunis University, Dr. Najla Al Shatop, Director General of Primary Education, Baghdad, Iraq, Dr. Hashim Mahdi, Director of Culture and Curriculums and Mr. Hatim Hassan Qadi, Director of the Office of the Secretary General at Muslim World League, Mecca, H.E. Dr. Abdul Moneem Al Namr, ex-Minister of Waqfs of Egypt, Dr. Fawzia El-Sayed Ali Diab, Head of Childhood Department and Dr. Samia El-Saaty, professor of Sociology, both at the Women College of Ain-Shams University, Cairo, Egypt, Dr. Samia Chaar from

University of Lebanon, Mr. Adnan Salem, representative of UNESCO, and Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanođlu, Director General of IRCICA. The main theme on the agenda was the examination and discussion of the working papers prepared, respectively, by H.E. Prof. Dr. Mohammed Marouf Dawalibi (Advisor to H.M. the King of Saudi Arabia) on "The Situation of Woman in Islam" and by Dr. Ravane M'baye (Director, Institut Islamique de Dakar, Senegal) on "The Family in Islam".

Discussing on these papers, the participants dwelt on the effects of today's economic, social and cultural conditions on the position and situation of the woman and discussed possible Islamic solutions to the problems created by these conditions. These conditions form the contemporary environment which shapes, with its internal and external effects, the situation of the Muslim woman. Concerning the subject of the second study, views were expressed on the cultural characteristics of the Islamic family and the bases of family behaviour in Islam. Recommendations were made to develop preparations for the book.

RESTORATION OF YAVERAN BUILDING

The Yaveran building is the third building allocated to IRCICA by the Turkish Government. Once its restoration completed, the building will be used to set up Islamic arts workshops where training courses will be opened to teach the Islamic arts of calligraphy, gilding, marbled paper, book binding, etc. to young talented people from all over the world. Actually, the revival of these arts for the purpose of passing this heritage to future generations is included in the Centre's programme.

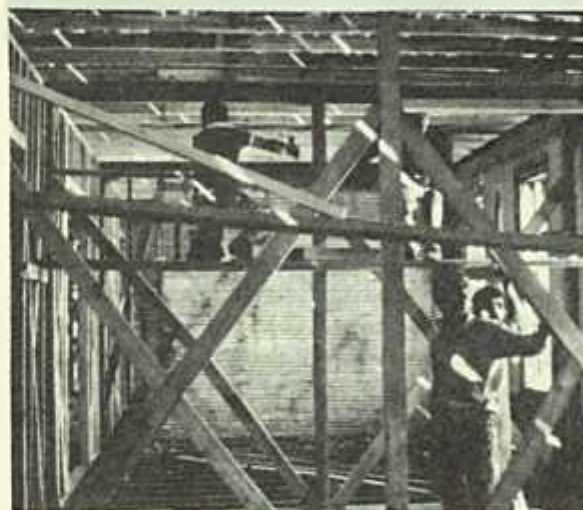


The Yaveran building

Upon allocation of this building to the Centre, the latter undertook the necessary technical and financial preparations for the restoration project. Actual restoration work started in April 1985 and progressed in accordance with the originally set schedule until now. Technical plans for the interior of the building are such that optimum use will be made of this building while preserving its original form. Once the restoration

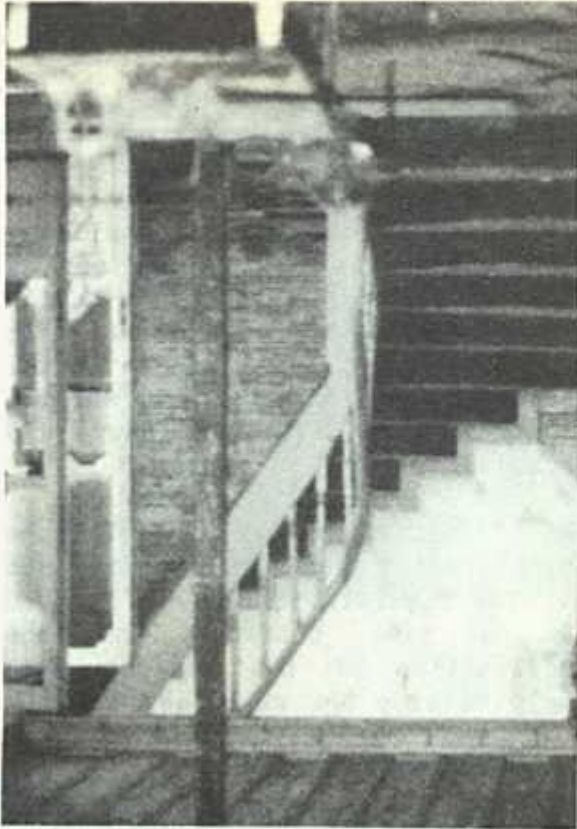
will be completed and the building put to use, space problems of the Centre will be resolved. Larger rooms will be available for documentation, the computer unit, research sections, and as working space for visiting researchers and scholars.

The restoration project will be completed at the beginning of 1986 if the requisite funds are secured in due time. Confident that the realisation of the project will help develop new resources for the



Restoration work at the Yaveran building

development of researches and knowledge on Islamic arts and culture and the revival of Islamic artistic and cultural heritage, the Centre invites all institutions and personages to contribute to this important project, in accordance with the recommendations of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers. Names of donors will be inscribed on a plaque placed at the Yaveran building.



Interior of Yaveran building

The Centre would like to take this occasion to express its gratitude to those personalities and institutions having responded to its invitation by contributing funds, thanks to which the first phase of the restoration project could be started. These personalities and institutions are mentioned below:

- Sezai Türkeş-Fevzi Akkaya
Construction Co., Turkey
- Kale Porselen, Turkey
- Arab-Turkish Bank, Turkey
- Sheikh Abdulaziz Sulaiman, Saudi Arabia
- Sheikh Abdulkarim Suud Al-Babtain, Kuwait
- Sheikh Abdulla Al-Nouri Charity Society, Kuwait
- International Islamic Charitable Foundation, Kuwait
- Dr. Ahmed Ali Al-Jassar, Kuwait
- Mr. Mohammed Ridwan Abdelhalim, Malaysia
- Mr. Ahmed Hassan, Switzerland.

CONTACTS AND MEETINGS

Meeting with Egyptian Foreign Affairs Minister

H.E.Dr. Ismet Abdulmajid, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt received the Centre's Director General Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu on 17 May 1985. The Minister was accompanying H.E. Hosni M'barek, President of Egypt, during the President's official visit to Turkey. The Minister received information on the present state of the Centre's activities, its ongoing and future projects. Discussions were held on the projects undertaken jointly by Egyptian institutions and the Centre. The Minister showed his kind interest and appreciation for the Centre's activities and affirmed the support of Egypt for the Centre and its work.



H.E. Dr. Ismet Abdulmajid, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt and Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, IRCICA Director General

Participation at Annual Congress of Al-Albait Foundation, Jordan

The Royal Academy of Islamic Civilisation Research (Al-Albait Foundation), Jordan held its Fourth Annual Congress on 6-9 May 1985 in Amman. The meeting was inaugurated by H.M. King Hussain of Jordan, who pronounced a detailed address. H.R.H. Crown Prince Hasan bin Tallal, Honorary President of the Academy, presided over the Congress throughout the sessions.

Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Director General of IRCICA, and Mr. Mohammed Tamimi, expert at the Centre, participated at the meeting and were active during the working sessions of the following commissions: Islamic Encyclopedia Commission, Union Catalogue of Manuscripts Commission, and Islamic Architecture Commission. At the meeting, H.M. King Hussain of Jordan appointed the Director General of IRCICA as an active member of the Academy. The Centre and its activities were mentioned with appreciation, both by H.R.H. Crown Prince Hasan bin Tallal, Honorary President of the Academy and by H.E. Prof. Dr. Naseruddin Al-Assad, Minister of Higher Education of Jordan and President of the Academy, and shown as examples that should be followed.

Participation at Conference on Arab-Turkish Relations

The Third Conference on Arab-Turkish Relations was held at Yarmouk University Liaison Office in Amman, Jordan on 25-28 April 1985, under the patronage of H.R.H. Crown Prince Hassan bin Tallal of Jordan, who also presided over the meeting. Representatives of Arab and Turkish universities and academic centres,

and high-level Government officials of Jordan participated at the conference. Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Director General of the Centre, who is one of the founding members of the conference, presented a paper entitled "The Ottoman State and its Place in the Arab World according to Egyptian Schoolbooks, 1912-1920". The paper was the result of a survey of 13 different schoolbooks used in Egypt during the period between 1912 and 1920, examining and evaluating the image of the Ottoman State and the place and importance attributed to it in these books.

Participants at the conference expressed their appreciation of researches undertaken by IRCICA with the purpose of ensuring mutual understanding and close relations between Member States of the OIC and in their recommendations, they included the decision to support IRCICA and its activities.

Participation at Congress on History of Arab Science

The Institute for History of Arab Science affiliated to Aleppo University, Syria, held its 9th annual congress on 24-25 April 1985 in Rakka (see Spotlight on Cultural News section). The Centre was represented by Prof. Dr. Ramazan Şeşen, research expert, who presented a paper about Ibn-i Nafis and his work entitled "The Book Needed by Students and Used by Doctors" explaining this work and other views of the author, particularly those about the circulation of blood, as well as observations and criticisms he made about his predecessors.

LECTURE

Conference on "Library Automation in the U.S.A."

A conference on "Library Automation in the United States" was given at the Centre's conference hall on 13 May 1985 by Prof. Dr. Michael Cooper, professor of library and information studies at the University of California-Berkeley and consultant on library automation. The lecturer first explained the advantages of computerized library systems; among others, the possibility of long-distance access to the data base through telephone lines, and efficiency and economy in library services. He then gave information on

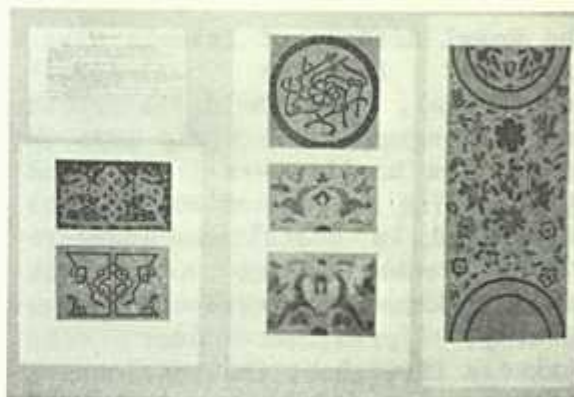


Prof. Dr. Michael Cooper giving his lecture on "Library Automation in the U.S.A."

the technical processing of library data, bibliographic research on the data base, public access catalogue systems enabling individual researchers to have access to bibliographic systems, and data base management. He also spoke about a new development, namely computer networks linking libraries among themselves and individuals to libraries. In the U.S.A. and Europe, such networks are under the control of either national or private institutions and they provide large-capacity communication systems for library services.

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition of samples of interior decoration from the Ulucami Mosque



Interior decoration samples from Ulucami Mosque

An exhibition consisting of samples of the 13th Century interior decoration from the Ulucami Mosque in Afyon, Turkey was held at the Centre from 28 March to 4 April 1985. The decorations were prepared by Architect Prof. Dr. Kenan Özbel (ret.). The artist drew copies of decoration designs from original pieces of the mosque's walls, floor and ceiling dating from the 13th Century and reproduced them by means of special techniques respecting the original colouring of the decorations.

Calligraphic exhibition in Jordan

Works of Mr. Hasan Çelebi, Centre's calligrapher, were displayed from 22 April to 8 May 1985 in Amman, Jordan. The exhibition was organised by Jordanian-Turkish Friendship Society, at the latter's building in Amman until 2 May; after which it was moved to Yarmouk University for three days and then, upon the invitation of the Royal Academy of Islamic Civilisation Research of Jordan (Al-Albait Foundation), to Amman Regency Hotel for another three days. The exhibition was organised within the framework of the cooperation established between the Society and

the Centre. Great interest was shown to the works and the Jordanian television and different newspapers interviewed Mr. Hasan Çelebi. Al-Albait Foundation of Jordan also expressed its appreciation of the exhibition.

The possibility of undertaking other joint activities within the framework of cooperation with the Jordanian-Turkish Friendship Society is being discussed, such as holding calligraphy and gilding courses for Jordanian artists, in Turkey and in Jordan.

"Islamic Cities in Photographs"

The Centre organised an exhibition on "Islamic Cities in Photographs" from 23 April to 15 May 1985 at its exhibition halls at Çit Qasr. The exhibition was held on the occasion of the Conference on the Protection of Architectural Heritage in Islamic Cities, held in Istanbul on 22-25 April 1985. Ministers, mayors, scholars and scientists from various Islamic countries participating at this conference, as well as the Governor and the Mayor of Istanbul, attended the inauguration ceremony of the exhibition on 23 April.



From left to right: Governor of Istanbul H.E. Nevzat Ayaz, IRCICA Director General, and photographer Mr. Selamet Taşkın at the inauguration of the exhibition on "Islamic Cities in Photographs"

The photographs displayed were reproductions of a great number of photographs existing in the collection of Yıldız Photograph Albums, illustrating life in old Islamic cities and different aspects and monuments of these cities. The Centre reproduced this precious historical collection with great care with the aim of preserving it from the destruction of time and making this heritage known to a larger audience.

Centre's documentary films shown to the public

The two documentary films prepared by the Centre, entitled "Life and Works of Late Calligrapher Hamid Al-Amidi (Aytac) and Calligraphic Arts" and "Arts of Illumination and Gilding" respectively, were shown to the public during the exhibition of calligraphies by Mr. Hasan Çelebi, organised in Amman from 22 April to 8 May 1985. The films were also shown during the month of May 1985 at the Atatürk Cultural Centre and at Bosphorous University in Istanbul. The films attracted great interest in all these performances.

Exhibition of Works in Relief on "Life in Old Istanbul"

An exhibition of paintings in relief by artist Mine Özüuygun was held at the Centre from 15 April to 10 May 1985. The paintings illustrated different aspects of life in Istanbul in the past centuries. In preparing the works, the artist was inspired by engravings and ancient photographs existing in archives and she tried to reflect the original shapes and colours.

COOPERATION

Joint project with the University of Jordan

A Guidebook of Ottoman Archives the contents of which were prepared by the Centre, will be published jointly with the University of Jordan. An agreement was reached with the university for this project. The book will describe the archives in detail, making recommendations for their most efficient and beneficent usage and giving information about archive regulations.

Contacts with Islamic Foundation, Leicester, England

Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Director General of IRCICA and Mr. Halit Eren, IRCICA Librarian, visited England between 19-21 July 1985 to participate at the Seminar of the Islamic Arts Foundation. During their visit to England, they also had a meeting with Prof. Khurshid Ahmed, Chairman of the Islamic Foundation, Leicester. During this meeting, possibilities and modalities of cooperation between the Foundation and IRCICA were explored in detail and an agreement of cooperation was reached.

As known, the Islamic Foundation, Leicester has been working since many years at the service of Islamic culture, under the wise direction of its Chairman Prof. Khurshid Ahmed and with the efforts of eminent scholars working there. The Foundation contributes to the introduction of Islamic culture and thought to Western people in a correct and proper way; it assists and serves Muslims living in the West, and makes contributions to Islamic culture and sciences by publishing important works in previously unexplored fields.

Cooperation with Malaysia for student training

Dato Ahmed Sarji B. Abdul Hamid, Deputy Director General of Malaysian Public Services Department, visited the Centre on 4 April 1985 to discuss the modalities of cooperation with the Centre in the field of training. An agreement on the principles was reached for the training of Malaysian students in Turkey, in courses of short, medium and long-term duration depending on the nature and subject of the course. The training programmes will be organised in the areas of Islamic sciences, Islamic history, and different branches of Islamic arts such as calligraphy, book binding, carpet-making, and architectural design and restoration.

Joint publication of the Centre and the National Foundation for Translation, Editing of Texts and Studies in Tunis

A brief descriptive catalogue of Ibn Khaldoun's manuscripts existing in Turkish libraries has been prepared by the Centre. This work will be published by the "Fondation Nationale pour la Traduction, l'Établissement des Textes et les Etudes" (National Foundation for Translation, Editing of Texts and Studies) in Tunis; a preliminary edition will be made available to researchers and members of the Foundation's scientific council.

Symposium to be organised jointly by the Centre and the International Council of Islamic Call

A symposium on "Translations of the Holy Quran" will be organised jointly by IRCICA and the International Council of Islamic Call,

Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. Meetings between IRCICA and the Council were held in Tripoli between 21-24 May 1985 to discuss technical matters related to the organisation of this symposium, as well as other projects within the framework of the multifarious cooperation that already exists between IRCICA and the Council. The symposium will be held in December 1985 in Tripoli.

OTHER NEWS

New Additions to IRCICA Library

The rich book collection of Professor Vedat Eldem (1906-1983),

well-known Turkish economist, was recently added to IRCICA library. The late Professor's family entrusted the collection to the care and usage of the Centre for a relatively modest price, wishing, at the same time, to make an assistance and contribution to the Centre. The collection includes 2214 titles of books (a great majority consisting of several volumes) and 78 atlases. There are rare books and incunabula in the collection; particularly worth mentioning are the great number of works printed by Ibrahim Muterrika (founder of the first Muslim printing house in the Muslim world), and the work entitled "Tableau General de l'Empire Ottoman" by D'Ohsson.

SPOTLIGHT ON CULTURAL NEWS

AFGHANISTAN

Translation of Quran Tafsir

The Afghan mujaheddin translated the Quran tafsir by Mawlana Abu Al-Ala Al-Mawdoudi in 6 volumes into Russian. It is reported that the work, printed in Lahore, is an excellent translation; this is praiseworthy considering that the mujaheddin have completed this important work amidst their struggle.

CANADA

Disappointing Conference on Tafsir

A Conference on "The History of the Interpretation of the Quran" was held at the University of Calgary, Alberta on 1-4 April 1985. The Director General of IRCICA participated at this conference, the purpose of which was to bring researchers and scholars together and provide a forum for them to express their views on the history of Tafsir (exegesis).

EGYPT

The outcome of the conference was that some orientalists' erroneous views and certain aggressive attitudes against Islam proved to have reappeared. During the meeting, there were some examples of attitudes representing medieval fanaticism, which we believed had died. These attitudes were in contradiction to the spirit of understanding that would be expected from true believers of Islam, as well as to the other heavenly religions and especially the Muslim-Christian dialogue. Some manifestations of their biased views and hostility were that the papers that were to be presented at the congress were not distributed to the small number of Muslim scientists before the meeting and these scholars were not given much opportunity of taking the floor and objecting to views contrary to scientific objectivity expressed during discussions. Some of the papers were the expressions of pseudo-opinions repeated for centuries by the enemies of Islam, about the Revelation and the way our Holy Quran was written and collected, and were presented by orientalists incapable to fully understand Islamic sciences and who do not have a perfect knowledge of Arabic. Furthermore, the nonsense produced by an insane person known as Bab who declared himself prophet in the 19th Century, namely Ali Mohammed Shirazi, was presented as Quran tafsir. The fact that this man was presented as a Quran exegete shows how some orientalist milieus conceive Islamic research. This fact is brought to the attention of all Islamic scholars and cultural circles; they are invited to be careful against such institutions and elements hostile to Islam.

Seminar on Islamic Studies

The Faculty of Letters of Ain-Shams University held its first seminar on the theme of Oriental Islamic Studies on 2-4 March in Cairo. The seminar was organised in memory of the late Professor Mehmed Ihsan, founder of Turcology Department of Ain Shams University and scholar renowned for his Islamic researches. The Governor of Cairo, both the Mayor and the Governor of Istanbul and the Rector of Ain Shams University were all invited to the seminar. Around 15 papers on different topics relating to Islamic history, arts, culture and civilisation were presented by scholars from Egyptian and Turkish universities, followed by discussions on these subjects. Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Director General of IRCICA was invited to the seminar and presented a paper in which he talked in detail about the life and works of Professor Mehmed Ihsan.

Islamic Medical International Conference

An Islamic Medical International Conference will be organised by the Cairo Medical Syndicate in Cairo, on 23-26 September 1985. The theme of the conference is "Medical Inimitability in the Holy Quran and Hadith, and the Medical Problems Confronted during the Practice of the Muslim Physician". A wide range of topics will be covered at the conference, including genetics, hygiene, dermatology, psychology, child care and health, pharmaceutical experiments, forensic medicine, human development, history of Islamic medicine, inimitability

related to medical sciences and medical problems encountered by the Muslim physician.

INDONESIA

Standardisation of Quran copies

Last year, the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Indonesia decided to standardise the Quran copies to be published by all Government and private publishers. Standardisation will be made as to the form and the orthograph of certain words. A standard Quran was adopted by the Ministry in March 1985 and it will be circulated to all Asian countries. Indonesia needs over 3 million copies of the Quran each year.

JORDAN

Arab-Turkish Relations Conference

The Third Arab-Turkish Relations Conference was held at the Yarmouk University Liaison Office in Amman on 25-28 April 1985. The conference was held under the patronage of H.R.H. Crown Prince Hassan bin Tallal. In his inaugural address, H.R.H. the Crown Prince pointed out the historical links between Arabs and Turks, and the processes which led to growing interaction in the commercial, educational and economic spheres. He emphasized the academic relations established between Turkey and Jordan, which are developing continuously, and the mutual exchanges of scholars, cultural agreements, cooperation for joint researches in various areas, all of which are manifestations of both nations' will to seek their complementarities and to cooperate for their concerted development.

26 papers in total were presented by Arab and Turkish scholars and researchers at the panels on history, political relations, economic relations, and the panels on arts, culture and education. In their final report, participants made a series of recommendations with the aim of fostering Turkish-Arab academic and cultural relations. They

recommended, among others, the exchange of faculty members between Arab and Turkish universities, taking measures to familiarise Turks and Arabs with each other's culture and arts and to open both Arab and Turkish universities to students of these nations, to provide facilities for Arab researchers to study Ottoman history and the history of modern Turkey. It was decided that the Fourth Arab-Turkish Relations Conference would be held in 1987 at Bosphorus University in Istanbul.

KUWAIT

Islamic Medicine Prize of the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences



The award ceremony

The Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences (KFAS) offered its Islamic Medicine Prize for 1984 to Turkish scholar and researcher Prof. Dr. Ahmed Süheyl Ünver who is known for his important contributions in the medical field, especially in Islamic medicine. At the same time, Prof. Süheyl Ünver is an artist and a connoisseur in Islamic arts such as miniatures and gilding. He has a great number of publications in the form of books, research papers and essays in medical history, science and Turkish arts. The prize was presented to him in Istanbul, on 8 May 1985 by H.E. Prof. Dr. Ihsan Doğramacı, Head of the Turkish Higher Education Council and Vice-President of the Islamic Organisation for Medical Sciences and Dr. A.A. Al-Jassar, Head of the Prizes

and Awards Section of KFAS, with the collaboration of Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Director General of IRCICA.

The Islamic Medicine Prize was established by KFAS in cooperation with the Islamic Organisation for Medical Sciences of Kuwait, within the framework of the objectives of KFAS, to assist and promote scientific activities in Kuwait and the Islamic world, and to offer, with this objective, support to researchers, training and scholarships to students, prizes and awards to scientists, authors and translators in different fields. The Foundation's Board of Directors is chaired by H.H. the Amir of Kuwait.

SENEGAL

Dakar Book Fair

The First International Trade Fair on Book and Educational Material will be held in Dakar from 10 to 16 December 1985. The fair will be organised by the Society of Dakar International Trade Fair (SOFIDAK) under the high patronage of the President of the Republic of Senegal and the patronage of Director General of UNESCO, the Secretary General of AGECOOP and the Ministers of Culture and National Education of Senegal. The fair aims to contribute to national efforts of promoting books and other publications and didactic material in Africa. It will be open to public and private participants from all over the world; works of all kinds on various subjects, and material and equipment for audio-visual teaching will be displayed and sold. A series of meetings will also be organised to discuss the different aspects and problems of book production and adaptation and use of printed and audio-visual didactic material in Africa.

SYRIA

Congress on History of Arab Science

The Institute for History of Arab Science affiliated to Aleppo University organised its 9th Annual Congress on History of Arab Science in Rakka on 24-25 April 1985. The congress was held under the auspices of the Prime Minister of Syria on the occasion of the 1050th anniversary of the death of Al-Battani, great Islamic astronomer and mathematician who worked and wrote books in Rakka during the Abbasid period. Around 80 scholars and scientists from various countries participated at the congress and they presented papers on Al-Battani's contributions to science, the history of Islamic sciences and their development, the history of Islamic arts, Islamic medicine. IRCICA was represented by Prof. Dr. Ramazan Şeşen, who presented a paper on Ibn-i Nafis (see IRCICA News section). It was decided that the next congress be held in Frankfurt, West Germany.

TURKEY

Symposium on Ottoman Archives and Ottoman Studies

A Symposium on Ottoman Archives and Ottoman Studies was held in Istanbul on 17-19 May 1985. The symposium was organised by the Turkish-Arab Relations Research Foundation and opened by H.E. Mr. Turgut Özal, Prime Minister of Turkey, who emphasized the importance of Ottoman archives as historical sources and the necessity of classifying, cataloguing and protecting the archives. H.E. Mr. Vahit Halefoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey also addressed the meeting and stressed the fact that Ottoman archives should be classified and opened to general use. Prof. Dr. Ihsan Doğramacı, President of the High Council of Education of Turkey mentioned the need for experts in archives and informed the audience that post-graduate study programs for expertise in Ottoman archives would start in certain universities. Ret. Ambassador Ismail Soy-

sal, head of the Foundation explained that their aim in organising this symposium was to contribute to the realisation of a reform in the archives in order to institute systems of classification, protection and microfilming. 24 papers dealing with the importance of Ottoman archives, their past, present and future, their use and actual situation were presented and discussions were held. Mr. Ismet Binark, an archive expert at IRCICA presented a detailed paper explaining regulations and policies of the archives and his proposals on how to preserve, classify, introduce the archives, the standardisation of archive procedures, training of archivists, and other problems.

Symposium on Ibn Turk, Khwarazmi, Farabi, Beiruni and Ibn Sina

An international symposium on "Abdelhamid Ibn Turk, Khwarazmi, Farabi, Beiruni and Ibn Sina" will be organised by the Atatürk Cultural Centre, an affiliation of the Atatürk Higher Association for Culture, Language and History, under the patronage of H.E.Mr. Kenan Evren, President of Turkey. The symposium will take place on 9-12 September 1985 in Ankara. Papers dealing with these muslim scientists, their life and works, their contributions to science, are expected to be presented at the symposium.

Seminar on Ahmed Cevdet Pasha

A seminar on Ahmed Cevdet Pasha, Turkish scientist, historian and statesman, was organised by the Faculty of Letters of Istanbul University on 27-28 May 1985. 18 different papers were presented by the participating scholars, dealing with the role and importance of Ahmed Cevdet Pasha in Turkish cultural history, his views on religion and family; his contributions in the fields of history, law; his research methods and his use and

evaluation of archive documents. Ahmed Cevdet Pasha's (1822-1895) whole life was involved in scholarly research. At the same time, he occupied important political posts. He became a Vizier, Minister of Justice, Minister of Education, Minister of Commerce, Minister of Interior, Minister of Waqfs and Vali of different provinces. He was assigned the task of writing the Ottoman history for the period 1774-1826. Upon completion of the first three volumes, he was appointed historian. The 12-volume book he prepared on Ottoman history is based on archives and writings of annalists and its style is didactic. "Tezakir-i Cevdet" consists of the collection of notes he took while he was working as historian and they deal essentially with social and moral aspects of the Tanzimat period. His famous "Kıyas-ı Enbiya ve Tevarih-i Hülefa" (Stories of the Prophets and History of the Khalifas) covers the lives of prophets and khalifas. The preparation of his "Mecelle-i Ahkâm-ı Adliye", first document of Ottoman Civil Code applied from 1868 to 1926, is the most important contribution of Ahmed Cevdet Pasha. The first Ottoman grammar book was also written by Ahmed Cevdet Pasha, in collaboration with Fuad Pasha, under the title "Kavaid-i Osmaniye" (Rules of the Ottoman Language).

First Dentistry Week of Islamic Countries

The First Dentistry Week of Islamic Countries (Islamic Countries Dental Congress) will be held in Istanbul from 17 to 23 November 1985. The Congress will be organised by the Faculty of Dentistry of Marmara University (Istanbul) at Atatürk Cultural Centre, with the participation of dentists from all over the Islamic world. The aim is to promote knowledge on dentistry, to exchange views and experiences and to create brotherly relations among dentists of Islamic countries.

U.S.A.

Conference on Arabic Sciences,
Washington, D.C.

The Library of Congress organised a conference on the history of Arabic sciences, entitled "Innovation and Tradition in Arabic Sciences". The conference was held in Washington, D.C. on 14-15 March 1985 and it was sponsored by the Near East Section, African and Middle Eastern Division of the Library of Congress and the League of Arab States. 10 papers were presented, dealing with different branches of Arabic sciences such as mathematics, medicine and technology, recapitulating past and recent developments realised in Arabic sciences and assessing their present state.

"Justice and Injustice in Islam",
Princeton, New Jersey

A conference on "Justice and Injustice in Islamic Political Thought" was held at the Princeton University on 16-17 March 1985. The conference was sponsored by the Department and Program in Near Eastern Studies of Princeton University. 14 different papers were presented and discussions were held about different aspects of the concept of justice, its origin and development, application of the idea of justice in different periods of Islamic history, and notions of justice and injustice in different contexts.

Seminar of Muslim Social
Scientists, Reston, Virginia

The International Institute of Islamic Thought hosted a special seminar of representatives of discipline councils and local forums of the Association of Muslim Social Scientists (AMSS) at its headquarters in Reston, Virginia, on 22-24 March 1985. Dr. Abdul Hamid Abusulayman, President of the Association of Muslim Social Scientists and Director General of the International Institute of Islamic Thought, pronounced the opening speech. He emphasized the importance of the role of Islamic thought and islamisation of knowledge in the process of re-establishment of the role of Muslims in the modern world. Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Director General of IRCICA, who was on visit in the U.S.A. was invited to attend the seminar. In his brief speech, he informed the participants about the different projects of IRCICA, and expressed his Centre's willingness to extend cooperation to projects of common interest.

ISLAMIC HERITAGE COMMISSION

KING FAHD AWARDS FOR DESIGN AND RESEARCH IN ISLAMIC ARCHITECTURE

The King Fahd Awards for Design and Research in Islamic Architecture was instituted within the framework of activities of the OIC International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage under the chairmanship of H.R.H. Prince Faisal bin Fahd bin Abdulaziz.

As announced in Newsletter no.8, the Second Meeting of the Commission held in Istanbul on 7-9 February 1985 approved the project of this competition for design and research in Islamic architecture, to be organised every three years. The Commission welcomed with gratitude the offer of H.M. King Fahd bin Abdulaziz to donate US\$100.000 for the prizes and another US\$ 100.000.- for the organisation of the competition.

The competition is organised by the King Fahd Awards Office functioning within IRCICA, which is the Secretariat of the Commission. Preparations for the competition are progressing in accordance with the originally set schedule (Newsletter, no.8). Booklets, leaflets and posters were prepared and mailed to about four thousand institutions, including universities, schools, research centres, libraries, archives, museums, international organisations, foundations and learned societies in about 170 countries. Information packages are mailed to individual applicants upon request.

On the other hand, over 120 journals of architecture and arts have been informed of the event and they made considerable contributions to the dissemination of information on the competition throughout the world. We would like to thank their Editors for their kind interest and attention.

As scheduled, the deadline for receiving questions of clarification expired on 1 July 1985 and answers have been mailed, annexed with a list of reference sources on Islamic architecture and arts. Forthcoming steps in the organisation of the competition are the following:

- The Jury of the competition will be announced immediately after the Third Meeting of the Commission;
- The deadline for application is 31 December 1985. Registration forms will be mailed to applicants by January 1986;
- The deadline for participation is 1 July 1986;
- The Jury will meet on 21 July 1986;
- Winners will be announced on 1 August 1986, and
- The Award Ceremony will take place in December 1986 or January 1987.

KING FAHD AWARDS IN WORLD PRESS

The King Fahd Award for Design and Research in Islamic Architecture was announced in various newspapers and journals all over the world. The following are some of the news in summary.

- * "The Muslim World", weekly review of the World Muslim Congress, Pakistan, published an article in its no.48 of 8 June 1985, explaining the objectives of the competition and alternative issues for design and research in detail, as well as the competition calendar and requirements for participation.
- * April-June 1985 issue of the Indian journal "Design" gave exhaustive information on the Awards and the related competition.
- * The journal "Baumaister" published in Germany published the news in its no.5/1985 issue. Objectives of the Awards, the competition calendar and conditions for application are specified.
- * Issue no.1/1985 of "Architectuur/Bouwen" published in the Netherlands announced the competition as an international event aiming to develop new talents in the field of Islamic architecture.
- * "APT.Communique" published in the U.S.A., issue no.13 dated June 1985, announced the competition and the deadline for registration.
- * Italian journal "Domus", in its May 1985 issue, announced that the competition would be held every three years and gave the deadline for registration.
- * "Le Monde" (France) of 19 February 1985 announced that the Second Meeting of the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage had decided to institute the Awards for Design and Research in Islamic architecture, to be held every three years.

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LOGO COMPETITION

Logo Designs Received

The OIC International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage organised a Logo Design Competition (Newsletter, no.8) to select and adopt a Logo/Emblem. The Commission had decided that its Logo/Emblem should be expressive its identity and mandate, and at the same time, symbolically meaningful and easily understandable for Muslims all over the world. The competition was announced and documents specifying the conditions and requirements were sent to applicants.

The competition progresses according to schedule. The Secretariat of the Commission, IRCICA, answered the queries of participants concerning conditions of participation. Starting from May, Logo designs began arriving at the Secretariat and the deadline of submissions expired on 1 August 1985.

The Jury of the competition is composed of members of the Commission. Designs received will be evaluated by the Commission at its Third Meeting.

INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR CALLIGRAPHY

In our last issue, we had informed our readers about the decisions of the Second Meeting of the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage, which was held on 7-9 February 1985 in Istanbul. One of these decisions was related to the institution of an International Award for Calligraphy in the name of the late calligrapher Hamid Al-Amidi (Aytaç), accompanied by an exhibition of calligraphies.

IRCICA, the Secretariat of the Commission, undertook the follow-up of this decision by making necessary preparations for the competition. A group of well-known calligraphers and calligraphy experts were invited to hold a meeting at the Commission's Secretariat in Istanbul during the first week of August 1985, with the task of determining the principles and criteria of the competition. Mr. Ahmad Ziya Ibrahim from Saudi Arabia, Prof. Mahmoud Hilmi from Egypt, Prof. Emin Barın and Prof. Dr. Ali Alpaslan from Turkey, Mr. Uğur Derman, art expert at the Centre, Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Secretary of the Heritage Commission, King Fahd Awards Competition Secretary Dr. Eng. Aligül Ayverdi, and Prof. Ahmed Issa from IRCICA participated at this meeting. Dr. Mohammed Sharifi from Algeria and Mr. Youssouf Thannoun from Iraq sent their project proposals for the consideration of the expert group.

Objectives, guidelines and modalities of the competition were defined at this meeting. It was decided that the competition will be announced to scientific institutions and through journals and other media. The objective of the

competition is to preserve and develop the authentic Islamic calligraphic art by promoting the works of Muslim calligraphers in accordance to the basic principles and common concepts transmitted throughout the ages.

The themes of the competition will be the following calligraphic styles:

- a) Thuluth and Nasih
- b) Djali-Tuluth
- c) Taliq or Djali Taliq
- d) Divan or Djali Divan
- e) - Any other calligraphic style
- Imitation of one of the works of the late calligrapher Hamid Al-Amidi.

A total amount of 25.000 US\$ will be distributed as prizes. After the competition, the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage will organise an exhibition of the winning and other selected works, first at the Commission's premises in Istanbul and then in the Member States, and will publish a brochure presenting these works, as well as some of the calligraphies of Hamid Al-Amidi. More information on the competition will be given in future issues of the Newsletter.



Meeting of the Experts Committee on calligraphy

NEWS FILE ON ISLAMIC HERITAGE

This section of the Newsletter is devoted to the news concerning the written and non-written Islamic heritage properties, their actual state, protection and revival. To develop this section, the Newsletter needs the cooperation of its readers, in providing information on the present situation of Islamic heritage properties in their respective countries or any event pertaining to these properties. This will enable us to obtain and disseminate up-to-date information on Islamic heritage and activities related to it. The following are such news from different places of the Islamic world.

BAHRAIN

Congress on Islamic Architecture

A Congress on Islamic Architecture was organised in Manama on 13-15 May 1985 by the Bahraini Association of Engineers. The Congress was opened by H.E. Sheikh Abdullah Ibn Khalid Al-Khalifa, Minister of Justice and Islamic Affairs of Bahrain and was attended by 50 architects, scholars and scientists from 13 countries. The main subject at the meeting was the protection and revival of Islamic architecture. It was stated that in recent years, numerous modern buildings were constructed in Gulf countries but these were bad imitations of Western architectural style and did not blend with the older Islamic-style buildings surrounding them. A declaration was made at the end of the meeting, stressing the

necessity of preserving Islamic architectural elements and style from vanishing. It was stated that Governments should be responsible in preserving and developing Islamic architecture in this region.

EGYPT

Islamic Manuscripts in Al-Quds

In his declaration of May 1985, the Grand Sheikh of Al-Azhar Jad Al-Haq Ali Jad Al-Haq (the highest authority for Islamic Affairs in Egypt) pointed out that the Islamic manuscripts existing in Al-Quds were subject to the destruction of time for lack of sufficient efforts and funds. He invited all Muslims and Islamic scientific institutions to combine their efforts with the aim of preserving the hundreds of Islamic manuscripts in Al-Quds.

TURKEY

Conference on Architectural Heritage in Islamic Cities

The Conference on the Preservation of Architectural Heritage in Islamic Cities was held in Istanbul on 22-25 April 1985. The conference was organised jointly by the Arab Towns Organisation, the Arab-Urban Development Institute (AUDI), the Association of Marmara and Bos-



Conference on Architectural Heritage in Islamic Cities

phorus Municipalities and the Municipality of Istanbul, with the purposes of delineating the common cultural characteristics and features of Islamic cities, evaluating the situation of Islamic architectural heritage and examining and discussing the question of preserving this heritage. Ministers, Mayors, scientists and scholars from 25 Islamic countries participated at the conference.

H.E.Mr. Bedrettin Dalan, Mayor of Istanbul welcomed the participants and emphasized the importance of preserving Islamic architectural heritage. He said that all possible efforts were made by the municipality to preserve architectural heritage in Istanbul. State Minister of Turkey H.E.Mr. Kaya Erdem, Minister of Culture and Tourism of Turkey H.E.Mr. Mükerrrem Taşçıoğlu, Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs of Saudi Arabia H.E.Mr. Ibrahim Ibn Abdullah Al-Angari, Mayor of Riyadh and Chairman of AUDI Board of Directors H.E.Mr. Abdullah Al-Ali Al-Nuaim and Vice-President of AUDI Mr. Abdullah Al-Saub all addressed the meeting and emphasized the importance of international cooperation among Islamic countries for the preservation and revival of architectural heritage. Turkish Minister of Culture and Tourism stated that

"it is our task to combine today's technology and material in order to revive architectural monuments and to pass them to future generations". H.E.Mr. Ibrahim Ibn Abdullah Al-Angari, Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs of Saudi Arabia stressed the importance of close cooperative relations among the municipalities of Islamic cities and the necessity of exchanging experts and experiences for the protection and revival of Islamic architectural heritage.

During the working sessions, scholars from various Islamic countries presented technical papers dealing with different aspects of the protection of architectural monuments in Islamic cities, problems encountered, measures to ensure continuous and increasing protection, the preservation of Islamic monuments in Al-Quds, the evolution of city planning in Islamic cities, etc. The former Minister of Public Works of Jordan H.E.Mr. Ra'if Najm presented a paper on the monuments in Al-Quds and gave information on a 15-million US\$ project launched with the aim of protecting these monuments which are around 200 in number. The Mayor of Jeddah H.E.Mr. Muhammed Said Farisi also took the floor and spoke about Jeddah and the protection of Islamic cultural heritage.

The conference was a success in regard to the establishment and promotion of cooperation and close relations among municipalities of Islamic cities and to the assessment of general and technical problems encountered in the preservation of Islamic architectural monuments.

On the occasion of the conference, IRCICA organised an exhibition on "Islamic Cities in Photographs" in the halls of Çit Qasr, showing different views of old Islamic cities and their monuments (see IRCICA News section). The delega-

tions participating at the conference visited the Centre and attended the inaugural ceremony of the exhibition. They expressed their appreciation of the work undertaken by IRCICA and the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage, of which the IRCICA is the Secretariat. Possibilities and modalities of cooperation with the Centre and especially with the Heritage Commission were also discussed.



The late Bilal Usta

PHOTOGRAPHS OF ISLAMIC MONUMENTS
ACQUIRED BY IRCICA

One of the activities undertaken by the Secretariat of the Heritage Commission (IRCICA), is the preparation of archives of documents and objects representative of Islamic cultural and artistic heritage. Recently, historical photographs and documents collected by the late Bilal Usta, Turkish construction foreman well-known for his contributions in the field of Islamic architecture, were donated to the Centre at a symbolic cost. These are pictures showing the famous mosques and monuments where Bilal Usta worked and their conditions before and after repair and restoration. Collecting these pictures, Bilal Usta had formed a photographic archive of his own. After his

death, his daughters Mrs. Afet Çimen and Ms. Hayriye Vanturi and his son Hüseyin Vanturi preserved the collection and they recently entrusted it to the safe keeping of IRCICA. We are thankful to Bilal Usta's children and grandchildren for this kind gesture.

Bilal Usta was born in 1887 in Crete. In 1898, he came to Istanbul together with those who escaped the Cretan revolution. The year after, he returned to Crete and started to learn carpentry from his father. In 1903, he immigrated to Istanbul together with him. He joined the Ittihat Terakki movement in 1910, and the Army of Volunteers two years later. In 1914, he started to work at the Selimiye Barracks. Then, he entered the Red Crescent Organisation and worked there as a carpenter during World War I. In 1917, he was assigned the task of supervising the construction of Şişli Etfal Hospital in Istanbul. Until the end of his life, he worked at numerous constructions together with famous Turkish architect Kemalettin Bey, including the following monuments: Al-Aqsa Mosque (repair), Selimiye Mosque (repair) Ankara Palace (construction). He also supervised the restoration of many mosques after the foundation of the Turkish Republic. He passed away in 1972. May God bless his soul.



Photograph of Sakhra Mosque taken by Bilal Usta in 1923

14th Annual Conference of AMSS,
Plainfield, Indiana

The participants at the meeting examined and approved the four-year plans of action presented by representatives of discipline councils of AMSS.

The AMSS is a non-profit professional academic organisation dedicated to the initiation, study and promotion of Islamic thought and perspectives in social sciences. It supports researches and studies of its members in their respective areas of specialisation and sponsors research projects focusing on problems facing Muslim societies. AMSS also makes feasibility studies on curriculum development for educational institutions.

The 14th Annual Conference of the Association of Muslim Social Scientists (AMSS) was held on 5-7 July 1985 in Plainfield, Indiana. The conference was devoted to the examination of philosophies, principles and hypotheses of various schools in the field of social sciences; the objective of the conference was stated as "inviting Muslim and non-Muslim social scientists to study and analyse Islamic intellectual approaches for the purpose of generating new knowledge and new understanding of Muslim approaches to social sciences and comparing Muslim intellectual tradition with the modern social science approaches."

MUSLIM MINORITIES

Our readers will remember that in our last issue, we gave the sad news about the recent Bulgarisation policies exercised in Bulgaria upon the Muslim minority community. We had also mentioned that H.E.Mr. Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, Secretary General of the OIC had made a declaration in March 1985 on the situation of the Turkish Muslim minority community in Bulgaria and the official measures to suppress this community. The full text of the declaration is reproduced below.

STATEMENT BY H.E. SYED SHARIFUDDIN
PIRZADA, SECRETARY GENERAL OF OIC
ON THE PLIGHT OF MUSLIM MINORITY
OF TURKISH ORIGIN IN BULGARIA

The one and a half million Muslims of Turkish origin in Bulgaria who constitute 17% of the total population of that country are an important segment of the Islamic Ummah. Since their settlement in Bulgaria several centuries ago, the



Turkish Muslim community has played a vital role in all spheres of life. Naturally, it has also endeavoured to preserve its faith and its distinct demographic and cultural identity which is a universally recognised right of minorities sanctified in international covenants and the laws relating to inter-State relations.

The Bulgarian Constitution contains several provisions upholding the religious and cultural rights and interests of all citizens, including the minorities.

We have noted with concern and dismay the recent widespread campaign to coerce the members of the Turkish Muslim minority community to substitute their Muslim names with Christian names. There are reports of violence and intimidation being perpetrated on the Muslim community and of large scale killing of members of this minority community. These measures have come close on the heels of other systematic measures taken by or with the connivance of the Bulgarian authorities which threaten the religious, demographic and cultural freedoms and rights of the Turkish Muslim community. The religious and cultural institutions and monuments of the Turkish Muslims are being violated in flagrant disregard of international law and bilateral treaties between Turkey and Bulgaria which stipulate commitments regarding the protection of the rights of the Muslim Turkish community.

The Turkish Government has proposed to the Bulgarian Government to hold ministerial-level meetings to consider the whole range of bilateral issues, including the signing of a bilateral agreement to alleviate

the sufferings of the Turkish community. Regrettably, the Bulgarian authorities have not positively reacted to this proposal, thereby leaving the Turkish Muslim community exposed to discrimination and violence. This negative attitude is bound to exacerbate the plight of the Turkish Muslim community.

The Islamic Ummah cannot countenance the systematic obliteration of the religious and cultural rights of the Turkish Muslim community in Bulgaria. I, therefore, urge the Bulgarian Government to take immediate steps to put an end to the campaign aimed at forcing the Muslim community to change their names, and to effectively safeguard their religious and cultural rights. The Bulgarian Government should positively respond to Turkey's proposal for ministerial-level discussion on steps to protect and preserve the constitutionally guaranteed and internationally acclaimed rights of the Turkish community.

I also appeal to all Islamic and other countries to take all necessary steps to ensure that the fundamental rights of the Turkish Muslim minority in Bulgaria are safeguarded.

Muslim World League sends a delegation to Bulgaria

In the first week of June, the Muslim World League decided, to send a delegation to Bulgaria to examine the situation of Muslims in this country. The League held a special meeting where it was pointed out that the recent oppressive measures exercised upon Muslims and the forceful Bulgarian policies were observed with great concern by the entire Islamic

world. The League declared that it had decided to make all possible efforts to find a solution to the problem. Beside sending a delegation to Bulgaria to assess the situation, the League will assist in educating the Muslim children in this country by providing books and scholarships.

Egyptian-Turkish Friendship Association applies to UN for the cause of Muslims in Bulgaria

The Egyptian-Turkish Friendship Association in Cairo applied to the United Nations Center for Human Rights in Geneva last month, pleading for the cause of Muslims in Bulgaria. Using its right of application within the context of Decision no.1503 of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Association pointed out the official measures which prohibit Muslims from practicing their religious rituals, obliging them to take up Bulgarian names and exerting increasing pressures to enforce these policies, constitute an open violation of basic rights and freedoms of the Muslim minority. The Association hopes that the matter will be referred to competent bodies of the United Nations charged with the question of human rights.

Names of Muslims in Thailand are changed

At the end of May, the World Muslim Associations Union and the Muslim Council of Europe announced that the Thai Government was "inspired" by the policies applied upon Mus-

lims in Bulgaria. It is reported that in accordance with an official decree, names of Muslims are being replaced with Buddhist names since 1 March 1985, aiming to abolish their Muslim identities. Execution of this decree started in the secondary schools in Fetti district.

Conference on Muslims in Western Thrace held in Istanbul

The Western Thrace Turks Solidarity Union of Turkey organised a conference in Istanbul to evaluate and discuss the government policies directed to Muslims in Western Thrace. The conference was held on 7 May 1985 with the participation of State Minister of Turkey H.E.Mr. Mustafa Tinaz Titiz, who reiterated the firm intention of the Turkish Government to take all possible measures to prevent the oppression exercised upon the Muslim minority community and which has gained important dimensions recently. In his lecture, Dr. Bas-kin Oran from Ankara University pointed out that not only Bulgaria, but Greece also is aiming to eliminate the minorities. He explained the background and results of the measures applied and gave statistical data explaining the outcome of these decisive long-term policies. He said that since 1923, Turkish population in Western Thrace decreased from 290.000 to 120.000 and the area inhabited by Turks was reduced from 80 % of the total area to 5%, which explains the general objective of the Greek Government.

ART NEWS

ENGLAND

Islamic Arts Foundation Seminar

The Islamic Arts Foundation in London organised its Second International Seminar on Islamic Arts at Farnham Castle on 19-21 July 1985. The seminar covered Islamic arts in general; however, special emphasis was put on the theme of "Islamic Art Resources in World Museums and Major Private Collections". The meeting was inaugurated by H.E.Dr. Mohammad Abdo Yamani, former Minister of Information of Saudi Arabia. Then, Mr. Jalal Uddin Ahmed, Director General of Islamic Arts Foundation, presented a report on the activities of his institution. Addressing the meeting, Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Director General of IRCICA explained the researches undertaken by his Centre in the field of Islamic arts and the cataloguing of artistic objects and documents. These activities of IRCICA were acknowledged with appreciation in the final declaration of the meeting. Other presentations were made and discussions held with the purpose of examining the present state of the cataloguing of Islamic art collections in various countries of the world, and exploring the feasibility of developing a central archives to serve scholars and researchers in this field.

H.E.Mr. Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, Secretary General of the OIC delivered the Keynote Address at the meeting; excerpts from his address are given below.

Excerpts from the Address of H.E.Mr.Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, Secretary General of OIC at the Second International Seminar on Islamic Arts

"... The intrinsic merit and aesthetic quality of Islamic art has not, in recent times, received the attention and appreciation it deserves. Far too often, it has been seen and projected as belonging to the realm of craft rather than art or has been placed in the category of decorative arts ... I believe that in order to achieve a true understanding of Islamic art, it is essential to understand Islam, its culture, its moral values, the kind of society that it envisages and promotes ..."

"... The aesthetics and ethics of Islam, its history and its sociology, its arts and crafts, are also so intimately interwoven that it is impossible to isolate any one facet. It must be seen as a total harmonious pattern. No discussion of Islamic art can proceed without taking into account its purpose, its meaning and its message. It is in this context that Art in Islam becomes the hallmark of our cultural identity"

"... There exists a tremendous gap today in the field of documentation and information regarding Islamic art resources. There is paucity of basic data and there is no consolidated base of documenting the Islamic art objects, paintings, illustrations, manuscripts, coins and books which are scattered in

INDONESIA

numerous public and private collections all over the globe and which at times have suffered through being dismembered and distributed without regard to their intrinsic unity and value ..."

"... It would (therefore) be useful to consider the establishment of a central archive of Islamic arts and an Islamic arts reference service which could be developed in collaboration with Muslim Directors and Curators of Islamic arts in various countries of the world to collect, compile and disseminate the available material ... It is with a view to promoting these objectives that the Organisation of the Islamic Conference took the lead in this field by establishing two important organs, namely the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture, and the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage. It gives me great pleasure to inform you that the Research Centre which came into being in 1980 has become in a short span of time a focal point for researchers, scholars and artists from various parts of the world as well as a reference source in documentation, collection of books, historical documents, maps, films and slides, which are available to researchers and artists. The International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage, functioning under the Chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Fahd of Saudi Arabia, is devoting itself to the preservation of Islamic cultural and artistic heritage by not only undertaking restoration and repair of Islamic architecture but also stimulating scholarly activities in the field of art and building a cultural bridge between the past and the future generations. ..."

International Crafts Conference and Exhibition

An international Crafts Conference is scheduled to be held from 20 to 24 August 1985 in Jakarta, about "The Role of Crafts in the Development Process". Simultaneously with the conference, there will be the First International Handcrafted Textile Exhibition. At this exhibition, high quality textiles with traditional designs, new designs based on traditional patterns, textiles for garments, household decoration, as well as textiles for creative pursuits will be displayed, representing traditional arts and crafts and the combination of modern techniques and skills with capabilities inherited from the past. The conference and the exhibition are organised by the Indonesian National Crafts Council (DEKRANAS) at Taman Mini Indonesia Indah (Scenic Indonesia in Miniature Park) in Jakarta. This park provides a picturesque illustration of the 27 provinces of the country and their outstanding architectural, traditional and cultural characteristics.

SWITZERLAND

Islamic Art Exhibition, Geneva

A comprehensive Islamic art exhibition is being held in Geneva. The exhibition, titled "Treasures of Islamic Art", was inaugurated on 25 June in the Museum Rath, and will stay open until end of October 1985. Private collectors joined their efforts to display their own collections as well as precious items obtained from other collections all over the world and

from museums of Arab countries. Masterpieces of pottery, miniatures, collections of Islamic coins and, with special emphasis, manuscripts, copies of the Quran, and calligraphic works are displayed at the exhibition, including the "History of the World" by Rashid Al-Din and miniature of Shah Tahmasp in "Shahnameh". These rich collections and original items give an overview of the Islamic arts from the 7th to the 19th Century. A descriptive catalogue is also provided to visitors.

Calligraphic Exhibition in
Lausanne: the Names of God

Calligrapher Yolande Ömer Nami opens her second exhibition in Switzerland at Cimaise Gallery in Lausanne, from 31 October to 23 November 1985. On display will be around 30 works on the theme of the Names of God, written with the artist's special style and illuminated with gold and other material.

The artist is the wife of Mr. Ömer Nami, grand-son of Ottoman Sultan Abdulhamid II.

TURKEY

Exhibition by a Yugoslavian
Muslim artist: Muslim houses

Yugoslavian Muslim artist Mustapha Brdaric displayed his paintings in Istanbul from 22 May to 6 June 1985. The theme of the exhibition was "Old Muslim Houses and Districts". Around 40 paintings showing the traditional characteristics of old muslim residential constructions in the Balkans were displayed at the exhibition. The artist, who is of Turkish origin, opened numerous exhibitions in almost all major cities of Europe and many of his paintings are in the hands of private collectors all over the world.

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CALLIGRAPHY AS A PRINCIPLE OF UNITY OF ISLAMIC ART

An obituary about the late Professor Necmettin Bammate, great Islamic scientist and scholar who passed away in January 1985, was published in our last issue. As mentioned there, the late Professor Bammate had participated in activities of the OIC and contributed to the work of IRCICA. One of his contributions was his participation at the Symposium on the "Common Principles, Forms and Themes of Islamic Art" organised by IRCICA

in April 1983. We reproduce below excerpts of the text of his speech on Islamic calligraphy pronounced at the symposium. The full text of the speech can be obtained by writing to IRCICA Secretariat (original: French).

"... Calligraphic script is first of all a factor of unity throughout the space; but it is also, probably

in a more subtle sense, a factor unifying different fields. In fact, this form of expression is reflected in architecture as well as in earthenware, in calligraphy and in more direct, more simple, I can say more humble forms of expression such as pottery ..."

"... Unlike in other artistic civilisations, unity is not a destination. It is a point of departure ..."

"... Muslim art is essentially mental. It is the product of imagination, of "fikir". But at the same time, it is built on mathematical laws and as a whole, it is engaged, with emotion, in a calm act of reaching unity, of which it is one of the expressions ..."

N.B.

ISLAMIC CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

In each issue of the Newsletter, we introduce a selected cultural institution dealing with Islamic subjects. We try to give information on the objectives of these institutions, their activities, publications, etc. In this issue, we introduce the Islamic Studies Centre, Yarmouk University, Irbid, Jordan.

**ISLAMIC STUDIES CENTRE,
YARMOUK UNIVERSITY, JORDAN**

"Contributing to an Islamic mentality aware of its own, as well as of world affairs, inspired by scientific spirit, checked by piety and motivated by progress". This is one aspiration of the Islamic Studies Centre affiliated to Yarmouk University and located in Irbid, Jordan. This Centre is an institute for research and teaching and accepts students and scholars from all over the world. Its objective is to make and promote

researches on Islamic thought, civilisation, history and science with a specific methodology, combining the principle of sympathy and loyalty with that of scientific objectivity.

In summary, the tasks of the Centre are the following:

- Renovation and furtherance of Islamic thought, and presenting it in such a way that its comprehension, appreciation and utilisation in the modern world will be practical and realistic.
- Analysis of achievements of Islamic civilisation and exposition of its contributions in theoretical and practical fields.
- Full comprehension of modern science and exploitation of its sound concepts with the aim of re-formulating Islamic theories, institutions and objectives within the framework of Islam and changing circumstances in the world.
- Study of contemporary problems and suggestion of Islamic solutions to these problems.

IRCICA IN INTERNATIONAL MEDIA

- Participation in editing and publishing Islamic heritage documents, and furtherance of research and authorship on its various issues.
- Offering academic programs leading to the award of higher studies diploma, and master's and doctorate degrees in Islamic studies.
- Organising, jointly with other faculties, undergraduate academic courses.
- Contribution to academic and cultural activities and organisation of seminars, symposia and programs.
- Promoting close relations among researchers and scholars in local and international universities, institutions and foundations and facilitating exchanges of expertise between the Centre and those places; providing facilities to receive foreign scholars, researchers and students wishing to make studies at the Centre.

Research studies, teaching and other activities are carried out in the fields of Islamic thought and philosophy (Quran, Hadith, Fiqh, theology, modern Islamic thought), Islamic civilisation and history (economic life, development, arts and crafts), social sciences, physical sciences (as applied by Islam), religions, languages, and contemporary Muslim world (demography, economic, political, social and legal systems).

Director of Islamic Studies Centre is Dr. Mohammed Bataineh. The Centre is directly related to the President of Yarmouk University. Its address is:

Islamic Studies Centre
Yarmouk University
P.O.Box 566
Irbid, Jordan.

TV Program on the Centre at U.A.E.

Mr. Abdel-Wahab Kattaya from the Abu-Dhabi Television visited the Centre in the first week of May for interviews and preparing a special TV program about the Centre. Films were taken of different sections of the Centre and interviews were made with Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Director General and Prof. Ahmed Issa, IRCICA expert about the ongoing research and publication projects, as well as the future projects of the Centre. The restoration work in progress at the Yaveran Building was also included. The outcome was an interesting TV program of very good quality shown in the United Arab Emirates during the month of Ramadan. The program attracted great public interest and appreciation.

Articles about IRCICA

Al-Madina

Al-Madina newspaper dated 15 May 1985 published the news about the preparation of the "Comprehensive Bibliography of Manuscripts in Arabic, Persian and Turkish in the Libraries of Turkey" by the Centre. Mohammed Abdou Sabbagh's interview with Director General Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu was reported, during which the Director General explained that all manuscripts written in Arabic, Persian and Turkish language on any subject were covered in this bibliography. Some important libraries of Turkey, which are famous for their manuscripts collections, are also introduced in this work.

Al-Madina

The publication of the "International Directory of Islamic Cultural Institutions" by IRCICA was announced in Al-Madina dated 27 June 1985. Detailed information was given on the contents and presentation of the Directory.

Sino-Arabia

The Sino-Arabian Association Bulletin, Sino-Arabia, is published in Taiwan, Republic of China. "Mosaic from Middle East" section of the July 1984 issue of this bulletin included an article by Tsai Pai-Chuan, introducing IRCICA. The March 1984 issue of the London-based journal "Arabia" is quoted as source of reference for this article in Chinese. The article gives detailed information about the objectives of the Centre and its different research projects, and enumerates, with annotations, the publications of the Centre.

The Athenian

The monthly journal The Athenian published in Greece included, in its April 1985 issue, an article entitled "To the City" by Edward Fenton. This comprehensive article is about the city of Istanbul, its history, monuments and cultural characteristics. IRCICA is also introduced in the context of the restoration of buildings within the Yildiz Palace complex. Researches undertaken by the Centre in the fields of Islamic arts, history, Islamic cultural institutions and manuscripts, as well as its rich library are mentioned.

October

An article by Abdelazim Ramazan published in issue no.436 (March 1985) of this Egyptian magazine contains information on IRCICA. The author, having visited IRCICA, communicates his views and impressions on the Centre. He states that although it is very young, the Centre has already made great achievements and published important books, and that "it is directed and organised similarly to the most advanced scientific institutions in the world".

★★★

EDITOR'S POST

"We received your very interesting Newsletter. At our faculty of theology, we are interested not only in the study of Christian theology, but even so in a better knowledge of Islamic history, art and culture. That is why it would be very kind of you if we can receive this Newsletter".

Assoc.Prof.Dr. H. Goltz
Martin Luther University
Theology Section
Halle, G.D.R.

Professor Ahmed Anany, Director of the Qatar State Archives, and famous Muslim author, visited the Centre on 13 March 1985. He recorded his impressions on the Centre's Book, as follows: "... I see good prospects for the future of this institution. I am proud to do my best to help it. I would like to express my appreciation of the high morals and extensive culture of those who direct it and I wish God help them and give them success. I invite all Muslim personalities and institutions to assist this institution ..."

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"I was happy to be a visitor of IRCICA in Istanbul. I saw its efforts to revive the scientific and artistic aspects of Islamic culture ... In fact, such efforts can only be made by the ones who devoted themselves to research and studies, who do not expect much from this world and wish to be rewarded by God ..."

8 May 1985
Dr. Ahmed Ali Al-Jassar
Head of Physics Department,
Kuwait University, and Supervisor,
Prizes and Awards Division,
Kuwait Foundation for the
Advancement of Sciences, Kuwait

* * *

"Every moral and material support should be extended to this Centre which holds very valuable knowledge and materials useful for scientific research on the Islamic world ..."

16 May 1985
Prof. Dr. Yaşar Yücel
President of the Turkish Institute
of History, Ankara, Turkey

* * *

"I was happy to observe the noble, regular, scientific and in-depth work undertaken by IRCICA, which has taken important steps in this direction. Congratulating the Centre for its pioneering efforts, I pray God for the success of the work undertaken by those who work in this Centre at the service of Islam and Muslims. 'And Say: Act! Allah will behold your actions and so will His messenger and the believers'."

3 June 1985
Prof. Dr. Husameddin Al-Samerrai
Umm Al-Qura University,
Mecca, Saudi Arabia

* * *

"With our sincere congratulations and encouragement for the important work done here at the service of the Islamic Ummah. We are convinced that thanks to your researches and the high quality of your work, the great Islamic family will learn to appreciate and to preserve its Islamic cultural wealth eternally"

13 June 1985
H.E. Elhadj Mamadou Saliou Sylla
Ambassador of Guinea, Cairo, Egypt
(also accredited in Turkey)

* * *

"I had the pleasure to visit IRCICA today. I observed the unknown soldiers in the cells of the bee's hive, working seriously and dynamically. Their hard work brought to my mind the following words of the eminent poet: 'Observing the crescent's growth, you will be sure that full moon will be'."

24 June 1985
Prof. Dr. Muhammed Marouf Al-Dawalibi
Advisor to H.M. the King of Saudi Arabia, Riyadh; eminent Muslim scientist, thinker and statesman

* * *

Sheikh Abdulkarim Suud Al-Babtain, charitable personage truly believing in Islamic heritage, and businessman in Kuwait, came to the Centre on 24 June 1985. His impressions about the Centre were as follows: "... I visited the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture and observed the work it performs. I was happy to see the beneficial results of this work and I wish the continuation of efforts made by those who work at this Centre to preserve the great Islamic heritage. It is a pleasure to observe the importance attributed to Islamic culture. I wish all the best for our brothers working at this Centre, which is one of the minarets of Islamic culture."

* * *

"I visited the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture on Wednesday, 22 Dhil Qa'da 1405H. My dear brother Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu informed me on the interesting work undertaken by the Centre. It seemed to me that this work is very important; however, it has not been introduced and publicized sufficiently. This work comprises, among others, the preservation of treasuries of the eternal Islamic heritage and the cataloguing of Islamic documents, works and manuscripts which were not available to researchers before. All this had my admiration and I present my wishes of success to my dear brother Dr. Ekmeleddin. I invite all institutions and organisations, and Islamic Governments, to assist and support the Centre as much as possible, since, actually, the Centre works for all Muslims and its activities are beneficial for all people, Muslim or not, who undertake research in the field of Islamic civilisation and

its eternal heritage. I wish Muslims extend their interest and support to this Centre and that they assist it financially through Waqfs and donations."

Istanbul, 7 August 1985
Mohammed Ben Nasser Aboudi
Assistant Secretary General,
Muslim World League,
Mecca, Saudi Arabia

FAREWELL TO MR. ISMET BINARK

Various projects and publications of the Centre were introduced in the Newsletter until now. Among these, the following works were also mentioned:

- "International Bibliography of Translations of the Meaning of the Holy Quran",
- "Comprehensive Bibliography of Arabic, Turkish and Persian Manuscripts in the Libraries of Turkey", and
- "Guidebook of Ottoman Archives".



Our colleague who participated actively in the preparation of the above books is Mr. Ismet Binark, expert in archives and bibliographies. Mr. Ismet Binark also participated in other projects for compilation of bibliographies. He worked at the Centre for three

years and now, he is leaving our Centre, since the necessity of his return to his original functions as the Director of Archives of the Turkish Republic at the Prime Ministry of Turkey, in Ankara, was stronger than the desire of his colleagues at the Centre to retain

him, and his wish to reassume his previous duties has been decisive.

All staff members of the Centre will remember Mr. Ismet Binark with love and esteem, and his efforts with appreciation. We wish him all the success in his work in Ankara and a happy and brilliant future.

REQUESTS FOR BOOK DONATIONS AND ASSISTANCE

IRCICA receives, from time to time, requests for Islamic books and other kinds of assistance. However, IRCICA is unable to meet such requests fully and therefore, it publishes some of them in its Newsletter with the hope that they would attract the interest of institutions and personalities which are capable and willing to provide the books, material and other assistance needed. Below are such requests for assistance.

* Balochi Academy in Pakistan would like to cooperate and exchange its publications with institutions and university establishments undertaking research on Islamic subjects. The address is:

Balochi Academy
Secretariat General
Quetta
Pakistan.

* The following institutions in Ghana are requesting Islamic books:

- Centre for Islamic Da'wa and Teaching, P.O.Box 2699, Accra
- Union of Islamic Organisation, P.O.Box 11003, Accra
- Ghana Muslim Students Cultural Organisation Centre, P.O.Box 12365, Accra

- Rashard Islamic School, P.O.Box K335, Accra New Town, Accra
- Moslem Brothers Union, P.O.Box 1321, Accra.

* Ghana Muslim Youth Research Organisation is in need of financial assistance in order to complete an Islamic Institute in Ghana. The donation needed for the project is US \$ 15.000 in total. The address is below:

Finance Director
Ghana Muslim Youth Research
P.O.Box 1723
Mamprobi, Accra, Ghana.

* Islamic Centre Committee, Kano, Nigeria appeals for donations for the construction of an Islamic centre in Kano State, Nigeria. The centre will consist of a mosque, a religious school and a technical school for vocational training and will help in educating and guiding Muslims all over West Africa. The Committee invites generous donations for their cause, to be addressed to:

Islamic Centre Committee
Acc.No.35004712
International Bank for West
Africa, Kano
Kano State, Nigeria.



The late Hafız Hussein Mustapha,
Mufti of Gümülcine

Hafız Hussein Mustapha, Mufti of
Gümülcine (Komotini, Greece),
passed away on 2 June 1985.

Hafız Hussein Mustapha was born in 1912 in Gümülcine. Completing the mederssa and obtaining his diploma at a very young age, he was nominated Mufti of Gümülcine in February 1949. He conducted his mission with success for 36 years until his death. Leader of Muslim in Western Thrace, Hafız Hussein Mustapha made all efforts to protect Muslim's rights and did never hesitate to protest unjust treatments to Muslims with the highest Greek authorities and international organisations (Visit of Hafız Hussein Mustapha to the Istanbul Centre in April 1984 was reported in Newsletter no.6).

Prof. Dr.Yunus Müftü, MD., eminent Turkish scientist and researcher, passed away on 24 July 1985.

Born in 1937 at Kirkuk, Iraq, Dr. Yunus Müftü had completed his medical studies at Hacettepe University in Ankara, Turkey. Becoming Professor in 1972, he had worked as the Head of the Pediatrics Section of this university, and also as a lecturer at King Abdulaziz University in Jeddah. He was among the organisers of the Third Conference on Islamic Medicine held in Istanbul in September-October 1984. Professor Yunus Müftü was the author of more than 40 medical articles. He was a man with very high moral qualities and a dynamic and gracious personality. In his person, the Islamic world lost a great scholar and researcher. We shall always remember Professor Yunus Müftü for his valuable contributions for the establishment of close relations among Islamic countries; may God bless his soul.



The late Prof.Dr. Yunus Müftü

NEW PUBLICATIONS

In the present section, we announce new books and periodicals published in different parts of the world and coming to our knowledge, in the fields of Islamic sciences, history, culture, arts and civilisation. The following is information on three such publications.

- * M. Adil Usmani, Islamic Studies, Literature on Quran in English Language, A Bibliography, Islamic Documentation and Information Centre, Karachi, 1985

This Bibliography was prepared by Muhammed Adil Usmani and published by the Islamic Documentation and Information Centre at Karachi University. It will serve as a useful tool for scholars and exegists, since it contains information on the bibliographic works done previously on the same subject, catalogues of important collections of Quranic literature, and other reference works dealing with the Quran. The book can be requested from:

Islamic Documentation and Information Centre,
Karachi University Campus,
Karachi, Pakistan.

- * Le Matin des Mathématiciens, Entretiens sur l'histoire des mathématiques présentés par Emile Noel, Edition Belin, Paris 1985

An important contribution to the history of science, this book is a collection of 16 different talks by Emile Noel from France Culture with eminent historians of mathematics. Talks are presented in a question-answer form and they cover each the history of mathematics in

a different period or civilisation, from Babylone and Egypt until the end of the Middle Ages. The book includes 4 separate talks with Roshdi Rashed explaining the contributions of Muslim mathematicians in making discoveries, as well as in transmitting mathematics throughout ages and civilisations by translating writings of Greek mathematicians into Arabic.

- * "Soviet Muslims Brief",
The Islamic Foundation,
Leicester, United Kingdom

Vol. 1, No. 1 of "Soviet Muslims Brief", dated May-June 1985, has been published by the Islamic Foundation, Leicester. This first issue of the periodical gives the news of Muslims in the Soviet Union from the point of view of culture and social situation, summaries and excerpts from the Soviet Press on the Muslim world and abstracts of books and articles on Islam published in the Soviet Union. As far as we know, this publication constitutes the first venture of its kind undertaken by an Islamic institution. We would like to take this occasion to invite all scholars interested in this subject to follow, support and encourage it.

The address of the Foundation is:
The Islamic Foundation
223 London Road
Leicester LE2 1ZE
United Kingdom.

NEW IRCICA PUBLICATIONS

CATALOGUE OF ISLAMIC MEDICAL MANUSCRIPTS

First volume of the "Series of Studies and Sources on the History of Science", this catalogue gives bibliographic descriptions of approximately 5000 Islamic medical manuscripts existing in the collections of 129 major libraries of Turkey. These works are either originals or copies of approximately 1000 medical manuscripts and their summaries, translations and commentaries.

625 pp./Price: US\$ 30.-

INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY OF ISLAMIC CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

This Directory gives the addresses of 3579 Islamic cultural institutions in 106 countries, grouped according to their nature: academies, learned societies and research centres, libraries and archives, museums, universities and educational institutions.

350 pp./Price: US\$ 10.-

L'ENSEIGNEMENT ARABO- ISLAMIQUE AU SENEGAL

by Dr. Mamadou Ndiaye

One of the tasks of IRCICA is to promote researches on subjects related to its fields of activity and contribute to their publica-

tion. Within this framework, the Centre selected and published the PhD thesis of Dr. Mamadou Ndiaye from Senegal. The book gives a sound and detailed analysis of the process of introduction of Arab-Islamic education in Senegal and institutionalisation of the teaching of the Quran and the Arabic language, despite all obstacles encountered in the colonial period. Based on first-hand reference sources, including the official archives of Senegal which were previously unknown to the Islamic world, the work is an important contribution in this field, since it is the first study made on this subject in the Islamic world (French, with Preface in English and Arabic).

260 pp./Price: US\$ 10.-

★★★

VIDEO CASSETTES

The two documentary films prepared by the Centre are available now in a single cassette priced US\$ 30.-. The films entitled "Life and Works of the Late Calligrapher Hamid Al-Amidi (Aytac) and Calligraphic Arts" and "Arts of Illumination and Gilding" are in Arabic, English text given with the cassette. Diffusion system is PAL. Orders should be addressed to the Secretariat of IRCICA, specifying cassette type (VHS/BETAMAX).