



Newsletter



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

December 1997

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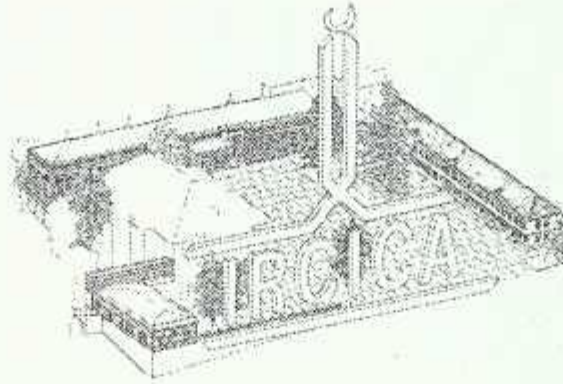
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Newsletter

*Research Centre for Islamic
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December 1997, No. 44

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Calligraphy diplomas awarded to five calligraphers from the OIC Member States

The Sovereigns, Heads of State and Government of fifty-three OIC Member States came together for the Eighth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference convened in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, from 9 to 11 December 1997, under the high patronage of H. E. Seyed Mohammad Khatami, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Summit Conference, which is the highest supervisory body of the Organisation, adopted a number of resolutions, the Final Communique of the session, and two important documents: the Tehran Declaration and the Tehran Vision Statement. This issue of the Newsletter contains a summary of the conference proceedings. Furthermore, a number of specialised and administrative meetings of the OIC preceded the Summit Conference over the last couple of months, including the Fourth Islamic Conference of Information Ministers, which was held under the high patronage of H. E. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal. In this conference the Member States' Information Ministers took decisions conducive to greater cooperation among them through the practical implementation of a series of joint information and communication schemes which were devised and agreed upon at their previous meetings.

The OIC's action in the field of culture, carried out through the mission of IRCICA, came to the foreground of public attention once again on the occasion of the second IRCICA Award for "Excellence in Research". Readers of the Newsletter would remember that the award was presented to its first five

recipients on the occasion of the Tenth Anniversary of IRCICA, in 1990. With this award, our Centre aims to acknowledge remarkable scholarly contributions made to Islamic studies, anywhere in the world, and thus encourage and promote research that objectively and correctly reflects the history, the culture, the social and civilisational heritage of the Muslim world. The ceremony for the presentation of the second award took place in Istanbul on 3 November, in the presence of the Member States' ministerial delegations and representatives of international organisations. The proceedings of the ceremony captured the spirit of global cultural cooperation and inter-cultural dialogue that is reflected in the award purpose. Great interest was shown to the event by the academic circles. It was largely covered by the local and international press, and described in the news media as "the Nobel Prize for research in Islamic civilisation". The ceremony's positive impact on the public opinion helped to increase the awareness of literati and the interested public alike on the cultural action of the OIC and the mission of IRCICA that aim to study and make known Muslims' history and civilisation through scholarly research and cultural activities, project and disseminate the true image of Islam and thus contribute in building dialogue and affinities between peoples around the globe.

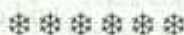
We are pleased to announce that the research project on "Islamic Civilisation in the Malay World" which was carried out in cooperation with the Governments of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia is now finalised. The resulting

publication, a comprehensive reference written by scholars and specialists from the region itself, covers the diverse aspects of the spread of Islam in Southeast Asia and the history of the Malay world from the states' policy to social structure, language, cultural life, economic life, arts and architecture and many other subjects. This is the first book in its field to have such a wide scope. It will be an essential reference for all those who are interested in the history of the region.

Only two days after the ceremony of the Award for "Excellence in Research", we had the pleasure of hosting another international meeting, this time to reward five young gifted calligraphers who successfully completed the training courses that IRCICA, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Heritage (ICPICH), had arranged for them. In the framework

of its efforts to preserve and develop the Islamic artistic heritage, the Commission gives priority to offering training opportunities to calligraphers to upgrade their skills in the major styles of the classical Islamic calligraphy. The Commission had previously awarded diplomas to seven other calligraphers. The diploma ceremonies bring together the artists, art specialists and art lovers offering them an opportunity to share views in their fields of interest. Meanwhile, the number of participants in the Fourth International Calligraphy Competition grows day by day; it had in fact become clear early on that the competition would meet high interest world-wide. The Commission will continue to receive entries to the competition until the end of December, and the Jury meeting shall take place in April 1998. We wish success to the participants and believe all of them will benefit from this exercise to increase their knowledge and experience.

Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu



**THE SECOND IRCICA AWARD
FOR "EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH"
AWARD PRESENTATION CEREMONY
AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES**

IRCICA presented its Second Award for "Excellence in Research" to five scholars in Islamic studies. An international ceremony was held on this occasion in Istanbul, on 3 November 1997. A series of cultural activities including the IRCICA Award Lectures marked the event.

The Second Award for "Excellence in Research" was presented to the following scholars: Prof. Dr. Leila Sabbagh, for her achievements in the field of the social and cultural history of the Arab world; Prof. Dr. Kemal Karpat, for his contributions in the field of the history of the Turkic world, Prof. Dr. Mohamed Taib bin Osman for his outstanding studies and publications on the Malay world; Prof. Dr. Géza Fehérvari for his extensive inputs to Islamic art and archeology; and, Prof. Dr. Abdurrahman Badawi, for his impressive knowledge of and publications on Islamic philosophy.

The awardees received their tokens at an international ceremony which was held in Istanbul on 3 November 1997, under the high patronage of the President of the Republic of Turkey and the Chairmanship of the Minister of State of Turkey H. E. Mr. Işın Çelebi, in the presence of H. E. Ambassador Nabika Diallo, Assistant Secretary General of the OIC representing

H. E. the Secretary General Dr. Azeddine Laraki. Were present at the ceremony: Prof. Dr. Orhan Güvenen, Undersecretary of the State Planning Organisation and Mr. Celal Armangil, Director General, Foreign Economic Relations, State Planning Organisation, Republic of Turkey; the Ministers, Ambassadors, Heads and members of the OIC Member States' delegations, representatives of international organisations and OIC institutions at the Thirteenth Session of the OIC Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC, 1-4 November 1997). The award presentation ceremony's taking place during the period of the COMCEC ministerial meeting imparted a greater combined success to these two events because it highlighted the scope and variety of the activities undertaken by the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and its bodies in the different fields of the joint OIC action.



From the left, Prof. Orhan Güvenen, Undersecretary, State Planning Organisation; Ambassador Nabika Diallo, Assistant Secretary General of the OIC; Prof. Mohd. Taib Osman; Prof. Leila Sabbagh; Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu; H. E. Mr. Işın Çelebi, Minister of State of Turkey; Prof. Kemal Karpat; Prof. Géza Fehérvari



*Minister of State H.E. Mr. İqın Çelebi
presented the token to Prof. Leila Sabbagh*

It may be recalled that *The First IRCICA Award for "Excellence in Research"* was presented in 1990, on the occasion of the Tenth Anniversary of the Centre's establishment, to five scholars renowned for their services in different fields of Islamic studies. In fact, the practice of presenting tokens of recognition to scholars for their services was initiated by IRCICA earlier, in 1988, on the occasion of the "International Seminar on Research in Islamic Civilisation: Prospects for the Coming Decade" which was held at IRCICA, when the renowned historian Prof. Abd-al-Aziz Duri was acknowledged for his excellent studies. Then, at IRCICA's Tenth Anniversary ceremony, which took place on 10 October 1990 under the patronage and in the presence of the President of the Republic of Turkey, five scholars were presented with the first tokens of "Excellence in Research". These scholars were Prof. Dr. Annemarie Schimmel, professor of Indo-Muslim culture, chosen for her contributions to the history of culture, mysticism and literature; Prof. Dr. Stanford Shaw, historian of the Middle East, for his thorough studies based on the Ottoman archives; Prof. Dr. Oktay Aslanapa, historian of Islamic art and author of numerous works; Prof. Dr. Roshdi Rashed, historian of science and Director of the Centre National de Recherche Scientifique in Paris; and, Prof. Dr. Izzet Hasan, professor at Mohammed V University in Rabat in recognition of his teaching and authorship in Arabic literature.

The first IRCICA Awards for "Excellence in Research" aroused interest and appreciation in the world's cultural and academic circles as a scholarly event which acknowledged notable contributions to Islamic studies and brought them to the attention of the world opinion. Taking into consideration the interest met by the award and its prospective contributions to the development of Islamic studies, the Governing Board of IRCICA later decided to institutionalize it as a periodical academic event. Thus the Governing Board of IRCICA, at its Thirteenth Session which was held in November 1996 in Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, under the high patronage and in the presence of His Royal Highness Crown Prince El-Hassan bin Talal, unanimously agreed that tokens of recognition be presented to prominent scholars in Islamic culture and civilisation every other year. Accordingly, Prof. Dr. Leila Sabbagh, Prof. Dr. Kemal Karpat, Prof. Dr. Mohamed Taib bin Osman, Prof. Dr. Géza Fehérvári, and Prof. Dr. Abdurrahman Badawi, five scholars from different countries around the world each having devoted lifelong efforts to research and teaching in their respective fields, were the recipients of the *Second IRCICA Award*. IRCICA Director General received a letter of thanks and appreciation from Prof. Badawi, whose health condition prevented him from attending the award presentation ceremony; the token shall be presented to him later.

The Award Presentation Ceremony on Monday, 3 November was opened by H. E. Mr. Işın Çelebi, Minister of State of the Republic of Turkey, who said it was a special pleasure for him to chair this event and commended IRCICA for fulfilling its duties in a successful way and making significant contributions to the promotion of knowledge and cooperation in the study

of the common history of the Muslim world. The Minister of State pointed out that IRCICA's research and studies contribute remarkably in correcting the misunderstandings and misconceptions about the Islamic history and culture as well as in projecting a true image of Islam throughout the world.



OIC Assistant Secretary General H.E. Mr. Nabika Diallo presented the token to Prof. Fehérvári

IRCICA Director General delivered an address introducing the Award, its purpose and modalities. He pointed out that each of the five scholars chosen for the Award belong to different fields of Islamic studies, namely Arabic studies, Turkish studies, Malay studies, art and archeology, history and philosophy, and that the variety of the fields and the diversity of the countries where these scholars come from are important features of the award. He said this also reflects the amplitude of the OIC's perspective in the field of culture. The Director General then recalled that IRCICA, the cultural arm of the OIC, not only acquired considerable research experience under its different projects, but also tried to monitor the research activity

ongoing around the world in virtually all fields of Islamic studies. Over the years, it became a staunch promoter of international academic cooperation among the institutions and researchers involved in these fields. Meanwhile, IRCICA also participated in and organised meetings aiming to encourage understanding and dialogue between peoples of different cultures and religions. Increasingly over time, the Centre emphasised, in its plans and projects, the objective of better introducing Islam, its culture, its history and its civilisational heritage to peoples of other cultures. The program of the Award for "Excellence in Research" is designed to meet these far-reaching universal objectives of the Centre.

The message of H. E. Dr. Azeddine Laraki, Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, which was read by H. E. Mr. Nabika Diallo, Assistant Secretary General, underlined the significance of having two important events of the OIC in Istanbul in the same period, where the proceedings of the COMCEC meeting reflected the advanced stage of cooperation reached in

the OIC's economic action, while IRCICA's Award ceremony epitomised the multifarious dimensions of the OIC's cultural action. The Secretary General also pointed out that the OIC's mission in the cultural field, aimed at promoting cooperation between its Member States and at the same time, projecting a true image of Islam and its civilisation to the outer world, is being fulfilled by IRCICA. In this context, the Award for "Excellence in Research" reflects the principle of universality upheld by IRCICA because the awardees are chosen on basis of the quality of their work, irrespective of nationality or religion, for the purpose of recognising and encouraging scholarship in Islamic studies and transferring the spirit and purpose of their contributions into public consciousness. Finally, H. E. the Secretary General congratulated the awardees and wished them continuous success.

The Chairman then invited Prof. Orhan Güvenen, Undersecretary of the State Planning Organisation of Turkey, to address the meeting. Prof. Güvenen in his inspiring address spoke of the importance of culture, especially in the 20th century, which has been a century of progress but at the same time has been marked by mechanistic approaches in natural sciences as well as in social sciences and from time to time in humanities. Prof. Güvenen emphasised the need of all human beings for having a

balance between their sentimental structures - their inner richness - and their mental structures, and said that culture is a necessary condition of life, of science and of art, because culture explains the human behaviour. He pointed out that one of the dominant, certainly explanatory variables of culture is the belief system, while the other one is language, because language carries the culture. Architecture is another dominant variable of culture, together with art and literature. Prof. Orhan Güvenen then underlined that human beings' beliefs and cultures were for centuries and centuries dominated by wisdom. They carried the wisdom, and they carried, at the same time, the balance between mental structures and sentimental structures. Therefore, he said, mankind mustn't lose in mechanistic approaches of life what it had for centuries and centuries as a remarkable value-added, as an inner richness.

The ceremony continued with the presentation of the tokens. The Award purpose and the awardees were introduced by Mrs. Dilek Orbay (IRCICA), who informed the audience that this presentation, considering the awardees virtue and ethics in the field of learning, reflected the public appreciation of their efforts and service in the progress and development of learning and science, and that it would be a source of encouragement for others working in the same fields.



Prof. Kemal Karpaz receives the token from Prof. Orhan Güvenen



Prof. Mohd. Taib Osman receives the Award token from Mr. Celal Atmangil

Thus, IRCICA acknowledged the remarkable works of

* Leila Sabbagh, professor, researcher and author in social and cultural history of the Arab world, for her personal and professional achievements as an educator, historian and author of books and articles. Leila Sabbagh received her B.A., M.A. and PhD with honour from Cairo University. Her career started as a teacher of History in Damascus, then continued as a researcher in the fields of history; as a professor in the History Department of the Damascus University in Syria; as well as a Visiting Professor at Al Ain University in the United Arab Emirates. She published several books on European colonies in Syria, on the Ottoman period, the Ottomans in Syria and the Arab world: society, chronicles, and intellectual life, the Arab women throughout history, modern histories of the Arab and European world, as well as many research articles dealing with the intellectual, social and cultural history and civilisation of the Arab world. Prof. Leila Sabbagh received her Award token from the Minister of State of Turkey H. E. İşin Çelebi.

* Géza Fehérvári, professor, researcher and author in Islamic art and archeology, for his personal and professional achievements as

an educator, archeologist and author of books in the fields of Islamic art and archeology. Professor Géza Fehérvári received his B.A. and M.A. in Arabic and Archeology from the Budapest University and pursued his doctoral studies first in the University of Vienna and then in the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. He trained numerous young scholars and researchers in the field of art and archeology. He worked as a professor of Islamic Art and Archeology at the London School of Oriental and African Studies, as an archeologist in Iran and Kuwait; and, after joining the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as an Ambassador to Kuwait and other Gulf States; and, on his retirement, as the Curator for the Tareq Rajab Museum (Kuwait) which continues to this day. He carried out excavations at Tammisha in Iran, where he discovered the early Islamic city of Ghubayra in the Kirman Province of Iran while excavating the prehistoric site of Tall-i Iblis; directed the archeological team excavating the early Islamic site of Medinat Sultan in Libya; and initiated the excavations sponsored by the State of Kuwait in Bahnasa, Egypt. Géza Fehérvári received the IRCICA Award token from H.E. Ambassador Nabika Diallo and Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu.

* Kemal Karpat, Professor, researcher and author in social and cultural history of the Turkic world, for his personal and professional achievements as an educator, historian and author of books, articles and papers in the fields of social and cultural history of the Turkic world in the age of modernisation. Prof. Karpat received his Law degree from the University of Istanbul, his M.A. from Washington University in Seattle, and his PhD from New York University. He worked as an Assistant Professor first in the Montana State University, then Washington and New York Universities; as a social program analyst in the United Nations Organisation; Chairman of Public Administration Department at Middle East University, Turkey; fellow at Harvard University; Visiting Associate Professor at Robert College and at the School of Political Science in Turkey; visiting lecturer at John Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies; Seminar Director at Columbia University; Research Associate at Woodrow Wilson Center for International Studies at Princeton University; Associate Director of Research at the Ecole d'Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris; and Distinguished Professor of History at the Department of History, Wisconsin University. He published several books and articles on Central Asia, the Ottoman times, Turkey, the Middle East, North Africa, politics and

social sciences. At the award ceremony, Prof. Orhan Güvener and Prof. İhsanoğlu presented the token to Prof. Kemal Karpat.

* Mohammed Taib Osman, professor, researcher and author in Malay studies, for his personal and professional achievements as an educator, historian and author of books, articles and papers in the field of Malay studies. Professor Mohd. Taib Osman received his M.A. from the University of Malaya and his Doctorate from Indiana University in the United States of America. He worked as a Professor of Malay Studies and as Vice-Chancellor in the University of Malaya contributing to the education of numerous scholars and researchers, and as a researcher for UNESCO. Prof. Osman published several books on Malay culture and society. He made an invaluable contribution in this field as Editor of the first reference book on the Malay region, titled *Islamic Civilisation in the Malay World* which was published in 1997 as a result of the joint research project undertaken by the Governments of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia with IRCICA as coordinator. Prof. Mohd. Taib Osman received the token from Mr. Celal Armangil, Director General of Foreign Economic Relations, State Planning Organisation of Turkey, and IRCICA Director General Prof. İhsanoğlu.



The Member States' delegations in the ceremony hall at Marmara Hotel, Istanbul

* Prof. Abdurrahman Badawi, for his personal and professional achievements as an educator, historian, philosopher and author of books, articles and papers in the field of philosophy. Prof. Badawi received his B.A., M.A. and PhD from the Faculty of Literature, Department of Philosophy, Cairo University, Egypt. His remarkable career involves his work as a philosopher and Philosophy Professor in the Cairo University; Founder and Head of the Philosophy Department at the Faculty of Literature at Great Ibrahim Pasha University (presently Ain Shams University) for twenty one years; as visiting professor of Islamic Philosophy at the Faculty of Letters in Beirut; as Cultural Counsellor and Director of the Educational Mission at Egyptian Embassy in Bern, Switzerland; Visiting Professor at the Institute of Islamic Studies, University of Paris (Sorbonne); Professor of Logic and Contemporary Philosophy at Benghazi University in Libya; Professor of Islamic Philosophy and Sufism at the School of Theology and Islamic Sciences in Tehran, Iran; and as Professor of Contemporary Philosophy, Logic, Ethics and Sufism at the University of Kuwait.



The Awardees (Prof. Dr. Abdurrahman Badawi was not able to attend the ceremony)

Following the presentation of the tokens, the awardees delivered addresses; first, Prof. Géza Fehérvari spoke on behalf of the recipients of IRCICA Awards, expressing gratitude to the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, to the Governing Board of IRCICA and to IRCICA Director General Professor Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu for honouring him to be one of those scholars to receive the IRCICA Awards for Excellence in Research. He said that one of the greatest achievements of IRCICA is that it brings together scholars, artists, scientists from all over the world irrespective of their nationality, ethnic background or religion. Prof. Fehérvari said

"... In today's world when we constantly hear about conflicts, terrorism and suffering of innocent people, it is important that we scholars, who are working in different fields of Islamic studies, combine our efforts and try to influence the views of politicians, intellectuals and ordinary people to be tolerant, to be understanding and to try to work together. After the end of the cold war, a new era with new opportunities opened up in the world which made close cooperation possible between all nations. I consider that we who teach Near Eastern languages, Islamic law, Islamic history, philosophy or Islamic art have the duty to spread this understanding, this feeling of closeness for cooperation to our students and through them to the whole public. We, scholars here tonight would like to offer full cooperation and we hope that this will be accepted. At the same time, we also respectfully ask for cooperation and advice both from OIC and also from its cultural subsidiary IRCICA."

Prof. Leila Sabbagh was then invited to the floor. "Only profound science and elaborate knowledge which are elevated above the prevailing materialistic aspects and dedicated to the superiority of man," she said, "are capable of uprooting conflicts and diversities among peoples of the world and building a humanitarian civilisation on basis of tolerance, cooperation and affinities, thus connecting man to man". She underlined her understanding that "this ceremony is not in honour of particular personalities but of a wide humanitarian concept, which is human solidarity in various fields of knowledge and in doing honest research pertaining to the essence of the existence". Then, Prof. Mohd. Taib Osman addressed the meeting, saying "My greatest satisfaction is that studies on Malay civilisation are formally recognized as part of the study of Islamic civilisation. The people in my region had been Muslims for less than a millenium. The core of our civilisation or that of our personality is in being a Muslim. Islam has been our source of strength and fortitude, and now as we are facing the challenge of the new century, the process of globalisation and the so-called brotherless world, Islam would remain to be the spiritual bastion against the tendencies of homogenizing human beings and their cultures. I am thankful to IRCICA Director General not only for honouring me but for giving me an opportunity to work in the framework of IRCICA's endeavour to draw

The IRCICA Award Lectures

A memorable feature of the *Cultural activities* arranged by IRCICA on this occasion was the Public Lectures that each of the Award recipients gave at different venues in Istanbul. The lectures programme, spread over a week's time, aroused great interest not only in the interested academic, cultural and artistic circles and among university students, but also in the general public, as many people attended the lectures and visited the Centre's premises during that period. Another major event, the international ceremony for the presentation of calligraphy diplomas (Ijaza) to five

the world's attention to the various civilisational expressions of the Muslims wherever they are."

Finally, Prof. Dr. Kemal Karpat was invited to address the meeting. He said "I come before you not as the recipient of this great honour, but as a humble Muslim scholar who works for the purpose of proving to the world that Islam is a faith to be respected, to be loved and the Muslim is a human being who is warm, kind-hearted and the world should recognize him and her as such. For the rest of my life I shall fight to prove indeed that we Muslims are compatible, equal if not superior to the West, but we shall do it by respecting our own culture, our own values and at the same time respecting of the universal values of mankind of which the West is also part. I am also pleased to acknowledge with profound gratitude the immense service the Organisation of the Islamic Conference is performing in achieving unity among Muslims and also I convey my gratitude to IRCICA for bringing forward to the entire world in concrete terms the achievements of all of us Muslims regardless of whether Turks, Arabs, Iranians, Malaysians and so on. ..."

The Award ceremony ended with the presentation of a short documentary film summarising IRCICA's accomplishments since its establishment.

calligraphers from the Member States (also featured in this issue of the Newsletter) took place during the same week, on 5 November 1997, in the presence of OIC Assistant Secretary General H. E. Mr. Nabika Diallo representing H. E. the Secretary General. Heads of diplomatic and consular missions in Turkey and the recipients of the IRCICA Award for "Excellence in Research" attended this event together with the calligraphers, their professors and a large audience of artists, art specialists, lovers of art and the interested public.

The programme of Public Lectures which were given by the recipients of the IRCICA Award was as follows:

- Prof. Géza Fehérvári, "Ottoman Monuments in Hungary", at Yıldız Technical University Faculty of Architecture, 4 Nov. 1997
- Prof. Leila Sabbagh, "An Encyclopedia in Arabic written by a Turkish scholar", at Marmara University Faculty of Theology, 6 Nov. 1997
- Prof. Kemal Karpat, "The Ottoman Islamic heritage and the Turkish Republic", 6 Nov. 1997
- Prof. Mohd. Taib Osman, "The Islamic Civilisation in Insular Southeast Asia", at IRCICA's conference hall, 7 Nov. 1997

Prof. Fehérvári's lecture at the Faculty of Architecture, Yıldız Technical University, was attended by Prof. Dr. Hakkı Önel, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture, faculty members, students, and journalists. Prof. Fehérvári recounted the activities he had undertaken from the 1950's onwards in cooperation with two colleagues of his, Professors Géza Fehér and Gyözö Gerö, to uncover, assess, restore and preserve the Islamic architectural and archeological heritage in Hungary. He showed slides and plans of each of the Islamic monuments located in different Hungarian cities telling their history back to Ottoman times and explaining their characteristics. He also gave information on the restoration and reconstruction work done on each of them which involved excavations, in some cases, to uncover other walls underneath; their subsequent opening to public use: some mosques as such, some other monuments as museums.

Prof. Leila Sabbagh analytically introduced the work titled "Muftah al-Saada was Misbah al-Siyada" (the key to happiness and light to self-governance) written by the Turkish scholar Ahmed bin Mustafa bin Halil, known as Taşköprülüzade (901-968 H. /1494-1561). Although the author described his work as a treatise on the classification of sciences, Prof. Sabbagh considers it to be a comprehensive encyclopedia of Islam covering its intellectual and civilisational development over the period from the first until the tenth century Hijra (7th-16th centuries AD), that is until the time when the author lived. Indeed, the work addresses almost every aspect of the Islamic civilisation including sciences, logic, philosophy, psychology, arts, languages, historical events and many other developments. The lecturer said this work is available in a three-volume, 1500-page edition.

In his inspiring lecture titled "The Ottoman Islamic heritage and the Turkish Republic", Prof. Kemal Karpat reviewed the modernisation process in the Ottoman State, underlining that Islam is not opposed to modernisation; on the contrary, Islam creates favourable grounds for modernisation that brings advancement. Prof. Karpat also spoke of the frame of reference of studies on Ottoman history, pointing out that the Ottoman State, under its diverse aspects, deserves to be considered as a civilisation in itself.

Professor Mohd. Taib Osman's compendious lecture on the history of Islamic civilisation in Southeast Asia stimulated a lot of public interest. Prof. Osman described the history of the hundreds of kingdoms and sultanates which governed Southeast Asia over centuries and whose polity developed an Islamic civilisation which provided the spiritual and cultural core of the nations in the region. The lecturer set out the characteristics of this polity and the Islamic civilisation it built, and explained how that core provided the resilience of the people during the colonial periods and provided them the inner guidance in facing up to the future challenges as independent states of the 20th century. Prof. Osman communicated research findings on how Islam spread in Southeast Asia. He then described the sultanate, the structure of society under it and the religious notion applied to its socio-political structure. He spoke of Islam under western colonial rule and Islam in the era of independent states facing the 21st century. The lecture was accompanied by a presentation of slides depicting the different cultural, administrative and religious influences over the region's history as they were reflected in people's life styles, arts and architecture.

THE EIGHTH ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE
HELD IN TEHRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
9-11 December 1997



At the invitation of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Eighth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference (Session of Dignity, Dialogue, Participation) was held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 9-11 December 1997, under the high patronage of H. E. Seyed Mohammad Khatami, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The conference was preceded by the meeting of Senior Officials of the Member States (2-5 December) and the Preparatory Meeting of the Foreign Ministers (6-7 December).

Fifty-three Member States of the OIC participated in the Summit Conference, together with four Observer States (the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Guyana, the Central African Republic, and the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire), Muslim communities, international organisations, invitees (States, international and

regional agencies and councils), the subsidiary organs, specialised and affiliated institutions of the OIC and Islamic foundations and societies. The Summit Conference was inaugurated by His Eminence Ayatollah Sayed Ali Khameni, Leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, who stated that all the members of the OIC form a united body irrespective of historical, geographical or political diversity. Ayatollah Khameni underlined that Islam is a religion of humanity, moderation and wisdom. He said that the OIC member countries enjoy precious natural resources as well as academic, industrial and cultural capabilities, and the OIC can be instrumental in fostering cooperation among them. Then the conference heard H. E. Dr. Abdellatif Filali, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Kingdom of Morocco, who in his capacity as the representative of H. M. King Hassan II, Chairman of the Seventh

Islamic Summit Conference, delivered the speech of His Majesty the King to the Summit. H. M. King Hassan II stressed the role of the OIC in supporting the cause of the Palestinian people to regain their inalienable rights and establish their independent state on national soil with Al-Quds as its capital. He also praised the OIC's support for the peace process in the Middle East based on the agreements concluded and commitments made. His Majesty the King reviewed the efforts he undertook as Chairman of the Seventh Islamic Summit and Chairman of the OIC's Al-Quds Committee to urge the international community to assume its responsibilities. He highlighted the positive results achieved by the OIC in the settlement of the question of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the conclusion of the peace agreement between the Moro National Front and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines.

The conference unanimously elected H. E. Seyed Mohammed Khatami, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as the Chairman of the Eighth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference. In his address, Seyed Mohammad Khatami underscored the need to find solutions to the problems besetting the Islamic world and to strive to bring Muslim countries to a level commensurate with their dignity. He said that today, it is crucial for Muslims to adhere to their common heritage, that is Islamic spirituality, notwithstanding their ethnical, geographical and social differences. Heeding its priorities, the Islamic world should also contribute to the establishment of a more equitable new world order. To this aim, it needs to determine precisely its position as well as the means at its disposal; it should also devise realistic and appropriate policies which are likely to promote the necessary types of solidarity in order to participate in decision-making at the international level. The President of the Islamic Republic of Iran also said "Living in peace and security can be realised only when one fully understands not only the culture and thinking but also the concerns as well as the ways and manners of others. Sophisticated understanding of the cultural and moral dimensions of other societies and nations entails establishment of dialogue with them. ... Our civil society is not a society where only Muslims are entitled to rights and are considered citizens. Rather, all individuals are entitled to rights, within the framework of the law and order. Defending such rights ranks among the important fundamental duties of the government." Speaking

about issues of peace and security in the world, President Khatami said "through providing the necessary grounds for dialogue among civilisations and cultures – with the people of intellect taking a pivotal role – we should open the way towards a fundamental understanding which lies at the very foundation of genuine peace which is in turn based on the realisation of the rights of all nations, and thus render ineffective the grounds for the influence of negative propaganda in the public opinion." After President Khatami's speech, Their Excellencies Mrs. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Mr. Hafez Al-Asad, President of the Syrian Arab Republic, and Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal spoke respectively on behalf of the Asian, Arab and African Member States. H. E. Dr. Azeddine Laraki, Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference delivered a statement pointing to the common causes of the Muslim world which are on the agenda of the OIC. He reviewed the outline of the comprehensive reform program of the OIC which comprises multidimensional inter-Islamic cooperation schemes.

The conference heard the statements of Their Excellencies Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Carlos Lemos, Vice-President of the Republic of Colombia representing the Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, Mr. Ahmed Abdel Maguid, Secretary General of the League of Arab States, Mr. Önder Özar, Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organisation and Mr. Ahmed

Haggag, Assistant Secretary General of the Organisation of African Unity.

The conference welcomed the decision of the Preparatory Ministerial Meeting to accord the status of Observer to the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire. Regarding organic and statutory matters, the conference noted with satisfaction the cooperation between the OIC, the United Nations, the Economic Cooperation Organisation and other international and regional organisation. The conference decided that the Ninth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference will be held in the State of Qatar in the year 2000.

Concerning political affairs, the Summit Conference discussed and adopted resolutions on the following matters: the question of Palestine and Al-Quds Al-Sharif, stressing it as the foremost Islamic cause; Bosnia and Herzegovina, reaffirming the commitment of the OIC Member States to the preservation of the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the State of Bosnia and Herzegovina within its internationally recognised borders; Jammu and Kashmir, calling for a peaceful settlement of the issue in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions and as agreed upon in the Simla Agreement. The conference also took resolutions on the situation in Afghanistan; the Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan; the situation in Somalia, and the situation in Comoros. The Summit addressed the question of Cyprus, expressing solidarity with the Turkish Cypriot people in its rightful cause; the question of Kosovo, condemning the repression, discrimination and violation of

human rights against the defenseless Albanian people. The Summit reviewed the progress of relations between Islamic countries and the countries of Eastern and Central Europe, reaffirming the need to promote ties of friendship and cooperation with them. It also took up many issues pertaining to security, disarmament, dumping of nuclear and toxic wastes, elimination of anti-personnel mines. Furthermore the conference addressed issues related to the right to use science and technology for development, problems of refugees world-wide and assistance to refugees in Sudan; it expressed its support to Kazakhstan in convening a conference on Confidence-building measures in Asia. The Summit Conference also discussed legal matters, issues related to information and communication, economic affairs, the situation of the international finance markets, science and technology, environmental issues, and financial and administrative matters regarding the OIC.

The Summit Conference also reviewed and discussed the cultural affairs on its agenda. Regarding IRCICA and its activities, the Summit Conference "expressed appreciation of the intensive efforts being made by both the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture and the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage so as to revive the Islamic heritage and publicise the various aspects of Islamic civilisation." This statement was included in the Final Communique of the Conference.

The Summit Conference also adopted the Resolution no. 29/8-C (IS) concerning IRCICA. In the operative paragraphs of this resolution, the Conference

1. *Commends* the efforts of the Centre as reflected in its pioneering accomplishments and its activities aimed at meeting the needs of the Muslim Ummah and keeping pace with international developments in the field of culture and Islamic heritage in the optimal way, thus warranting satisfaction with and appreciation of the efforts exerted in this respect.

2. *Expresses* its appreciation for the diverse activities carried out by the Centre with the aim of raising the awareness of the world opinion with respect to the Islamic cultural heritage in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and for the efforts it exerts for the maintenance and preservation of that heritage.

3. *Commends* the successful organisation of an international symposium on "Islamic Civilisation in West Africa" under the patronage of His Excellency President Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal, in Dakar, in the period 26-30 December 1996, in cooperation with the Fundamental Institute for Black Africa (IFAN) and expresses thanks to the Republic of Senegal for hosting and organising this important academic event.

4. *Commends* the first international seminar on "Arabesque in Traditional Crafts" held in Damascus, Syrian Arab Republic, from 4 to 11 January 1997 under the high patronage of His Excellency President Hafez Al-Asad, President of the Syrian Arab Republic, in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture of Syria, UNESCO and the International Middle East Foundation.

5. *Commends* also the organisation of a series of successful international workshops on "Architectural Heritage Today", which continued through the third architectural workshop "Mostar 2004" held in Mostar under the patronage of His Excellency President Izetbegovic, President of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, from 2 to 30 July 1997.

6. *Expresses* its thanks and appreciation to the host country (The Republic of Turkey) for material and moral support to the Centre and for providing the headquarters and necessary facilities consistent with the pledge it gave at the time of the Centre's establishment, and requests to meet future needs to enlarge the Centre's headquarters resulting from the regular and commendable increase in the Centre's activities; and also expresses thanks to the other Member States for the voluntary material and moral support they are extending to the Centre, thus enabling it to carry out its tasks in a satisfactory manner.

7. *Welcomes* the Centre's project to organise an international symposium on "Islamic Civilisation in Caucasia", to be held under the patronage of His Excellency President Heydar Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the autumn of 1998 in the city of Baku, in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Academy of Science of Azerbaijan.

8. Requests the Secretary General to ensure the implementation of this resolution and submit a report thereon to the Ninth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference.

The closing speech of the Summit Conference was delivered by H. E. Seyed Mohammad Khatami, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Chairman of the Eighth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference. H. E. Khatami expressed his satisfaction over the smooth proceedings of the conference and thanked the Sovereigns, Heads of State and Government of the member States for the spirit of solidarity and fraternity demonstrated by them which greatly contributed to the adoption of important resolutions.

During the Eighth Session of the Summit Conference the Director General of IRCICA and his colleagues were honoured to meet the Heads of State, Heads of Government, Ministers and delegates of many Member States. These meetings were valuable opportunities for IRCICA Director General and the Centre's delegation to brief Their Excellencies on the latest developments concerning the Centre's activities as well as on the cooperation between

the institutions of their respective countries on one hand and IRCICA on the other.

Furthermore, the Director General of IRCICA met with H. E. Dr. Seyed Ataullah Muhajirani, Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Director General briefed H. E. the Minister on the Centre's projects and activities. The talks focused on the ways and means of further strengthening cooperation between the cultural institutions of Iran and IRCICA.

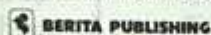
On the other hand, the Centre's delegation met with the officials of two institutions which publish Islamic encyclopaedia and reference works, namely the "Bunyad-i Dairet'ul Maarif Islami" (Encyclopaedia Islamica Foundation) and the "Markaz-i Dairet'ul Maarif Bozork Islami" (Centre for the Great Islamic Encyclopaedia). The Centre's delegates also paid a visit to the President of the Iran Handicrafts Organisation to discuss common projects to be undertaken in future, particularly a proposal by the Centre for Tehran to host the Second International Islamic Festival of Artisans-at-Work. The proposal was welcomed, and the two parties agreed to follow up the matter.

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At the kind invitation of the Republic of Senegal, the Fourth Session of the Islamic Conference of Information Ministers of the OIC Member States convened in Dakar, Republic of Senegal, from 27-30 November 1997, under the high patronage of H. E. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal and Chairman of the Standing Committee for Information and Cultural Affairs. H. E. President Abdou Diouf delivered an opening address, stating that "ever since the Third Summit of Mecca al-Mukarramah was held in 1981, information and communication have been given priority in our Organisation's activities as a result of the prime-mover role they are expected to play towards the achievement of the OIC's objectives in general and particularly in propagating the noble ideals of Islam, the religion of love, truth, tolerance, justice, equality and freedom". The President expressed the hope that the Conference would come up with decisions that would make it possible to find appropriate solutions to the numerous challenges facing the member countries in the information field, by implementing the Islamic Information Strategy as well as the Islamic Communication Development Program while operating the Television News Exchange Pool.

H. E. Dr. Azeddine Laraki, Secretary General of the OIC, delivered an address in which he underlined that information and communication are receiving special attention in the OIC's reform program in order to enable the Organisation to keep pace with the modern world, promote high quality information and correct the distorted image given of Islam and Muslims. The

Secretary General also emphasised the importance of cooperation between Islamic countries in the fields of information, communication and culture and expressed his confidence that with the support of the Member States this cooperation can make giant steps towards a better world, a world of justice, peaceful coexistence and progress for all.

The Information Ministers of the Republic of Guinea, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the People's Republic of Bangladesh delivered addresses on behalf of the African, Arab and Asian Member States, in which they expressed the gratitude of the participating delegations for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to them by the Government and the people of Senegal. H. E. Dr. Mohamed Salmane, Minister of Information of the Syrian Arab Republic and Chairman of the Third Islamic Conference of Information Ministers, gave a speech reviewing the progress of the joint Islamic information action from the First Conference of Information Ministers which was held in Jeddah in 1988 until the present. The Minister said that in the current age of revolution in communications, satellite transmission and information highways, the member countries should seek the ways and means to strengthen their cooperation and their concerted action in terms of design, program development and marketing activities, with a view to providing for world-wide coverage through coordinated services of their satellite television channels. He said the member countries should also provide a distinctive information production to publicise the Islamic civilisational and cultural heritage. Upon the proposal of Dr. Mohamed

Salmane, Minister of Information of Syria and Chairman of the Third Islamic Conference of Information Ministers, the conference unanimously elected H. E. Mr. Serigne Diop, Minister of Communication of the Republic of Senegal, as Chairman of the Fourth Islamic Conference of Information Ministers. H. E. Mr. Serigne Diop delivered an address in which he affirmed the conference's commitment to make the Islamic information and communication sector a reality through concrete and effective achievements. He said through this commitment, they were aiming to enhance the dynamism of the OIC, as well as friendship and understanding between peoples and civilisations; in short, to contribute to enriching the dialogue between cultures. In this way, said the Minister, they would be able to fulfill the crucial, even decisive role information and communication are expected to play in human development in the 21st century.

The conference examined and adopted the Report of the Meeting of Senior Officials which had preceded it on 27-28 November. Taking the points on its agenda one by one, the conference adopted a number of Resolutions, on "The implementation of the Islamic States Information Strategy", "The Islamic Information Code of Ethics", "The Information Plan and the Problem of its Funding", "The projected formation of a Pool for the exchange of televised news and information

(Islamvision)", "The Islamic Program for the Development of Information and Communication (PIDIC)", "The production of a documentary film on Al-Quds", among others. During the general debate, the Ministers and Heads of delegations took up the challenges facing the Muslim world and stressed the need to strengthen Islamic solidarity in order to stand up for Islamic causes. They also emphasised the need to promote information and communication so as to enable them to keep abreast with technology and current transformations at the threshold of the twenty-first century. This was a central issue in the proceedings of the Ministerial Conference as part of a reflection on how to upgrade the efforts of the Muslim world with a view to achieving the major objectives set for upholding and displaying the genuine image of Islam through information and communication media. The conference welcomed the kind offer of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host the Fifth Islamic Conference of Information Ministers in 1999.

IRCICA was represented in the conference by Mr. Ahmed Lajimi, Head of the Cabinet of the Director General. Mr. Lajimi presented a report to the conference, covering the different activities of information and communication carried out by the Centre in relation with the various fields of its mandate.

**TO COMMEMORATE THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FOUNDATION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN
SEMINAR AND PHOTOGRAPH EXHIBITION HELD AT IRCICA**

A seminar was organised on IRCICA's premises on 13 November 1997, in cooperation with the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Ankara, Turkey, to commemorate the Fiftieth Anniversary of the foundation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. The seminar, accompanied by an exhibition of photographs of Pakistan, was attended by a large audience comprising the Heads and members of the diplomatic and consular missions, members of universities, press representatives, and other guests. Opening addresses were given by Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, IRCICA Director General, H. E. Mr. Humayun Khan Bangash, Ambassador of Pakistan in Ankara, Turkey, and H.E. Mr. Vahit Halefoğlu, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey.

In his welcoming address the Director General of IRCICA expressed his happiness that after having participated in the Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference where the Heads of State and Government of fifty-three OIC Member States celebrated the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, in Islamabad last January, he was having the pleasure this time of welcoming an august audience gathered at IRCICA on the same occasion. The Director General said that Pakistan, which is one of the OIC's founding members, had always extended its support to IRCICA, at various levels from the practical and academic cooperation established between the Pakistani institutions and

IRCICA to the membership of Pakistan in the Centre's Governing Board to state support at the highest level. He recalled, in this regard, that the President of Pakistan the late Zia ul Haq had visited IRCICA in 1987, and that the 1994 Islamic Artisans-at-Work Festival was organised under the high patronage and in presence of H.E. Ahmed Khan Leghari, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. IRCICA Director General also briefed the audience about other joint activities realised by the institutions of Pakistan and IRCICA and those envisaged for the future. Finally he conveyed congratulations to the State and the brotherly people of Pakistan.

H. E. Mr. Humayun Khan Bangash, Ambassador of Pakistan expressed his pleasure to see that the happy occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of Pakistan is celebrated by everyone present with warm feelings of brotherhood. He said that many activities were being held since the beginning of the year 1997 within and outside of Pakistan to commemorate the anniversary and that the meeting at IRCICA was another link in the chain of commemorative events. Ambassador Bangash spoke of the deep-rooted historical and cultural ties between Turkey and Pakistan. He thanked the scholars who were going to present papers later during the ceremony for their contributions to the celebrations and the audience for their interest.

H.E. Mr. Vahit Halefoğlu, former Minister of Foreign

Affairs of Turkey emphasised the vital importance of establishing brotherly relations between nations, of nurturing them, keeping them alive and strong and transferring the same spirit and understanding to the coming generations. He evoked happy memories of the always friendly relations he had with Pakistani diplomats throughout his diplomatic career starting with the establishment of the Embassy of Pakistan in Ankara in 1947, and of his visits to Pakistan. Ambassador Halefoğlu said it is a duty of their generation to inculcate the youth with the same feelings of solidarity, attachment and close friendship.

The seminar featured paper presentations by eminent specialists, on various topics related to the history and culture of Pakistan. The speakers and the titles of their papers were as follows:

- Prof. Dr. Nevzat Yalçıntaş, "Pakistan and its integrity process"
- Prof. Dr. Yılmaz Altuğ, "The foundation years of Pakistan"
- Ambassador Mustafa Aşula, "Prospects of further developing the relations between Turkey and Pakistan, particularly between the youth of the two countries"
- Dr. Mehmet Önder, "İqbal's attachment to Mevlana"
- Prof. Dr. Mim Kemal Öke, "The historical dimensions of the Turkish-Pakistani relations".

Series of lectures at Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyya, Kuwait

"Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyya" (Kuwait National Museum), affiliated to the Ministry of Information of the State of Kuwait, is hosting a series of lectures by Kuwaiti and international speakers from November 1997 to June 1998. The lectures will be held at Abdullah al-Salem Theatre, Midan Hawalli, near Al-Sha'ab Leisure Park. The *calendar* of the lectures to be held from February to June 1998 is as follows:

- * "Korean Art; its contacts with Central and West Asia" by Lena Kim - 2 Feb. 1998
- * "Encountering remarkable men: Mystics in Mughal paintings" by Rochelle Kessler - 9 Feb.
- * "Medieval Islamic textiles: Handmade textiles in Fez, Morocco illuminate age-old traditions" by Louise Mackie - 16 Feb.
- * "Mir Sayyed Ali, painter, calligrapher and poet; some clues to the life and art of the adventurous founder of the Mughul school of painting" by Melikian-Chirvani - 23 Feb.
- * "The Arab-Islamic world in the European culture of the Middle Ages" by Franco Cardini - 2 March
- * "A glimpse into a princely world: a newly discovered Ilkhanid textile" by Kjeld von Folsach - 9 March
- * "Turkish warriors and Persian weapons in an Arab environment: critical voices on the Mamluk monopoly of Furusiyya and warfare (7th-13th/early 10th-16th centuries)" by Ulrich Haarmaan - 16 March

- * "The struggle of the great powers of the sixteenth century over Central Asia" by G. Bondarevsky - 23 March
- * "Qur'anic parchments from the collection of Beit Al Qur'an" by Abdelatif Kanoo - 30 March
- * "Medieval Persian painting: the questions of authorship" by Adel Adamova - 13 April
- * "The Bahmanid architecture of the Deccan" by Helen Philon - 20 April
- * "Islamic archeology in the Gulf: the case of Julfar in Ras al-Khaimah, U.A.E." by Derek Kennet - 28 April
- * "The painted ceiling of the Cappella Palatina in Palermo: a work of Islamic art in Christian Royal Chapel" by Ernst Grube - 4 May
- * "The carpets in historical mosques, a national legacy" by Nazan Ölçer - 11 May
- * "The Great Mosque in Damascus: design principles" by Talal Akili - 18 May
- * "Examples of early Islamic rock inscriptions from Makkah and Madina (Saudi Arabia)" by Saad Abdulaziz al-Rashid - 25 May
- * "Some technical aspects of Seljukide architecture of Iran: arches and *Muqarnases*" by Haydeh Laleh - 1 June
- * "The origin and importance of the *Mihrab* and the importance of the *Mihrab* Sulayman in Jerusalem" by Géza Fehérvári - 8 June.

More information can be obtained from "Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyya", telephone no. (965) 240 0992.

International Congress on the Bicentenary of the Birth of Sheikh el-Hadj Omar al Foutiyou Tall (1797-1997/1998) to take place in Dakar, Senegal

An International Congress will take place under the high patronage of H. E. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal, to commemorate the Bicentenary of the birth of Sheikh el-Hadj Omar al Foutiyou Tall (1797-1997/1998), eminent religious

leader of the Tidjanés in Africa. The congress will be organised in Dakar, from 18-23 May 1998, by the Scientific Committee of the Bicentenary in cooperation with Sheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar. Its objectives will be:

- to make known the major role and multidimensional activities of El-Hadj Omar in the service of Islam and the African unity;
- to promote a vast scholarly debate on the multifarious services of El-Hadj Omar in order to help scholars, researchers and specialists of the subject to exchange research results;
- to draw, in the light of this debate, an account of the Omarian studies;
- to edit the proceedings of the congress and publish a reference work on the general theme.

The session themes will be as follows:

- The general theme:

"El-Hadj Omar, a great figure in Islam"

- The themes:

1. The person
 - a. The birth and the education of El-Hadj Omar
 - b. The spirit and scope of El-Hadj Omar's pilgrimage
 - c. El-Hadj Omar and his circle
2. The Omarian thought
 - a. El-Hadj Omar the scholar
 - b. El-Hadj Omar and Sufism

- c. El-Hadj Omar and the theory and practice of *jihad*
 - d. El-Hadj Omar, the cultural dimension
3. The political, economic and social achievements
 - a. El-Hadj Omar and colonialism
 - b. El-Hadj Omar and the African unity
 - c. The Omarian Empire: a framework for development
 4. The heritage
 - a. The Omarian circles (families and disciples)
 - b. Manuscripts and other sources
 - c. The actuality of El-Hadj Omar.

For applications to the congress and any other information, please write to Professor Samba Dieng, Faculté des Lettres et des Sciences Humaines, Université Cheikh Anta Diop, B. P. 5005, Dakar, Senegal; Telephone: (221) 824 63 70 – 825 26 25 – 825 29 60 – 825 50 73; Fax: 825 49 77.

***Paleography and codicology of Middle Eastern manuscripts:
third conference of Sorbonne University to be held in Italy***

After the 1986 and 1994 conferences, the Sorbonne's *Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Sciences Historiques et Philologiques*, section of the Dated Middle Eastern Manuscripts, will hold the third international meeting on the Paleography and Codicology of Middle Eastern Manuscripts from 1 - 6 October 1999 in Erice, Italy. The event will take the form of a seminar open to both scholars and young researchers in the field. The Ettore Majorana Centre for Scientific Culture and

its International School for the Study of Written Records will be the host institution, with Prof. A. M. Piemontese and F. Déroche as the Directors of the seminar. Topics of special focus will be: page setting in all its aspects; binding techniques and decoration; and, paleography of the scripts between 1250 and 1500 AD. Correspondence on the seminar can be addressed to Prof. A. M. Piemontese, Via Gallia 1, 00183 Rome, Italy; Fax: 39 6 70 47 55 84.

International Congress on
LEARNING AND EDUCATION IN THE OTTOMAN WORLD
on the occasion of the 700th Anniversary of
the foundation of the Ottoman State - 1999

The Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA, Istanbul), the Turkish Historical Society (TTK, Ankara) and the Turkish Society for History of Science (TBTK, Istanbul) will jointly organise an International Congress on *Learning and Education in the Ottoman World* on 12-15 April 1999, in the framework of the 700th anniversary celebrations of the foundation of the Ottoman State.

The Congress is expected to bring forward new contributions in the field of Ottoman history by providing an opportunity for researchers concerned to communicate their findings and exchange ideas.

The **topics** of the Congress are:

I Ottoman learning organisations

Juridical and religious organisations
Central and provincial organisations

II Educational institutions

The Classical Period
The Modernisation Period
Military technical schools, civil schools
Modern education in the provinces (the Balkans, the Arab world
and North Africa)

III Religious life and mysticism

Religious coexistence in the Ottoman world
Religious groups
Mysticism and its impact

IV Cultural life

The Classical Period
Cultural transformation and Western influences
Music, etc.

V Science and technology

Scientific traditions and the history of classical Ottoman scientific literature
Mathematical and natural sciences in the Ottoman world
Transfer of Western science and technology
Scientific instruments

VI Environmental activities and public works

Urbanisation and city planning

VII Written works, translations and publishing

VIII Miscellaneous

Prospective participants are invited to apply by returning their filled-in participation forms to IRCICA by 1 April 1998, and paper presenters to send their abstracts by 30 September 1998 at the latest. The languages of the Congress are English, Turkish and Arabic.

Participation forms can be obtained at request from the *Congress Secretariat Ottoman 700* at IRCICA, P. O. Box 24, 80692 Beşiktaş, Istanbul, Turkey; Fax: 90.212. 258 43 65; e-mail: ircica@superonline.com.

**INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON
ISLAMIC CIVILISATION IN CAUCASIA**
to be held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan
in the autumn of 1998

An international symposium on *Islamic Civilisation in Caucasia* will take place under the high patronage of H. E. Haydar Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in Baku, in the autumn of 1998. The symposium will be jointly organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan, the Azerbaijan Academy of Science, and IRCICA. The project of convening this international symposium was agreed upon during the visit of President Haydar Aliyev to IRCICA's headquarters on 9 May 1997, accompanied by H. E. Mr. Hassan Hassanov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan.

The symposium is expected to contribute in enhancing scholarly studies and international academic cooperation in its field of reference. It aims to establish an academic forum where specialists of the Islamic culture and civilisation in Caucasia will communicate the results of their research and exchange views and information on the different aspects of the main theme. An array of subject areas are expected to come into focus, including the history of development of Islamic culture in Caucasia, its manifestations in societies' life styles, economic and social activities, arts and architecture, cultural heritage, etc. and the mutual process of its interactions with the local cultures. The symposium will not only assess the state of the academic studies undertaken in this field and help to promote them, but it will also shed light on the references and sources of information pertaining to the Islamic culture and civilisation in Caucasia.

The symposium program will comprise five working sessions, on the following themes:

- * Sources related to the history of Islamic culture in Caucasia
- * The historical expansion of Islam in Caucasia
- * Interactions between the Islamic culture and local cultures
- * Contributions of Muslim communities in Caucasia to the Islamic civilisation
- * The state of Islamic culture in Caucasia during the pre-Soviet and Soviet periods.

Two workshops will take place in the framework of the symposium, on the following topics respectively: "Bibliographic assessment of translations of the Holy Quran into the languages of Caucasia" and "Art and architecture in Caucasia".

The symposium is expected to draw a high rate of scholarly participation from around the world. Intending participants are invited to write to the Symposium Secretariat at IRCICA.

Exhibitions

Painting exhibition:

"Inspirations from Egypt" by Mr. Omar Atta



From the left: The Consul General of Egypt H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Shaaban, IRCICA Director General, and the artist Mr. Omar Atta

Paintings of the Egyptian artist Mr. Omar Atta were exhibited at IRCICA's hall from 16-30 October 1997. The exhibition was inaugurated by Mr. Ibrahim Shaaban, Consul General of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Istanbul, and visited by a great number of art lovers. Though he belongs to the expressionist school, at the beginning of his career the artist was influenced by Rembrandt, Cézanne, Renoir and Monet. His paintings exhibited at IRCICA were inspired by the natural environment in Egypt and the monuments of Ancient Egypt.

Omar Atta was born in 1953. He won the first prize in the engraving category and the fourth prize in the painting category in the competition which was organised by the Egyptian Ministry of Youth in 1978. He was again awarded the fourth prize in the painting category in the 1979 competition, and an Encouragement award in 1980. During 1994-95 he opened exhibitions in Vienna and in other Austrian cities, and was awarded an encouragement certificate by the Austrian Ministry of Culture. He also exhibited his paintings in Cairo in 1995. Mr. Omar Atta is an official of the Consulate General of Egypt in Istanbul.



Mehmet Önder Çokay's restitutions of Anatolian Seljukid Carpets available on the Internet

IRCICA had hosted an exhibition of restitutions of damaged and partial Seljukid carpets by Mr. Mehmet Önder Çokay, specialist in textile designs and historical carpets, from 18-26 October 1996. Mr. Çokay had also given a lecture at the opening of his exhibition at IRCICA on "Anatolian Seljukid Carpets: a Finding, an Interpretation" (a summary

was published in the Newsletter no. 41, December 1996). Mr. Çokay has now made this exhibition available on the Internet (<http://www.Kilim.com.tr/Sanat/selcuk-hali/>). The originality of his work is due to its being based on a group of ten 13th-century Anatolian Seljukid carpets kept in different museums of Turkey; these carpets constitute the oldest find in this field and are therefore considered to be a milestone in the study of this art.

Lectures

Dr. Walter Feldman's lecture on the Turkish Art Music



Dr. Walter Feldman

Dr. Walter Feldman, lecturer and Coordinator for Turkish and Turkic Languages at the Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Pennsylvania, U.S.A. gave his interesting and instructive lecture titled "Stability and Change in Ottoman Turkish Art Music: A Comparison of the Early Modern and Modern Eras" at IRCICA on 26 November. Starting from around 1350 with the late medieval era of Turkish art music, the lecturer classified the different historical periods including the high imperial phase from 1450 onwards which corresponds to the transitional era of the music, the middle period from 1580 onwards corresponding to the beginning of its early modern era, the "Tulip period" (1717-1730) and the modern period from 1830 onwards, where the modern era of the music starts in about 1780. Citing the prominent composers of each period and supporting his speech with samples of musical pieces, he compared the early modern and modern eras on basis of different musical criteria. Dr. Walter Feldman has numerous publications on the music of Central Asia, Turkish music, Sufi music and various musical genres. His book titled *Music of the Ottoman Court: Makam, Composition and the Early Ottoman Instrumental Repertoire* was introduced in no. 43 of the Newsletter. This scholarly book merits appreciation for its accuracy and its referring to sources in different languages.

"The traditional houses of Mecca"

Assoc. Prof. Bülent Uluengin, faculty member at Mimar Sinan University's Architectural Restoration Program, gave a lecture titled "The traditional Houses of Mecca" at IRCICA on 6 December 1997. The lecturer communicated the knowledge and experience he acquired on the historical architecture of Mecca during his four and half years of work in the Hajj Research Centre, King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah where he completed, together with two other architects who are also his family members, the restoration surveys of 102 buildings which are almost totally in ruins. Dr. Uluengin underlined the special importance of Mecca from the religious, climatic and topographic points of view as well as with regard to social and economic life and its houses that reflect people's life style. He said that as it is described in travellers' accounts, Meccan houses maintained their characteristics for about four hundred years with almost the same construction plan and façade arrangement; however, recent renovations in the historical parts of the city have partly modified the

layout. A number of slides accompanied the lecture.

Recent Saturday lectures at IRCICA also included the following:

* "Democratisation in Turkish Thought and the National Culture" by Mr. Halit Refiğ, film producer and author from Turkey (1 October);

* "The Waqf Libraries" by Dr. Nevzat Kaya, Director of the historical Süleymaniye Library in Istanbul (18 October);

* "The Concept of Divine/Natural Law and the Islamic Philosophy of Law" by Prof. Dr. Hüseyin Hatemi, professor of Civil Law (1 November);

* A presentation of Prof. M. Kütükoğlu's book "The Language of the Ottoman Documents" by Dr. Hidayet Y. Nuhoglu, Deputy Director General of IRCICA (15 November).

* "The Diary of Robert Mizrahi" by Prof. Dr. Atilla Çetin from the Department of History, Sakarya University (20 December)

IRCICA Publications available on CD-ROM

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

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

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

INSTITUTIONS

The information below briefly introduces the M. F. Ahundov State Library of Azerbaijan

THE M. F. AHUNDOV STATE LIBRARY OF AZERBAIJAN, IN BAKU



The State Library in the name of M. F. Ahundov is the biggest library in Azerbaijan and a national treasure of culture. Officially inaugurated on 23 May 1923, it serves ever since as the general library of Azerbaijan and the national depository of publications. It is also the centre for all works of reference, bibliographies and catalogues and therefore for scholarly and scientific research, as well as a focal point for all the other libraries of the country. The name of Mirza Fethali Ahundov (1812-1878), the illustrious thinker, educator, writer and playwright, was given to the library in 1939. The library moved into its current premises in 1960; the building is one of the most remarkable structures of the city combining the creativity of contemporary artists with the old national architecture of Azerbaijan.

The library's collections, comprising works in all fields of knowledge published in the country and abroad, increased rapidly over the years. The number of books was more than four million three hundred thousand in 1991, while two hundred thousand readers were served in 1990 with more than eight hundred thousand copies of books. These figures are increasing every year. Hundreds of readers profit from the reading halls of the library every day. The library serves researchers and students in all disciplines of knowledge and science and plays a significant role in the cultural and educational development of the country.

Of special importance among its collections are those kept in the department named "The book of Azerbaijan" which collects copies of each and every publication issued in the language of Azerbaijan regardless of the date, place and script of the publication. Among the rare works which are carefully preserved here are the translation of: Fuzuli's Divan (collection of poems) published in Tabriz in 1849, the translation of M. F. Ahundov's "Temsilat" (dramas) published in Tiflis in 1859, and that of Shakespeare's "Othello" published in Baku in 1893, as well as the 1906-1930 issues of the journal "Molla Nasreddin". This department has more than seventy-two thousand books, copies and

microfilms of books related to Azerbaijan that are found in the world's libraries. "The book of Azerbaijan" department also keeps a number of rare books about the different periods of the country's long history. These valuable books are classified and preserved with utmost care.

A foremost objective of the library is to fully and efficiently meet the readers' needs. For this purpose, thirteen different reading halls are arranged according to the main research subjects; in addition, there are halls with a seating capacity of two-hundred and eighty specially designed for students. The halls for social sciences, applied sciences, contemporary literature and foreign literature are particularly important. For those interested in fine arts and music, the library offers a rich collection of references including about two hundred thousand articles, four thousand books, over two thousand two hundred periodicals on music, over thirty thousand records and hundreds of cassettes.

For the benefit of its visitors, the library also organises exhibitions, seminars, lectures, talks with scientists, artists and writers. These activities help to increase public awareness on intellectual developments, scientific and cultural advances and new publications. New acquisitions by the library are introduced to the readers via permanent, separate displays in the reading halls. Thematic exhibitions are also arranged to make known the library's holdings pertaining to specific subject areas. On the other hand, the library's system of loans to registered readers benefits not only its own regular readers but the public country-wide through inter-library loans.

The library's specialised department of foreign publications serves the needs of students of foreign languages and readers of foreign literature. This department has a rich collection of books in various languages. It is conducting exchange programs with libraries and institutions all over the world. Another department is that of references and bibliographies which has a rich collection of encyclopedias, dictionaries, yearbooks, general sources, statistical publications, bibliographies and catalogues in all fields of knowledge. It provides materials as well as guidance to the readers. In addition, those who are interested in issues concerning Azerbaijan can get advice, information and documents from the department of national bibliographies. Still another major department of the library is the department of scientific research, which has a valuable and continuously expanding collection of books. M. F. Ahundov State Library provides advisory services and guidance to libraries in the process of development, to city and district libraries, through the activities and publications of its department of library sciences and methods. The activities of this department include seminars, conferences and consultative meetings organised for the benefit of such other libraries and their staff.

M. F. Ahundov State Library is endowed with a printing and duplication unit and publishes lists of the collections of books and periodicals, information bulletins and bibliographic catalogues. Its main publications are the catalogue titled "Scientific Works in the Azerbaijan State Library in the name of M. F. Ahundov" and the information bulletin titled "New Literature on the Civilisation and the Fine Arts of Azerbaijan".

The Director of the library is Dr. Leyla Gafurova. The address is: 370601, Baku, Hagani Street, 29; Telephones: 994.12. 93 40 03, 93 64 03.

CULTURAL DATA ON OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES

This section presents summary information reflecting the cultural life in the OIC member countries. Sets of information drawn from the Centre's data files of statistical indicators and directories of cultural institutions are published here as brief country surveys. The purpose is to disseminate part of the data that is being collected in the framework of the Centre's projects entitled International Directory of Islamic Cultural Institutions and Studies on the Cultural Dimensions of Development in the OIC Member States, and to invite the concerned countries to assist the Centre in updating the information published here. Below are summary statistics concerning the People's Republic of Bangladesh and a list of the cultural institutions.

BANGLADESH

Summary information*

Area	144 000 sq. km.
Population	115 200 000
Av. annual pop. growth	2.2 %
Share of urban population	17.4 %
Share of Muslim population	86 %
Capital city	Dhaka
Major cities	Chittagong, Narayanganj, Khulna
Adult literacy rate	Male: 49.4 % Female: 26.2 % Average: 37.8 %
School enrolment ratios (1991)	First level: Net: 77 % (1991) Second level: Gross: 19 %, Net: 17 % Third level: 4 %
Student/teacher ratios	First level: 63 (1990) Second level: All education: 27.4 (1990) General education: 27.7 %
Expenditure for education	Share in Government budget: 11.2 % (1991) Share in GNP: 2.3 % (1992)
Number of libraries	Public libraries: 67 In higher education sector: 986
Number of daily newspapers	51
Number of weeklies and other periodical publications	490

Cultural institutions

ACADEMIES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

Academy of Fine and
Performing Arts

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Segunbahicha, Ramna, Dhaka

Bangladesh Bureau of Educational
Information and Statistics
(BANBEIS)

Ministry of Education
1, Sonargaon Road (Palashi-
Nilkhet) Dhaka-1205

Bangla Academy
Hymensingh Road
Burdhawan House
Ramna, Dhaka 2

The Asia Foundation
Dhanmondi R:A., 40/C
Road 11, GPO Box 666, Dhaka
Asiatic Society of Bangladesh
Museum Building 2, Old
Secretariat
Road (Nemtali Gate) Ramna,
Dhaka

Bangladesh Bureau of Educational
Information and
Statistics(BANBEIS)
Ministry of Education
1, Sonargaon Road (Palashi -
Nilkhet) Dhaka 1205
Centre for Social Studies (C.S.S.)
Arts Building, Room No. 1107
University of Dhaka, Dhaka 2

Institute of Bangladesh Studies
c/o Rajshahi University, Rajshahi
Islamic Foundation of Bangladesh
67, Purana Paltan
Baitul Mukarram, 2 Dhaka

* Sources: UNESCO, IRCICA

Al-Jamia Al-Islamia Zamiria
Qasim Al-Uloom
P.O.Box Patiya, Chittagong

Library Association of Bangladesh
c/o Old Central Public Library
Buildings Mymensingh Road,
Dhaka 2

Maulana Muhammad Abdurrahim
and Islamic Centre
Mustafa Manzil
173, Nakhhalpara, Tejgaum Dhaka

Society of Arts, Literature and
Welfare, Society Park, K.C. Dey
Road Chittagong

LIBRARIES

National Library of Bangladesh
Directorate of Archives and
Libraries Sher-e-Bangla Nagar
(Agargaon) Dhaka 7

Bagerhat Sub-Divisional
Government Public Library
P.O. Bagerhat
District Khulna

Bangladesh Central Public Library
Shanbagh
Dhaka 2

Barguna Sub-Divisional
Government Public Library
P.O. Barguna District Patuakhali

Barisal District Government
Public Library P.O. Barisal
District Barisal

Bhola Sub-Divisional
Government Public Library
P.O Bhola District Barisa

Central Sahitya Sansad Library
(Central Muslim Sahitya Sansad)
Dargamohollah Sylhet Sylhet

Chaudanga Sub-Divisional
Government Public Library
Laldijhi South, Chittagong

Chittagong Public Library
P.O.Box 771, Chittagong

Comilla Public Library
Comilla

Dhaka University Library
Dhaka 2
Dinajpur Public Library
Dinajpur

Jahangirnagar University
Library
Sava, Dhaka

Jessore District Government
Public Library
P.O. Jessore

Jhalakathi Sub-Divisional
Government Public Library
P.O. Jhalakathi, District Barisal

Jhenaidha Sub-Divisional
Public Library
P.O. Jhenaidha, District Jessore

Khulna Divisional Public Library
Boyra, Khulna

Khwaja Nazimuddin Muslim Hall
and Library
Dinajpur

Kishoreganj Public Library
Kishoreganj

Kushtia District Government
Public Library
P.O. Kushtia, District Kushtia

Magura Sub-Divisional
Government Public Library
P.O. Magura
District Jessore

Meherpur Sub-Divisional
Government Public Library
P.O. Meherpur, District Kushtia

Muslim Institute Public Library
Mymensingh

Narail Sub-Divisional
Government Public Library
P.O. Narail
District Jessore

Patuakhali District Government
Public Library
P.O. Perozpur, District Barisal

Rajshahi Public Library
P.O. Ghoramara, District Rajshahi

Rangpur Public Library
Rangpur

Satkhira Sub-Divisional
Government
Public Library
P.O. Satkhira, District Khulna

University of Chittagong Library
University Post Office
Chittagong

University of Rajshahi Library
Rajshahi University, Rajshahi

Veranda Research Museum
The Library
University of Rajshahi
P.O. Rajshahi, District Rajshahi

Woodburn Public Library
Bogra

MUSEUMS

Dhaka Museum
P.O. Box 355 Ramna, Dhaka 2

Lalbagh Fort Museum
36, Shaisrakhan Road
Dhaka 1

UNIVERSITIES

Jahangirnagar University
Faculty of Social Sciences
Savar, Dhaka

University of Chittagong
Faculty of Arts
University Post Office
Chittagong

University of Chittagong
Faculty of Social Sciences
University Post Office, Chittagong

University of Dhaka
Department of Islamic Studies
and Comparative Religion
Ramna, Dhaka

University of Dhaka
Faculty of Arts
Ramna, Dhaka

University of Dhaka
Faculty of Education
Ramna, Dhaka

University of Dhaka
Faculty of Education, Extension
and Research
Ramna, Dhaka

University of Dhaka
Faculty of Social Sciences
Ramna, Dhaka

University of Rajshahi
Faculty of Arts, Department
of Islamic History and Culture
Rajshahi

University of Rajshahi
Faculty of Education
Rajshahi

Seven new volumes of catalogues of manuscripts published by Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation, London

Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation (London) extensively patronises the Islamic heritage particularly through its activities aiming to assess, catalogue and study the Islamic manuscripts, heritage treasures which embody the deep-rooted originality of the centuries-long Islamic civilisation. This concern of the Foundation was mainly reflected in the compilation and classification of original Islamic manuscripts found everywhere in the world, especially in regions lacking the necessary means to compile and preserve them and in war-torn areas. In the framework of these activities the Foundation prepared detailed bibliographies of known collections of manuscripts as well as of a number of specially important but neglected collections, thus saving them from oblivion.

The Foundation devoted attention to the West-African countries which are overflowing with valuable collections of Islamic manuscripts that never had the chance of being restored, classified or catalogued, and also to South East Europe and the Balkans, including Albania, where the Islamic heritage was subjected to attempts of destruction. In the framework of these efforts, the Foundation recently published the following volumes of catalogues:

1. Handlists of Islamic Manuscripts Series: VIII, African Collections – Senegal, Handlist of Manuscripts in the Libraries of Shaykh Serigne Mor Mbaye Cissé, al-Hajj Malick Sy & Shaykh Ibrahim Niasse, compiled and edited by Ousmane Kane, Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation, London, 1997, 463 pages.

This volume comprises the catalogues of three main manuscript collections which are:

- *The collection of Shaykh Serigne Mor Mbaye Cissé:* This collection is related to the Muridia cult in Senegal. The overwhelming majority of the manuscripts are copies of the Holy Quran which belonged to early student.
- *The collection of al-Hajj Malick Sy in Twawon:* The name of Twawon city is closely related to the Tijanic cult, established by Malik b. Othman, one of the most prominent Muslim scholars in Senegal. The status of Twawon as a centre of religious sciences gives special importance to this collection.
- *The collection of Shaykh Ibrahim Niasse in Colge:* This is the oldest and most important of these collections as its date is related to Abdullah Niasse; a scholar who played an effective role during the colonial period in Senegal. Most of these manuscripts are preserved in Colge. The compiler fully described each manuscript by specifying the author's name, the preface, copies, subject, pages, current state, adding a commentary concerning its subject matter.

2. Handlists of Islamic Manuscripts Series: V, VI, X, African Collections – Mali, Handlist of Manuscripts in the "Centre de Documentation et de Recherches Historiques Ahmad Baba", Timbuktu, three volumes. Vol. 1 prepared by Sidi Amar Ould Ely and edited by Julian Johansen, Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation, London 1995, 575 pages, Vol.2 compiled by the Librarians of the Centre, Edited by Abd al-Muhsin Al Abbas, Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation, London 1996, 983 pages, Vol:3 compiled by: Librarians of the Centre, edited by Abd Al-Muhsin Al-Abbas, Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation, London 1997, 864 pages.

The decision to establish the Ahmed Baba Centre in Timbuktu was taken in the year 1970 and the centre was officially inaugurated on November 8, 1973. Its library contains more than 9000 manuscripts in various languages and scripts. Here, 4500 manuscripts were catalogued in three volumes, comprising one thousand five hundred titles each, listed according to the subjects that vary from Quranic studies and sciences and the Prophet's traditions to doctrine and principles, grammar, monotheism, ideology, scholastic theology, Sufism, literature, medicine, mathematics and other religious and secular subjects.

3. Handlists of Islamic Manuscripts, Nigeria: Section 1: The Nigerian National Archives, Kaduna State, Vol.1 prepared by Baba Yunus Muhammad, edited and annotated by John Hunwick, Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation, London 1995, 342 pages, **Vol.2 Handlist of Islamic Manuscripts Series: IX, African Collections – Nigeria, Handlist of Manuscripts in the Nigerian National Archives of Kaduna,** prepared by Baba Yunus Muhammad, edited and annotated by John Hunwick, Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation, London 1997, 352 pages.

These are the catalogues of the manuscripts preserved in the Nigerian National Archives of Kaduna, which are of great importance for historical studies on Nigeria and West

Béehir ben Slama, Literary Trends in Contemporary Tunisia, Dar al-Maarif for Printing and Publishing, Sousse, Tunisia, 142 p. (in Arabic)

This scholarly book aims to sketch and examine the literary movements in contemporary Tunisia and to analyse the factors which accompanied the process of modernisation, which began with Abu al-Kassem al-Shabi, and developments throughout the publication of al-Mabahith journal within which the literary movement in Tunisia took a completely different trend. The author builds his arguments on his fertile experience acquired while handling responsibility in Al-Fikr journal, the Tunisian Authors Union and the Tunisian

Africa. The majority of the manuscripts are in Arabic. The two-volume catalogue covers 1645 manuscripts citing the author, the copies, the subject, the number of pages and the current state of each manuscript.

4. Catalogues of Islamic Manuscripts Series: III, European Collections – Albania, Catalogue of Islamic Manuscripts in the National Library of Albania, Tirana, edited by Abd Al-Sattar Al-Halwaji & Habib Allah Azimi, Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation, London 1997, 346 pages.

In its concern for compiling and classifying the Islamic manuscripts found in war-torn states, the Foundation compiled the Islamic manuscripts in Tirana by sending experts to the National Library and the National Archives. After one year of hard work they were able to catalogue 416 manuscripts available in the Albanian National Library. These manuscripts were divided into two main parts, the first comprising the Arabic manuscripts and the second, the Persian manuscripts. Their subjects are various: on the Holy Quran and related sciences, the Prophet's Tradition, Prayers, Scholastic Theology, Doctrines, Morals, Sufism and other religious and secular subjects.

These publications are essential references for anyone who deals with the written Islamic heritage in general and collections of manuscripts in particular.

Ministry of Culture, in addition to his own studies. The book comprises a preface and three chapters where the author reviews and analyses the literary trends, which he classifies under three headings: first the Modernisation trend, that called for acknowledging foreign literature and benefiting from it, thus seeking a modern formula that adapts with actuality, secondly the Conservative trend, which stands against any attempt of modernisation in any field - language, intellectual life, education, literature and culture, and finally, the

conflict between the two trends, which was reflected in a literary campaign conducted on the pages of journals, articles and research papers. The author discusses the views guiding each movement and the range of their impact on the literary life in contemporary Tunisia.

Dr. Béchir ben Slama, a prominent intellectual and man of letters of Tunisia, is the author of many publications including research works, novels, collections of stories, and translations. Dr. Slama fulfilled a number of political and administrative functions: he was a member of the Tunisian Parliament in the period between 1969 and 1986 and Minister of Culture from 1981 to 1986.



Scribes et Manuscrits du Moyen-Orient (Scribes and manuscripts of the Middle East), published by the Bibliothèque Nationale de France under the direction of François Déroche and Francis Richard, "Etudes et Recherches" series, Tours, 1997, 400 p.

This is a collection of the papers presented during the International Conference on the Paleography and the Codicology of Middle Eastern Manuscripts which was held in Paris in June 1994. The conference, organised at the *Bibliothèque Nationale* in Paris with the cooperation of the *Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes* (Sorbonne), section of Historical and Philological Sciences, was the second in a series; the first conference had taken place in Istanbul, in 1986, under the patronage of the *Bibliothèque Nationale*. The Paris 1994 conference brought together specialists of manuscripts from Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, India, Iran, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Turkey, U.K., U.S.A. and Yemen.

The book deals with four main themes in the study of manuscripts: material codicology, the scripts, the composition and transmission of the texts, and the process by which collections are formed. Its contents reflect the width and diversity of the geographical area that is marked by historical traditions of handwriting where

arts and techniques are combined to produce the manuscript work with all its elements; its contents and its codex, i.e. the binding, writing tools, illuminations, etc. As mentioned in the preface of the book, the manuscript has become a subject of study in itself, and the science of codicology as applied to Middle Eastern manuscripts is still in a development phase. In fact the proceedings of the conference provided numerous new tools and information for the benefit of researchers, thus contributing to the development of this science. The articles are arranged under four main sections. The first section is on the materials of the manuscripts, while the second deals with the copyists and the scripts, the third with the transmission of the manuscripts over time and space, and the fourth, with the libraries and their history. The paper contributed by Prof. Dr. Ramazan Şeşen, Head of the Department of Bibliographies and Manuscripts of IRCICA, is titled "A history of the development of colophons in Islamic manuscripts".



Youssef Courbage and Philippe Fargues, **Christians and Jews under Islam**, translated by Judy Mabro, I. B. Tauris and Co. Ltd., London, 1997, 242 p.

This work based on extensive research aims to examine the political, sociological and demographic factors that have shaped the history of the Christian and Jewish communities in the Arab world and Turkey.

The authors show that Christianity and Judaism survived and at times prospered in these regions, thus rectifying the views that describe Islam as an "inevitably unbending radical religion". The authors also

extensively review the phases of rapid decline of the minorities which took place as a result of confrontation with the Christian West – after the victories of the Spanish Reconquista, during the Crusades, with the retreat of the Ottoman State from North Africa and the Balkans as a result of colonialism and the First World War, and developments related to the creation of the State of Israel. In Chapter One on “The installation of Islam in the Arab East”, the authors focus on the expansion of Islam in the Arab East over the period from the Hijra (622 A.D.) until the fall of the Memluks in 1517. They examine such topics as the situation of Christian communities on the arrival of Muslims, the coexistence of religions in the Levant, the rapid spread of Islam in Egypt, the protected status of the Jews in these territories. In Chapter Two on “The Dechristianisation of North Africa” they review the historical trends in the Far West of the Muslim world and how Judaism survived for a long time under Muslim power. Chapter Three is entitled “The Crusades: A Confrontation of Two Christianities”, Chapter Four “The Christian Recovery in the Ottoman Arab East”, where the authors discuss how Arab

Christendom was able to re-establish itself in the Ottoman Empire, Chapter Five “From Multinational Empire to Secular Republic”, Chapter Six “Islam under Christian Domination: the French Empire in North Africa”, Chapter Seven “Israel and the Palestinian Population Explosion”, and Chapter Eight “Arab Christianity in the Twentieth Century: Decline or Eclipse?”, where the authors observe that despite the rise of the number of Christian communities during the nineteenth century and at the turn of the twentieth, there is, today, a significant decline of Arab Christianity along the Nile and on the coastal areas of the Levant. The main idea of the book revolves around the fact that the decline of minorities in some parts of the Middle East occurred due to a combination of many factors and that otherwise, the non-Muslims in the Middle East were capable of coexisting with the Muslims due to their shared history, values and traditions. The authors present rich data in tables and figures. This book is a source of challenging facts and observations and an indispensable reference in this field of study.



Affan Seljuq, **European Fine Arts and the Muslim World**, Area Study Centre for Europe, University of Karachi, Karachi, 1996, 86 p.

This book brings a fresh perspective into the historical study of cultural interactions between the East and the West. The reader is taken to a fascinating journey in the realm of fine arts where, guided by the author's extensive knowledge and inspired vision, he would rediscover the influence of Islamic civilisation on European art and culture as reflected in the Western arts in different periods of time. In this way it is possible, in the author's words, to “reconstitute historical events, cultural elements, traditions and social norms of the Muslim world through European literary and artistic perspectives”. In this book the author focuses on Ottoman history, leaving a study of other civilisations of the East from the same viewpoint for the future. He traces the history of Islam from the days of

Prophet Mohammed until the end of the Ottoman State, referring, throughout, to Western paintings, literary and musical works which were inspired by or gave accounts of major events in history. The first chapter titled “Political and Historical Events in the Muslim World: A Literary and Pictorial Record”, takes up the general history of the Muslim world with special focus on Ottoman history, while the second chapter, entitled “Muslim Cities through European Perspective” reviews the artistic works reflecting the charismatic appeal of cities such as Baghdad, Isfahan, Cairo, Istanbul, Cordoba and Toledo to Western artists and the exotic stories that have often been associated with life in them. The travelogues of Westerners, sometimes profusely illustrated, are taken up in the

third chapter entitled "Voyages and Travels: Lure of the East". The fourth and final chapter is on the "Illustrated Literary and Scientific Works". The rich bibliography includes varied and unconventional sources such as painting catalogues, art magazines and directories. The author's interest in fine arts as a source of history was stimulated while he was collecting materials for his previous book, *Muslim Rule in Spain*, which was published in 1991 in the same series. Professor Dr. Affan Seljuq is Chairman of the Humanities Department at NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi. He is the recipient of the UN Peace Messenger Award for his writings, publications and activities which he initiated through the

platform of the International Islamic Reference Services in 1987.

The above book appeared under the "Profile Series" of the Area Study Centre for Europe. The Centre started functioning in 1973 as an autonomous institution supervised jointly by the University Grants Commission of the University of Karachi and the Federal Ministry of Education. Its academic program is affiliated with the University of Karachi. The Centre is a teaching and research institution which presently offers M. Phil. and Ph.D. programs in European studies and certificate courses in German, Turkish and French.



Faisal Al-Kanderi, *Minah Rabb Al-bariyya fi Fath Rodos Al-'abiyya* by 'Abd-Arrahim bin 'Abd-Arrahman Al-'Abbasi, Annals of the Faculty of Arts, Vol. XVIII, published by the Academic Publication Council, Kuwait University, Kuwait, 1997, 188 p. (in Arabic with abstract in English)

This work presents and examines the manuscript work entitled *Minah Rabb Al-bariyya fi Fath Rodos Al-'abiyya* by 'Abd-Arrahim bin 'Abd-Arrahman Al-'Abbasi with many explanations and annotations. The author, Dr. Al-Kanderi, found this rare manuscript in the library of Topkapı Palace Museum in Istanbul, under treasury no. 1599. Its author, 'Abd-Arrahim bin 'Abd-Arrahman Al-'Abbasi, was born in Cairo, on 24 Ramadan 867 H./12 Jun 1463 to a family that had many *kadis* (judges in the Islamic law) among its members. He studied literature and Sharia sciences with many famous scholars of his time. He lived in Cairo until it came under the Ottoman rule in 923 H./1517 and then went to Istanbul where he stayed until he died in 963 H./1556. Al-'Abbasi composed a number of great works in different fields. This manuscript is one of his most important works and has a great historical value, because the author, who participated in the Ottoman campaign against the Hospitalers of St. John in Rhodes, supplies a lot of information about the Ottoman campaign against Rhodes in 928 H./1521. He shows the road that Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent took from Istanbul to Rhodes.

He mentions the places that the Sultan passed by during this journey, describing their climate and fortifications. This information can be considered as daily memoirs about the siege, until the knights agreed to surrender on the condition that the Ottomans allow them to leave. They left the island at liberty in 923 H./1523.

The book is divided into three main chapters. The first one describes the institution of the Hospitalers (knights) of St. John and their settlements in Rhodes. It also recounts the Ottoman-Rhodian relations with an emphasis on the Ottoman attempts to capture the island. The second chapter has two parts: the first part contains the author's biography, and information about the manuscript. The second part deals with the main points that Al-'Abbasi tried to explain concerning this expedition comparing what Al-'Abbasi states with other contemporary Turkish and Arabic sources. The final chapter is the reproduction of the manuscript, with notes and comments. The book is illustrated with some maps. It has, in annex, summaries and Arabic translations of some Ottoman documents related to the topic. Some old

and previously unpublished pictures are also included. This scholarly book merits appreciation for its accuracy and its referring to sources in different languages.

The Annals of the Faculty of Arts consist of monographs on topics relevant to the research concerns of the various departments of the Faculty of Arts of

Kuwait University. The Chairman of the Annals' Edition Board is Dr. Abdallah Al-U'mar. The author of this book, Dr. Faisal Al-Kanderi, obtained his PhD in Modern History from the University of Manchester, U.K. in 1993 and currently teaches in the Department of History of Kuwait University. He has a special research interest in Ottoman history.



Adnan Muhammad Fayiz al-Harithy, **School Architecture in Egypt and Hijaz (9th Century H/15th Century AD)**, A Comparative Study, Ministry of Higher Education of Saudi Arabia, Umm Al-Qura University, Institute of Scientific Research and Islamic Heritage Revival, Mecca, 1997, Vol.1: 560 p., Vol.2: 376 p. (in Arabic)

This scholarly work was originally a Ph.D thesis aiming to highlight the achievements of the Islamic civilisation in the field of architectural development particularly as they are reflected in school buildings that have distinct architectural styles. The researcher limited his study to two regions, namely Egypt and Hijaz in the 9th Century Hijra. Volume I comprises three chapters presenting a descriptive study of schools in both regions. The first chapter entitled "Samples of School Architecture in Egypt" has a three-part study on the styles of schools in Egypt. The author chose to describe the school and dervish lodge of Faraj b. Barkuk in the desert, which stands to be the oldest existing portico school. The second section describes the school of Barsbay in al-Ashrafia which is the most prominent of schools with open courts. Finally, the third section describes the school of Kaitbey; one of the most beautiful masterpieces of Islamic architecture, with respect to the construction and decorations. In the second chapter entitled "Samples of School Architecture in Hijaz", the author

begins the first section by a descriptive study of the school of al-Basitia in Mecca, while the second section describes the school of al-Basitia in Madina. Finally, he makes a description of the school of Kaitbey and the impact of the Egyptian architecture on it. The researcher faced many difficulties while compiling the necessary information due to the lack of documents concerning these school buildings which do not exist anymore. The third chapter comprises also three sections, dealing with the architectural styles in Egypt and Hijaz in general terms, as regards both their plan and decorations. Aiming to provide scientific material and demonstrative illustrations for both readers and researchers, al-Harithy enclosed within the second volume of his book maps depicting the location of the mentioned schools, as well as the projections and interstices which form the arches and terraces. This work represents a serious effort and is a useful source of information on the Islamic architectural history.



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



IJAZA CEREMONY
AT THE COMMISSION SECRETARIAT - IRCICA
Calligraphy Diplomas awarded to
five calligraphers from the OIC Member States

The International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage awarded Calligraphy Diplomas (Ijaza) to five calligraphers who successfully completed the training programs that the Commission had arranged for them to upgrade their skills and refine their talents in the thuluth and naskh styles of calligraphy. Thus the following calligraphers, who took courses over the past years either by coming to Istanbul or by correspondence with their teachers, received their diplomas:

- Mr. Hamidi Belaid (teacher at the Mawlawiyya School in the Royal Palace in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco)
- Mr. Mohammed M'zil from Casablanca, Morocco
- Mr. Mahfouz Bouaishi from Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
- Mr. İlhan Özkeçeci from Turkey, and
- Mr. Muhsin Demirel from Turkey.

An international ceremony was held on this occasion at the headquarters of the Commission Secretariat (IRCICA) in Yıldız Palace, Istanbul, in the presence of H. E. Ambassador Nabika Diallo, Assistant Secretary General of the OIC representing H. E. Dr. Azeddine Laraki, Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference. Heads and members of diplomatic and consular missions of the Member States accredited in Turkey attended the ceremony, together with a great number of participants from universities, art circles and institutions, the awardees of the IRCICA Award for "Excellence in Research", teachers and students of calligraphy, journalists and the interested public.



From the left, first row: Ambassador Nabika Diallo, Assistant Secretary General of the OIC; Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Director General of IRCICA; Prof. Dr. Ali Alpaslan, scholar and calligraphy expert; Second row: Mr. İlhan Özkeçeci; Mr. Recep Muhsin Demirel; Mr. Mohammed M'zil; master calligrapher Mr. Hasan Çelebi; Mr. Mahfouz Bouaishi; Mr. Hamidi Belaid; Mr. Mohammed Tamimi from the ICPICH Secretariat, Mr. Ahmed Lajimi from IRCICA

Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Director General of IRCICA and Secretary of ICPICH gave the welcoming address, expressing his pleasure that two days after the presentation of the Award for "Excellence in Research" to scholars at the peak of their careers, IRCICA, now as the Commission Secretariat, was rewarding young gifted calligraphers for their meritorious performance. Prof. Ihsanoğlu highlighted the programs of activities carried out by ICPICH and IRCICA, in their respective fields of action, to promote the Islamic arts and particularly calligraphy.

H. E. Ambassador Nabika Diallo read the message of His Excellency the Secretary General conveying his greetings to the audience, his congratulations to the calligraphers and his appreciation to their teachers. In his message the Secretary General commended the research projects, publications, symposia and numerous exhibitions IRCICA accomplished in the field of Islamic arts, as well as the different projects carried out by the Commission in order to make known, preserve and protect the Islamic artistic heritage by organising competitions and providing training facilities in Islamic arts. He said that all these activities made a tremendous positive impact on the artistic and intellectual circles concerned throughout the world and helped to reassert the noble objectives and multiple dimensions of the OIC's action in the fields of Islamic arts and cultural heritage. He pointed to the special place calligraphy has among the other arts due to its aesthetical and eloquent expression of the very essence and spirit of the Islamic culture and its role in immortalising the noble values of this culture to transfer them from one generation to the other. He said "the Centre played a pioneering role and became a centre of excellence and a focal point in this field not only for the Muslim world but on a world scale. And the presentation of diplomas, today, to calligraphers who have shown a remarkable skill and talent in the studies they undertook, with the help of IRCICA, to upgrade their art, is another big service to the preservation and the development of this art. I

express my sincere thanks to the Director General of IRCICA and his colleagues, who, with their love for this art and their accurate vision, gave it the attention it deserves and instituted long-term and large-scale programs to preserve and promote it."

The ceremony proceeded with the presentation of the diplomas to their recipients by H. E. Ambassador Nabika Diallo, Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, and the calligraphers' teacher Mr. Hasan Çelebi.

After having received his diploma Mr. Hamidi Belaid addressed the audience, saying "I came from the farthest western end of the Maghrib, with salutations and greetings, to this beautiful ceremony in the historical city of Istanbul which has become the symbol of Islamic calligraphy. With my colleague Mohammed M'zil we are the first two Moroccan calligraphers who have obtained their *Ijaza* from our great master Hasan Çelebi. Under the high patronage of His Majesty King Hasan II of Morocco, Chairman of the Seventh Summit of the OIC and under the leadership of the Moroccan Secretary General of the OIC, this event has a very special meaning to us as Moroccans. ..."

Calligrapher Mohammed M'zil also expressed his happiness "on this historical occasion in his life as a young artist." He said that "the *Ijaza* in the art of calligraphy is a diploma that all those to whom God gave the love of this sacred art dream of. The names of this centre, its Director General Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, and the great teacher, leader in this art Mr. Hasan Çelebi, will always be associated to the revival of the art of calligraphy. Before you, General Director Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, the art of calligraphy was declining but through your efforts, all artists have a common place to come to and we do not know how to thank you for this. You are the guardian of this noble art in the world and may Allah bless you in your efforts as well as those who work here".

- *Short biographies of the calligraphers*

Born in 1959, Mr. Hamidi Belaid was trained in the Royal Palace in Fez where he finished primary and high school. In 1969, he graduated from the Higher School for Education and worked as a school teacher for thirteen years. He started studying calligraphy on his own at a very young age and was influenced by the art that is found in Fez, Morocco's cultural capital. He took part in the third calligraphy competition organised by ICPICH and won a prize. He was invited by the Commission in 1992 to spend five weeks learning the *naskh* script with Hasan Çelebi. In 1996, he received an award in the First Islamic Calligraphy Festival in Rabat. Later, in 1997, he participated in the first Tehran International Calligraphy Competition and was granted the honour diploma, being selected as one of the first ten award-winning calligraphers. In 1996 he came to Istanbul for another month of intensive training with Hasan Çelebi. He was encouraged throughout by the Director of the Mawlawiya School in the Royal Palace in Rabat, Prof. Abd al-Jalil al-Hajmari.

Mr. Mohammed M'zil was born in Casablanca in 1964. He graduated from the School of Fine Arts in Casablanca in 1985. He won the third prize at the Moroccan Festival of Calligraphy and Gilding held in 1989 and was invited to Istanbul by Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu to study with master calligrapher Hasan Çelebi on the thuluth and naskh scripts for a period of six weeks. Later, in 1995, he won a gold medal in the Second International Baghdad Festival of calligraphy and gilding. Furthermore, in 1994, he won three awards in the International Calligraphy Competitions organised by the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage (ICPICH), in the jali-thuluth, nestaliq and taliq styles. He participated in the Agadhir Festival of 1996 as a guest of honour, where he gave a lecture on

the art of calligraphy, and in the international symposium on Sufism held in Casablanca (1997) with three calligraphic works. Mr. M'zil works as a calligrapher and graphic designer.

The Libyan calligrapher Mr. Mahfouz Bouaishi was born in 1943 in Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. He learnt the *riqa*, *diwani*, and *ta'liq* scripts from the Libyan calligrapher Sheikh Abu Bakr Sasi and the Egyptian calligrapher Mahmoud Ibrahim Salama. In 1993, he studied the thuluth and naskh styles with Mr. Hasan Çelebi and came to Istanbul every year for a few weeks to pursue his studies while he continuously corresponded with his teacher. He participated in the International Calligraphy Competitions organised by the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage (ICPICH) and won an encouragement award in the Third Calligraphy Competition. Furthermore, he took part in several exhibitions, in Kuala Lumpur in 1991, in Sharjah in 1995, and in Tehran in 1997. He works as a calligrapher in Tripoli, in affiliation with several institutions including the newspaper "Al-Dawa al-Islamiya".

Mr. İlhan Özkeçeci was born in Kayseri, Turkey in 1955. He graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts, Istanbul, in 1973, with a specialisation in textile designs, gilding and decoration. After having completed his M.A. in 1980, he started teaching art at Erciyes University and became a lecturer in the same university in 1986. In 1995, he was appointed to the Faculty of Fine Arts, Süleyman Demirel University, where he was promoted to associate professorship in 1996. He is currently Head of the Department of Traditional Turkish Handicrafts in the same university.

Mr. Recep Muhsin Demirel was born in 1954. He graduated from Istanbul University, Faculty of Law in 1978 and later obtained an M.A. in economics from Western Michigan University, U.S.A. He works at the State Planning Organisation of Turkey since 1980. He studied calligraphy with the late calligrapher Hamid Aytac as well as with Hasan Çelebi and Prof. Ali Alparslan during the years 1971 and 1980. He also followed the gilding courses of the late Emeritus Professor Süheyl Ünver. Between the years 1971 and 1975, he was a member of the Commission in charge of printing the copy of the Holy Quran written by calligrapher Hamid al-Amidi. His first personal exhibition was opened by the President of Turkey H. E. Süleyman Demirel during the Ninth Session of the COMCEC (Istanbul, 1993). Since then he opened four personal exhibitions and participated in several others.

The calligraphers expressed their gratitude to their teacher Mr. Hasan Çelebi and their other teachers who had trained them in the past in the different calligraphic styles. Mr. Hasan Çelebi also addressed the audience, expressing his utmost pleasure to see the concrete fruitful results of their collaboration materialise. He evoked with gratitude his own teacher, the well-known

calligrapher the late Hamid Aytac. He said that obtaining an *Ijaza* does not mean a reach to the final stage of progress; the *Ijaza* is a key, a key to many secrets the calligrapher will discover by himself. He said "This is how we understand the *Ijaza*. And the only way to master this art is through exercise." Master calligrapher Hasan Çelebi wished success to the young calligraphers.

The proceedings of the diploma ceremony clearly reflected the actual and potential benefits of the activity programs undertaken by the Commission to preserve the Islamic art heritage, stimulate interest in Islamic arts, promote international cooperation among the interested parties and help to improve the artists' knowledge and competence. The success of this event gave new evidence that the language of arts and communication among artists constitute efficient media of rapprochement between peoples and nations.

Previously the Commission had awarded diplomas to other calligraphers as well, most recently and earlier this year to the Tunisian calligrapher Mr. Jilani Gharbi and the American calligrapher Mr. Mohammed Zakariya, at a ceremony held at its headquarters in Istanbul on 29 March 1997.

The idea of the project which bears fruit in this publication was conceived in the very first years of IRCICA's activities, in the framework of the

The introduction by Prof. M. Abd. Taib Osman defines the area known as the Malay World on basis of its geographical, linguistic, religious and other features and describes the process of the introduction and spread of Islam in the region which was not a uniform or homogeneous one but was nevertheless marked by elements and

DECISIONS OF THE EIGHTH ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE ON THE ACTIVITIES OF ICPICH

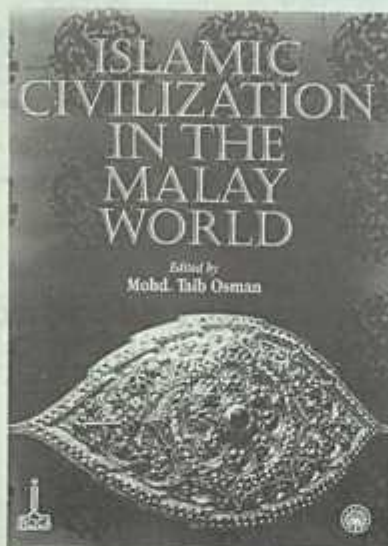
The activity report of the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage (ICPICH) for 1996-97 and its work program for 1997-98 were submitted to the Eighth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference (Session of Dignity, Dialogue, Participation) held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran, on 9-11 December 1997.

Having examined the report and work program, the Summit Conference adopted the resolution no. 30/8-C (IS) concerning the Commission. In this resolution, the Summit Conference

1. *Addresses its thanks* to the Governments of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Turkey for their moral and material support to the Commission and for sponsoring its projects;
2. *Expresses its appreciation* of the efforts exerted by the Chairman of the Commission, H. R. H. Prince Faisal bin Fahd bin Abdul Aziz in order to realise its objectives;
3. *Expresses its satisfaction* to note that the Commission's activities contribute in promoting general awareness on the preservation of the Islamic cultural, artistic and architectural heritage and its cooperation with IRCICA in implementing the architectural workshops on the reconstruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
4. *Expresses satisfaction* at the opportunities provided to upgrade their skill in the Islamic arts to calligraphers from Member States and other countries and to obtain diplomas, and *requests* the Commission to pursue its efforts to preserve and publicise the Islamic artistic heritage, encourage artists and specialists and consolidate international cooperation in this field;
5. *Expresses satisfaction* at the organisation of the Fourth International Calligraphy Competition in 1997 and commends the program of the Competition Secretariat which draws the attention of the whole world to the arts of the Islamic heritage;
6. *Requests* the Secretary General to ensure the implementation of this resolution and submit a report thereon to the Ninth Session of the Islamic Summit Conference.

A comprehensive reference on the
ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION IN THE MALAY WORLD

Islamic Civilization in the Malay World, Edited by Mohd. Taib Osman; Foreword by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Deputy Prime Minister, Malaysia; Prefaces by Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Director General, IRCICA and Haji A. Aziz Deraman, Director General, Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka, Malaysia, published in cooperation by IRCICA and Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka, 1997, xli+406 p.



This comprehensive book on the fascinating history of the spread and development of the Islamic civilisation in the Malay world resulted from a joint international scholarly project which was undertaken by the Governments of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia with IRCICA as coordinator. It is a highly informative, reliable and objective source for students of the history of the Malay world and all interested readers. It also reflects an indigenous intellectual and scholarly exercise by historians of the region to reappraise and reinterpret the history of the spread of Islam and its historical interplay with the distinct elements of the Malay culture. The Foreword is by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, who extended his personal support to the project from the beginning, when he was the Minister of Education of Malaysia, and throughout its implementation. There are two Prefaces, by Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Director General of IRCICA and Regional Project Director, and Haji A. Aziz Deraman, Director General of Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka, Malaysia and National Project Director.

The idea of the project which bore fruit in this publication was conceived in the very first years of IRCICA's activities, in the framework of the

Centre's objective to provide for the publication of reference works on the history of Muslim nations written by their own historians. The idea was translated into concrete cooperation between the countries concerned and IRCICA starting with 1985, when the project's guidelines were agreed upon. Raja Fuziah Raja Tun Uda from Malaysia was appointed the Project Coordinator. The Regional Secretariat in Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka was carried out by Ms. Rohani Rustam (Head), Aizan Mohd. Ali and Zanariah Abdullah. Despite the challenges involved in the implementation of a project of such scale and stature, the commitment and efforts invested by all parties made it progress steadily. Three Regional Workshops were held from 1987 to 1990, followed by three Writers' Consultation meetings in 1993 and 1994. After the completion of the drafts the book was put together and finalised thanks to the valuable efforts of the Editor, Prof. Mohd. Taib Osman from Malaysia.

The Introduction by Prof. Mohd. Taib Osman defines the area known as the Malay world on basis of its geographical, linguistic, religious and other features and describes the process of the introduction and spread of Islam in the region which was not a uniform or homogenous one but was nevertheless marked by elements and

tendencies commonly observed throughout its geography. There are eight chapters, by Hussin Mutalib on "Islamic Malay Polity in Southeast Asia", Zainal Kling on "Social Structure: The Practices of Malay Religiosity", Shaharil Talib and Mohammad Raduan on "Economic Life: From Ruling the Waves to Toiling the Land", Azyumardi Azra on "Education, Law, Mysticism: Constructing Social Realities", Ismail Hamid on "Kitab Jawi: Intellectualizing Literary Tradition", Kamaruddin Mohd. Ali on "Architecture: Unity of the Sacred and the Profane", Raja Fuziah Raja Tun Uda and Abdul Rahman Al-Ahmadi on "Malay Arts and Crafts: Islamic Inspiration in Creativity", and Nasir Tamara on "The Ummah: Rising to the Challenges with Special Reference to Indonesia". The book contains fifty-one colour plates, ten maps, a glossary, a bibliography and an index. This high-quality publication is proudly presented

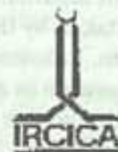
to the world of learning and interested readers world-wide.



A mosque in Central Sumatra (illustration from Dr. Kamaruddin Mohd. Ali's chapter)



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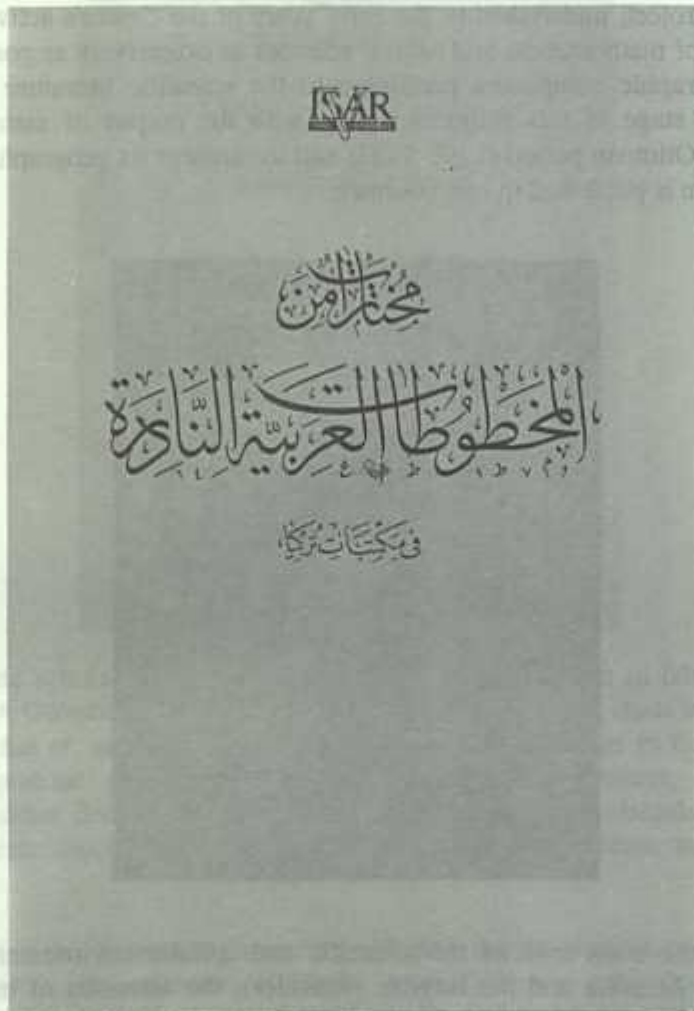


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Selected Rare Arabic Manuscripts in the Libraries of Turkey, prepared by Ramazan Şeşen, foreword by E. İhsanoğlu, published by the Waqf for Research in Islamic History, Art and Culture (ISAR), Istanbul, 1997 (in Arabic, foreword also in Turkish)

Price: US\$ 80.-



This is an enlarged and revised edition of the book *Rare Arabic Manuscripts in the Libraries of Turkey* which was prepared and published years ago by Prof. Ramazan Şeşen, Head of the Department of Bibliographies and Manuscripts at IRCICA. A great number of manuscripts, copies of manuscripts and authors have been added to this new edition, and some corrections have been made. Thus, the number of

manuscripts included in the book rose to 3561, that of copies of manuscripts to 4962, and that of authors to 1610. The author also added various indexes to the book, including indexes of the manuscripts arranged according to their subjects and to their titles. This book of xxiv+1147 pages containing 11 photographs of sample manuscripts, is produced in high-quality printing with a beautiful binding.

NEW PUBLICATION BY IRCICA

History of Astronomy Literature during the Ottoman period, prepared by E. İhsanoğlu, Ramazan Şeşen, Cevat İzgi, Cemil Akpınar, İhsan Fazlıoğlu, edited by E. İhsanoğlu, Series on History of Ottoman Scientific Literature no. 1, 2 vols., Istanbul, 1997 (in Turkish, foreword also in English)

This publication resulted from a decade of research in the framework of IRCICA's broad-scale research project on the History of Science in the Muslim World. The project aims to highlight Muslim scientists' contributions to the advancement of different fields of science throughout the past centuries. The project, undertaken in the early years of the Centre's activities, is planned to cover all disciplines of mathematical and natural sciences as extensively as possible and lead to a series of bio-bibliographic compendia pertaining to the scientific literature produced in each discipline. The first stage of this project, dealing with the corpus of astronomical literature produced during the Ottoman period (1299-1922) and throughout its geography, is finalised. The resulting compendium is published in two volumes.



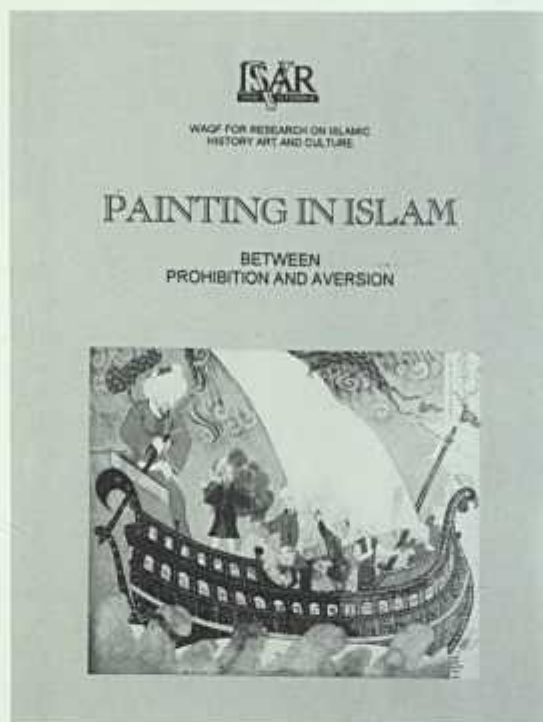
The introduction to the book reviews the scientific and cultural environment which prevailed under the Seljuks of Anatolia and the Beyliks (emirates), the activities of medreses, hospitals, statesmen's interest in science, the state of astronomical sciences and works of some astronomers of the period, the influence of the Meragha school of astronomy on the Seljuks and the Ottomans, the works of astronomers who lived before or during the Ottoman era but outside of the Ottoman geography and influenced Ottoman astronomers' works, and the astronomical institutions of the Ottoman period.

The main part of the book is divided into two sections. The first section covers the works whose authors are known, from the oldest to the most recent in the order of their dates of publication. It includes the biographies of 582 authors. As to the second section, it covers the works the authors of which are not known. The total number of works on astronomy cited in the book is 2438. It is completed with ten different indexes and a bibliography. The main text is in the first volume, while the second volume contains the bibliography and indexes. This in-depth study of the scientific activities carried out in astronomy during the Ottoman period is expected to fill a gap in studies on history of science and culture.

NEW PUBLICATION

Ahmad Mohammad Issa, **Painting in Islam: between prohibition and aversion**, published by the Waqf for Research in Islamic History, Art and Culture (ISAR), Istanbul, 1996 (in Arabic and English)

Price: US\$ 15.- postage included



This study by the late scholar Dr. Ahmad Mohammad Issa, specialist in Islamic arts and Vice-Chairman of IRCICA Governing Board until his demise in June 1996, deals with the controversial issue of the prohibition of, and aversion to, representations and statues in the Islamic world, an issue on which opinions are various depending upon circumstances, understanding and interpretation. The author dedicated this study to Marmara University (Istanbul) for granting him the Honorary Doctorate title in 1995 for his services in the field of Islamic arts. It was published posthumously.

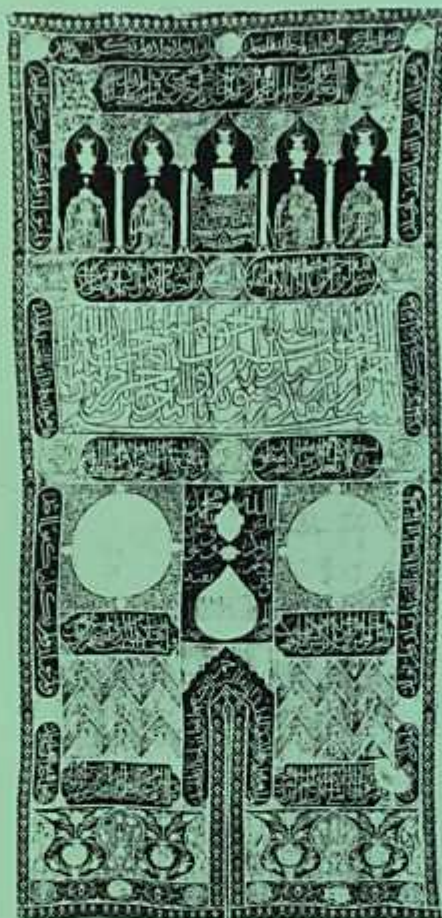
The author's interest in this subject began early in his life, during his post-graduate studies at the beginning of the 1940's. An extensive article he wrote later was published as a series in the journal *Majallat Al-Azhar* in 1951, then translated into English and published in the U.S.A., in the journal *The Muslim World*, Vol. 45, issue dated 3 July 1955. Finally, the Governing Board of IRCICA at its Tenth Session (Kuwait, 1993) recommended that a new edition of this study be published by the Centre taking into account its relevance for all those concerned with arts. Accordingly, the author agreed to revise and enlarge the study, which he did meticulously. Unfortunately, he breathed his last before the publication of his work.

In this work, Professor Issa does not aim to set forth a definitive or formal conclusion to the debate on this issue, but to communicate the findings of his research on the many texts related to the topic and the conviction and opinions he reached in result of his research. His analysis covers the parts related to the topic in the Holy Quran and the Hadith, the Old Testament, the New Testament, and recalls facts and events concerning representations throughout human history. The book is completed with a bibliography and reproductions of representations belonging to different civilisations in history.

NEW PUBLICATION

Curtains of the Haremejn Sharifejn, prepared by Hülya Tezcan, edited by Ahmad Mohammad Issa, translated into Arabic by Tahsin Ömer Tahaoglu, preface by Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, IRCICA, Istanbul, 1997

Price: US\$ 60.- postage included



With a historical and technical introduction on the curtains of Haremejn Sharifejn in the first part, and a catalogue of the curtains kept in the Topkapı Palace Museum in its second part, this book is expected to draw large readership. The catalogue in itself is divided into five sections. The first section is related to the curtains of the door of the Holy Ka'ba (entries no. 1-18), the second to the curtains covering its outer surface (no. 19-26), the third to the belts of the Holy Ka'ba (no. 27-44), the fourth to the covers of the tomb of the Prophet in the Garden of the Prophet (Rawda al-Mutahhara) (no. 45-59), and the fifth to the belts of these covers in the Garden of the Prophet (no. 60-67). These articles of highest historical and artistic value reflect the best of the weaving and embroidery arts of the Ottoman period. The oldest artifact in the collection is dated 950 H./1543-1544, corresponding to the period of Sultan Suleyman the Lawmaker's reign.

As known, starting from Yavuz Sultan Selim (1512-1520), the Caliphs sent curtains and many other articles and gifts to the Holy Ka'ba in Mecca and to the Garden of the Prophet in Medina every year, in order to provide for the maintenance and decoration of these Holy Places. Surra processions took place every year on this occasion. The curtains which were replaced by new ones were brought back to the Palace in Istanbul as a blessing, and again met with official ceremonies. In the period of the Turkish Republic, these curtains were placed among the rare artifacts in the Topkapı Palace Museum. In recent years, the Museum's specialists in cooperation with IRCICA have classified the collection; Dr. Hülya Tezcan, expert researcher in the Museum, prepared the catalogue. The book is expected to contribute in making this particular aspect of Islamic history better known.