

# NEWSLETTER



O.I.C. RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE

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No.: 6

## EDITORIAL

We are happy to inform our readers that starting from this issue our Newsletter will appear tri-annually: in April, August and December every year. We believe that both this development and the contents of this sixth issue will reflect the expansion of the Centre's activities.

The present issue comprises some new sections which are designed to become regular features of the Newsletter. In addition to the cultural news, we are presenting news on selected art events in a separate section. Furthermore, the news on Muslim Minorities are supplemented with the article "Western Thrace: the End of the Road for Islamic Culture".

As you know, comments and suggestions kindly sent by our readers concerning our activities in general and our Newsletter in particular are quoted under the title of "Editor's Post and Comments". The Centre and its activities have been reflected in various articles and interview reports which appeared in the Islamic and international press. Undoubtedly, this is an indication of the growing international interest enjoyed by the Centre. Abstracts of these articles concerning the Centre are given in a separate section entitled "The Centre in the Press".

Another new feature is the "Islamic Cultural Institutions". In each issue of the Newsletter, we shall introduce selected cultural institutions of the Muslim World under this title. We are of the opinion that this may help the establishment and promotion of fruitful co-operation among such institutions. Furthermore, we shall publish the requests for donation of books received by the Centre; we hope that this will prove a satisfactory way of informing institutions and individuals wishing to provide publications to those who are in need of them.

As announced in our last issue, we are publishing excerpts of the interesting lecture given at the Centre by Professor Garaudy, famous Muslim French philosopher.

H.E. Kenan Evren, President of the Turkish Republic and H.R.H. Prince Hasan Bin Tallal, Crown Prince of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, have honoured the Centre with their presence; details of their visits are given separately. Our "News from the Centre" includes the visits of the Chairman of the Grand National Assembly and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, the Adviser to the President of the U.A.E., and the Vice-Chairman of the National Assembly and the Minister of Awqaf and Religious Af-

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fairs of the same country. H.H. the President of the United Arab Emirates who was on a state visit to Turkey very graciously granted an audience to the Director General. Details of this event are also presented in the same section.

Requests for our Newsletter are growing steadily. As a result, our

past issues are out of stock. In order to meet these demands, we increased the number of prints in each of the three languages, namely English, French and Arabic. We hope that our readers will find this issue useful and interesting, so that our Newsletter may continue to benefit from their growing support and enthusiasm.

**Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu**  
**Editor-in-Chief**

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## H.E. KENAN EVREN, PRESIDENT OF TURKEY AT THE ISTANBUL CENTRE



*H.E. President  
Kenan Evren  
with Dr.  
Ekmeleddin  
İhsanoğlu  
Director  
General of  
the Centre*

H.E. Kenan Evren, President of the Republic of Turkey, visited the Centre for the first time on 20 May 1984. Besides a "Tesbih Exhibition" which was already being held at the Centre, a special exhibition consisting of photographs of the masterpieces of Islamic architecture in Spain and Islamic calligraphy was also arranged.

The President and his entourage were first briefed on the Centre and its activities. Then, the President viewed the exhibitions and showed great interest in their contents. He visited the library and saw the cataloguing work in progress, and was interested in the collections of rare books. The President also inspected the photographic albums showing the stages of restoration of the Çit Qasr.

The President seemed quite pleased

with the achievements and progress of the Centre. He also appreciated the use of the word-processor/mini-computer and asked questions about its operation and functions. He was shown the draft copies of some of the research works ready to go to the press.

H.E. Kenan Evren signed the Visitors Book where he commended the "useful work" being done by the Centre. Given below is a facsimile of the impressions recorded by him in Turkish.

"When I came to inspect the restoration work at the Yıldız Palace site, I had the occasion to take note of the activities of the "Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture, Organisation of the Islamic Conference". I was pleased to see that it is performing a very useful work. Thanking its staff, I wish them success".

## H.R.H. CROWN PRINCE HASAN BIN TALLAL OF JORDAN VISITS THE CENTRE



H.R.H. Crown Prince Hasan Bin Tallal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan a great connoisseur of arts and literature, visited the Centre on 10 April 1984. This was the Crown Prince's second visit in the Centre's brief history. It may be mentioned here that he was one of the earliest contributors to the Çit Qasr Restoration Fund. After a small briefing in the Director General's room, he was taken around the newly restored and renovated Çit Qasr and was apprised of the different phases of its restoration with the help of photograph albums. He appreciated the speed with which the restoration was completed. He spent quite some time in the library of the Centre and was also briefed about the progress in the reorganisation of the library, especially the cataloguing which was continuing satisfactorily. He also inspected an exhibition of books on Jordan arranged from the library collection. He also complimented the Centre for the acquisition of the mini-computer and stressed the use of modern technology in research.

At the end of his visit, H.R.H. the Crown Prince of Jordan delivered a speech in which he said he was pleased to visit the Centre again, and that the latter had made great strides in a short span of time. He also proposed the establishment of an Inter-Islamic States Waqf in

the field of culture to highlight the cultural heritage of the Islamic Ummah. In this connection he referred to a very useful work titled "The Treasures of Jerusalem" published jointly by the Royal Academy of Jordan and the Arab Towns Organisation and cited it as a fine example to be followed by other research institutes.

Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Director General of the Centre, thanked the Crown Prince for the visit and for his generous donation to the Çit Qasr Fund. He hoped that the scientific conference suggested by the Crown Prince would soon be held in the hall of the Centre under the chairmanship of the Prince.

Later, the Prince wrote and signed the Visitors' Book of the Centre. The translation of his impressions is below.

"The remarkable achievements in each phase of establishment of this important Centre are due to the endless devotion of those working in this research centre of our Islamic World. The intellectual harmony among us can be insured not through wishes, but only through tireless work. "And say: Work!". I renew my most sincere thanks to you."

Your Brother  
El-Hasan Bin Tallal

## NEWS FROM THE CENTRE

### H.E.Mr. Necmettin Karaduman, Chairman of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, visits the Centre

H.E.Mr. Necmettin Karaduman, Chairman of the Grand National Assembly of the Republic of Turkey, visited the Istanbul Centre on 7 May 1984 and was briefed on the various activities undertaken by the Centre. At the end of his visit, he expressed the hope that the work of the Centre would develop at an increasing pace.

### H.E.Mr. Vahit Halefoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, visits the Centre

H.E.Mr. Vahit Halefoğlu, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, paid a visit to the Centre on 16 April 1984. He was taken around different sections of the Centre and received information on various present activities and future projects of the Centre. H.E. Mr. Halefoğlu lauded the work of the Centre and wrote the following in the Visitors Book of the Centre: "It has been a great pleasure as well as an honour for me to visit the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture. I congratulate all the staff members and especially Mr. Ekmeleddin, wishing the continuation of their success".

### President of the U.A.E. Receives the Director General

His Highness Sheikh Za'id Bin Sultan Al-Nahayan, President of the United Arab Emirates, granted an audience to the Director General on 13 August 1984, while he was in



*H.H. Sheikh Za'id Bin Sultan Al Nuhayan receiving the Director General of the Centre*

Istanbul. The Director General explained the activities of the Centre to the President showing examples of the Centre's publications and the results of its studies. The President of the U.A.E. expressed his kind interest and asked questions on the Centre and its work. He said that the U.A.E. will continue to extend their full support to the Centre in the future, as in the past.

### High officials from the U.A.E. visit the Centre

The Centre was honoured with the presence of three high officials from the United Arab Emirates. H.E. Mr. Rashed Bin Uwaydah, Vice-Chairman of the National Assembly of the United Arab Emirates and H.E. Sheikh Mohammed Ahmed Hassan Al-Khazraji, Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs visited the

Centre on 12 August 1984, and H.E. Mr. Ahmed Al-Suwaidi, Adviser to the President, on 14 August 1984. The distinguished visitors were briefed on the various activities of the Centre, saw examples of its publications, and examined its library. They appreciated the Centre's work and said that its activities were evoking great interest in the U.A.E. They mentioned the possibilities of cultural co-operation between the Centre and the relevant authorities of the U.A.E. They said that they could benefit from the knowledge and material accumulated at the Centre especially on the subject of manuscripts, and requested copies of the future publications of the Centre. It was also mentioned that the Centre could act in an intermediary capacity to satisfy the needs of the U.A.E. in scientific expertise from abroad. Below is a translation of the impressions of H.E.Mr. Ahmed Al-Suwaidi written in Arabic on the Visitors Book.

"We are happy today to visit the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture and to take note of the achievements it has made in the short period that has passed since its establishment. We would like to express our thanks to our brother Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu and to other brothers working in this Centre for their ardent work and their continuous efforts for developing this Centre, and wish them God's help for the accomplishment of the tasks assigned to them, as well as for the execution of their duties at the service of Islam and Muslims. May God give them the best reward for the realisation of these tasks and duties and make them successful."

Ahmed Suwaidi  
14.8.1984

#### The Secretary General of the Muslim World League at the Centre

H.E.Dr. Abdullah Omar Nassef, Secretary General of the Muslim World League, Mecca Al-Mukarramah, visited the Istanbul Centre on 28 April 1984, for the second time. He was accompanied by Mr. Mohammad Mahmoud Al-Sawaf, Member of the Founding Council of the League. The distinguished visitors were informed about the achievements of the work of the Centre and were briefed on its various activities. H.E.Dr. Nassef commended the work of the Centre and wrote the following in the Visitors Book: "... I would like to mention the advancement and expansion I noticed, and the very successful restoration of the Centre's building. I pray God for the success of my brother Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu and his assistants in particular and of all the staff working at the Centre; may God help them in their efforts to revitalize the noble Islamic cultural heritage and to present it to contemporary muslim generations in an appropriate form. I wish this Centre a brilliant future full of useful work..."

#### Visit of a delegation from the Call to Islam Society, Jamahiriya

A delegation from the Call to Islam Society, Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, headed by Mr. Abu Bakr Al-Ghanimi, Secretary of the Information and Applications Bureau, visited the Centre on 30 May 1984. The delegation visited the different sections of the Centre and was briefed on the Centre and its various activities. Then, discussions were held within the framework of the cooperation and coordination programme started between the Society and the Centre (as mentioned in our last issue). This visit is one of the reciprocal visits that are being envisaged between the Centre and the Society



*Haji Hafız Mustafa, Mufti of Western Thrace visiting the Centre*

Visit of the Mufti of Western Thrace

Haji Hafız Mustafa, Mufti of Western Thrace, Gümülcine (Komotini), Greece, visited the Istanbul Centre on 27 April 1984. He received information on the objectives and activities of the Centre and discussed the projects undertaken. He expressed his thoughts by writing in the Visitors Book: "...I have been highly impressed by the perfectly up-to-date work of this institution of science and learning. I pray God for this Islamic institution's advancement, and for the realisation of every lofty objective of my dear friend Mr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu who heads this institution and of all friends employed in this noble place..."

Conference of Professor Burchard Brentjes and Photographic Exhibition on the Islamic Architecture of Central Asia

Mr. Burchard Brentjes, Professor of Oriental Archeology at the University of Halle (G.D.R.), gave a conference at the Centre on 12 July 1984. The main theme of the conference was Islamic manuscripts and Islamic architecture, and it was accompanied by an exhibition of photographs on the Islamic architecture of Central Asia.

Prof. Brentjes started his interesting lecture by explaining the oriental studies undertaken at his

department in the fields of History, Languages, Economy, Islamology, Arabic studies, Uigur and Turkish literature, History of Art and Archeology. He dwelt upon Islamic manuscript collections and particularly the Bukhara school of miniatures, and showed slides of these collections, giving information about each one. In the second part of his lecture, he spoke on the Islamic architecture of Central Asia. He cited the important Central Asian cities like Kunya Urgench, Semerkand, Merv, Khiva and showed photographs of the monuments of high architectural value that were displayed. He explained that an interesting characteristic of this architecture is that the main construction material is raw brick. He pointed out that these monuments are seriously threatened by quakes since Central Asia is in the earthquake zone. He went on to inform the audience on the restoration of these monuments and said that the restoration activities have been accelerated and most of these monuments have been transformed into art and music centres opened to touristic visits.

Prof. Brentjes is an East-German Historian, Archeologist and Geologist. He headed the German-Arab Friendship Association for two years. He has publications on Central Asian art, Islamic art and North and West African art.



*Prof. Burchard Brentjes together with Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu during his Conference*

### Exhibition of "Tesbih"



*Display of different "Tesbih" from the Exhibition*

An "Exhibition on the Revival of Ottoman Tesbih Craftsmanship" was held at the Centre from 11 to 20 May 1984. 168 pieces of "Tesbih" made of various vegetable and animal substances and ornamented with gold and silver were displayed. Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Director General of the Centre, inaugurated the exhibition, emphasizing the significance of the "Tesbih" in Islamic art. Then, representatives of the workshops where these pieces of art were prepared briefed the visitors about the kinds of material and the special techniques used.

### The Third Islamic Medical Conference

The Istanbul Centre participates actively at the organisational work of the Third Islamic Medical Conference scheduled to be held in Istanbul from 28 September to 2 October 1984. It is planned that in addition to various academic and social activities, an exhibition of Islamic calligraphy and gilding be organised simultaneously with

the Conference. The Centre already started the necessary preparations for the successful organisation of the exhibition.

### Exhibition of Calligraphy Carved on Wood

An exhibition of calligraphy carved on wood was displayed at the Centre's premises on 3-9 May 1984. Dr. İhsan Doğramacı, Head of the Council for Higher Education of Turkey, inaugurated the exhibition where the works of the Turkish artist Nail Arıkdal were presented. These are extremely accurate copies of the masterpieces of famous Turkish calligraphists on pieces of wood, which are then ornamented and varnished using a special technique. Great interest and admiration were shown for the works displayed. The originals from which they were copied are found in private collections and museums only.



*View from exhibition of calligraphy carved on wood*

Participation of the Centre  
at the Seminar on "Computer  
Application in the Library"

The Centre participated actively at the Seminar on "Computer Application in the Library", organised on 7-9 May 1984 by the Department of Library Sciences of the Istanbul University. The paper presented at the Seminar explained the system of application of the computer facilities in the Centre's library. It was met with great interest by the participants, among which figured major computer and library scientists from the U.S.A., Germany and Turkey. Subsequently, the participants visited the Centre to examine the system on the spot, which they qualified as simple, economic and appropriate.

The Centre Participates at the  
Malaysian International  
Exhibition on Islamic Civilisation

The Istanbul Centre participated at the International Exhibition on Islamic Civilisation opened on 21 May 1984 at the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Director General of the Centre, was present at the inauguration of the exhibition. Furthermore, the Centre contributed to the success of the exhibition by displaying the works of Mr. Hasan Çelebi, the Centre's calligrapher and one of the most famous contemporary figures of the classical calligraphic arts. These masterpieces elicited high interest and admiration and were praised through various media by the Malaysian as well as international press organs.

Participation at the Sindhi  
Literary Festival

The Centre participated at the Sindhi Literary Festival held in Karachi, Pakistan, on 11-12 March 1984. The Festival was organised

by Tanzeem Fikr-o Nazar Sind and inaugurated by H.E. General Zia-ul Haq, President of Pakistan. The Centre was represented by the Centre's research expert Dr. Mohammad Aslam who transmitted the message of Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Director General of the Centre. In this message, the Centre's research projects in the field of Islamic history were explained, emphasizing their objectives, namely, to shed light on the undiscovered aspects of Islamic history and culture, to understand and interpret them, and to disseminate the results of such studies.

★★★

## SCHOLARSHIPS

In the April 1984 issue of our Newsletter, we had informed our readers that the Turkish Government had allocated to our Centre four of the scholarships it offers to foreign students for the academic year 1984-85. The Centre has received a total of eight applications for these grants until now: one from Pakistan, one from Egypt, and six from Uganda. As their acceptance is subject to the approval of the Centre and the Turkish authorities, the Centre has transmitted these applications to the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Turkey. Out of these eight candidates, four will be selected, and they will start their research studies in Turkish universities.

## THE CENTRE'S LIBRARY-NEW ADDITIONS

In the last issue of our Newsletter, we had devoted one page to the introduction of our library and its administration. Since then, the total number of books in the library has increased to 15 000, and that of periodicals, to 650 titles. The library is steadily expanding by acquisition and donations.

In this issue, we would like to inform our readers about a recent addition to our library. This is the collection of Prof. Dr. Oktay Aslanapa, famous Turkish specialist and researcher of History of Art. This precious collection consists of books, journals, brochures, documents and summaries of conference presentations, post cards, etc. about the History of Art, Islamic Art, and Turkish Art among others. These are in various languages, such as Turkish, English, Arabic, French, Russian, German and Chinese. The total number of books, journals and brochures is 2178, of which 658 are off-prints in English, French and German, and 377, in Turkish. Books and journals which are not readily available elsewhere increase the value and importance of the collection.

The collection is being classified and catalogued; those items pertaining to Islamic arts have already been classified. The Centre hopes to complete this work as soon as possible in order to make the collection available to researchers in the fields of Islamic art

and history of art. The Centre is grateful to Prof. Aslanapa for donating this valuable and considerable collection to its library.

### Biography of Professor Dr. Oktay Aslanapa

Professor Dr. Oktay Aslanapa was born in Kütahya, Turkey in 1914. He had his BA degree in History, Philosophy and Geography at the Istanbul University. He received his PhD on Islamic and Turkish Art in Vienna. Returning to Turkey, he continued his academic work at the Istanbul University and was appointed Head of the Department of History of Art in 1960. Three years later, he established and headed the Section of Turkish and Islamic Art within the same Department. In 1977, he was assigned to the Institute of History of Art as its Director.

He was also a professor at the Department of Archeology and History of Art of the Istanbul University and Director of the Research Centre for History of Art. He is now retired from the University.

Prof. Dr. Aslanapa has more than one hundred publications in various languages. He is the author of several books, as well as encyclopaedia items and articles about Islamic architecture, historical monuments, excavation results, the arts of bookbinding, miniatures, carpet-making and ceramics.

## SPOTLIGHT ON CULTURAL NEWS

### JEDDAH, SAUDI ARABIA

#### Secretary General of the O.I.C. on "Islamic Revival"

The Secretary General of the O.I.C. H.E. Mr. Habib Chatty, in an article published in May 1984 issue of the monthly magazine "The Middle East", reviewed Islamic cooperation and dwelt upon the important subject of "Islamic Revival". Tracing the long history of the cherished goal of unity among the Islamic countries, he wrote: "The establishment of the O.I.C. in 1969 was a culmination of the vision to unite the Islamic countries on a common platform for debate, discussion of subjects of mutual interest and finding appropriate solutions". He also opined that the O.I.C. has become a viable entity within a few years as a result of the political will and the common desire of the Member States to close ranks.

#### 15th Anniversary of the Establishment of the O.I.C.

The 15th anniversary of the establishment of the O.I.C. was celebrated on April 13, 1984. On the eve of the anniversary, the Secretary General of the O.I.C. issued a statement that the O.I.C. had always considered the question of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and Palestine as its foremost cause, for it was the cause of Muslims and not that of Palestinians or Arabs alone. In the cultural field, he said "the organisation is making strenuous efforts to raise the cultural, social, scientific and spiritual standards of the Muslim Ummah, through many organs."

### BRUNEI

#### International Muslim Youth Conference

An international Muslim Youth Conference for South-East Asia and the Pacific was held on 18-25 March 1984 in the capital of Brunei. The conference was sponsored by the Government of Brunei in cooperation with RISEAP (Regional Islamic Da'wah Council of South East Asia and the Pacific) and WAMY (World Assembly of Muslim Youth). A total of 194 delegates attended this conference representing 13 countries of the region. The various subjects discussed included: the process of Islamisation of education, the role of the Ibadat in developing the Islamic personality, towards an Islamic Society, etc. The aim of the Conference was to enable the participants to understand Islam clearly and also its role in the development of the youth.

### MALAYSIA

#### International Exhibition on Islamic Civilisation

An international exhibition on early Islamic Civilisation was inaugurated in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 21 May 1984 and was expected to last till 1st September 1984. The exhibition was organised jointly by the "Berita Harian" newspaper and Muzium Negara and was aimed to portray styles of early Islamic administration and thinking. On display among many other works were nearly 20 types of early Islamic Government currencies. The Centre's participation at this ex-

hibition with the masterpieces of its calligrapher Mr. Hasan Çelebi is taken up in the section "News from the Centre".

## PALESTINE

### Preservation of Palestinian Cultural Heritage

The Association for the Advancement of Education in the Arab sector in Israel (AAEAS) is working to defend Palestinian Cultural Heritage against extinction, the objective which it thinks can be achieved through the establishment of their own schools and universities. Their request to set up the Galila University in Nazareth was turned down by the Israeli authorities, upon which they established the Research Centre for Arab Heritage in Tayiba village in the heartland of the Arab Sector. There is a wide disparity between Jews and Palestinians as regards educational standards. According to the 1982 Government figures, some 17.8% of Palestinians received no schooling at all compared to only 6 % for Jews. At the other end of the spectrum, 8.9 % of Jews as opposed to only 2.1 % Arab Palestinians received more than 16 years of schooling. Some 29,556 Jews were enrolled in post-secondary education, whereas there were only 601 Palestinians. Out of the 12,569 trainee teachers, only 411 were Palestinians.

### Censorship of the Palestinian Press

The Washington Journalism Review (WJR) reported in its May 1984 issue that the Palestinian press is being subjected to severe censorship besides arbitrarily arresting and harassing Palestinian journalists. According to the news "the Palestinian editors are required to submit every news item, column, editorial, headline, picture, caption, advertisement, cross-word puzzle, cartoon and even death

notices to the Israeli Military Censors in West Jerusalem." The study states that Israeli officials also try to malign and discredit it in the eyes of the public.

### Palestinian Imams and Religious Teachers Under Control

A news item was carried in the last issue of our Newsletter under the title "Palestine Chronicle", that Muslims under Israeli rule have been demanding the return of their awqaf and other religious properties which were expropriated after the Israeli occupation in 1948. Instead of paying heed to this just demand, the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Government of Israel has decided to treat imams and religious teachers in Israel as civil servants and brought them under direct control of the Government!!! (The number of such imams in Israel is about 225).

## U.S.A.

### Encyclopaedia Arabitannica

The preparation of the work "Encyclopaedia Arabitannica" is now in progress under the supervision of Encyclopaedia Britannica Inc. and a translation firm called Omnitrans of California. It will cater to the needs of about 25,000 secondary schools, 1500 colleges and universities and 11,000 libraries throughout Middle East and North Africa. Major sources of reference available to these institutions until now are either in English, French or other foreign languages.

## FRANCE

### Symposium on "Islam and the West Before Science Discovery: Accord or Confrontation", Paris, May 1984

The above mentioned symposium was held at the UNESCO headquarters under the presidency of the Secretary General of the Organisation

of Islamic Conference. The Secretary General also presented a paper on "Muslim East in the Face of Technological Challenge". The symposium, organised by the French Branch of Islam and the West Society, was attended by eminent thinkers from various countries.

#### French Translation of Tabari's "Tafsir"

The famous Quran "Tafsir" by Abu Jaafar-at Tabari is reported to have been translated into French by the French Orientalist, Pierre Gode. Two of the expected five volumes of the translation have already been published by the French editing group "Heures Claires."

#### KUWAIT

##### International Zakat Conference 30 April-2 May 1984

The conference was sponsored by the Kuwait Zakat House and was attended, among others, by the Islamic Banks, Government bodies, Universities and specialists. Topics such as the role of Zakat rates, control over its collection and distribution, benefits of Zakat to society and individuals and improvement of Zakat administration were discussed at the Conference. This is the first Zakat Conference held anywhere.

#### NORTH CYPRUS

##### International Muslim Writers Association, Lefkosa

Oktay Öksüzoğlu, a famous Turkish writer and art critic, plans to set up an International Muslim Writers Association in Lefkosa. The association's objective will be to promote Muslim culture in general and Muslim Cypriot culture in particular, and also to build a bridge head between various Muslim and non-Muslim cultural and literary bodies. The publication of a monthly magazine is also planned, to reflect developments in the

artistic and cultural life of North Cyprus. The income from the publication will be utilised to finance the activities of the association.

#### IRAN

##### Radio Quran

A new radio station called "Radio Quran" started its broadcasts from Tehran on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the Revolution. The duration of the programme is 3 hours and features recitations by Iranian and other Qaris.

##### The Second World Conference on "Friday Imams and Ulema"

The conference cited above was first held in January 1983 in Tehran. The second one took place in the same city in May 1984.

#### PAKISTAN

##### National Hijra Council Plans

The national Hijra Council of Pakistan (Chairman: Mr. A.K. Brohi), in a meeting on 27 April 1984, decided to publish about 100 books on Islamic Civilization "to project the legacy of Islam through the intellectual achievement of eminent muslim scholars, scientists and thinkers." Some additional books were approved for publication such as "Muslim World Today", "A Faith to Live By", "Mercy for All", "Significance of Hijra" and "History of Handicrafts in the Sub-Continent."

##### Islamic Encyclopaedia

The first of the 16 volumes of Islamic Encyclopaedia (in Urdu) was published in Karachi on 23 May 1984. The 1500 page "Islamic Encyclopaedia" has been edited by Syed Qasim Mahmood and printed by the Shahkar Book Foundation. It contains all information about Islam, given subject-wise, and 500 illustrations and photographs. It is priced at RS 300.

# MUSLIM MINORITIES: CULTURAL NEWS DIGEST

## EASTERN TURKISTAN

### Resurgence of Islamic Values

In the last issue of our Newsletter, we carried an article on an important periodical, "Voice of Eastern Turkistan", which went into publication in Istanbul in January 1984. The second issue of this periodical was on distribution in May 1984.

From the available reports, Islamic values are witnessing a new resurgence. Last year nearly 313 Muslims from Eastern Turkistan (Xinjiang) went for Haj, which was reported to be the highest number in the Province's history since its incorporation into China. This was confirmed by the officials of the Local Nationalities Affairs Commission. This year, more than 1000 East Turkistanis have reportedly applied for permission to go for Haj in September 1984.

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA

### Grant of Registration to the Islamic Society

According to a report published in "Suara Islam" magazine of the Singapore Muslim Missionary Society, the Government of Papua New Guinea has, at long last, accorded registration to the Islamic Society of PNG. This came about after three years of wavering on the part of PNG Justice Ministry. In December 1981, the application was rejected on the grounds that "Islam is an ideal contrary to public policy in Papua New Guinea". Papua New Guinea is a former Dutch Colony and the number of Muslims in the country is very small.

## ENGLAND

### "Specialist Seminar" of the Call to Islam Society

The Libyan-sponsored Call to Islam Society plans to organise a three-day "Specialist Seminar" in London in August 1984. The agenda of the seminar includes topics such as plan of work for imams, information plan for non-muslims and programme to prepare an encyclopaedia of Islam.

## GERMANY

### Establishment of a Christian-Muslim Association

A Christian-Muslim Association of Germany (Christlich-Islamische Gesellschaft) [CIG] has been set up in North Rhine-Westphalia. The office-bearers of the association are: President: Professor Dr. Schwarzenan; Vice-President: M. Saleem Abdullah; Secretary General: Dr. Reinhard Kuste.

A Muslim-Christian week was organised in May 1984 by the Association in collaboration with the Motamar Branch and the Adult College of the City Ruhr. The theme of the week was:

"Christian and Muslim: to live with each other-to listen to each other". The objective of the week was to promote inter-faith communication and to bring better harmony and understanding between Muslims and Christians in West Germany.

The Vice-president of the Association, Mr. M.S. Abdullah, has reported to have published two books entitled: "Crescent and the Prus-

sian Eagle" and "Islam for Dialogue with Christians". The first book takes stock of the history of the German Muslim Community for the years 1731 to 1934.

## INDIA

### Formation of a Muslim National Front

A "Muslim National Front" has been formed in India with the amalgamation of three Muslim Organisations, namely: Indian Union Muslim League, Muslim Majlis, and Majlis-e Ittihad-ul-Muslemeen. A committee of co-ordination with three representatives from each organisation "will take steps to formulate a common policy to work for the solution of the problems facing the Muslim Community in India". The members of the Committee will tour various parts of India to apprise themselves of the situation.

## HONG KONG

### Activities of Muslims in Hong Kong

The population of Muslims in Hong Kong is around 40.000, both among the Chinese and the foreign settlers. They have built a beautiful new Juma-Masjid in Kowloon which went into full operation in the middle of May 1984. There are four other mosques in the colony besides a well-established Islamic Centre.

## KAMPUCHEA

### Dwindling Muslim Population

Under Vietnamese occupation, the muslim population of Kampuchea has been dropping significantly. Many muslims fled the country after the Vietnamese takeover and went to Malaysia, France, the United States and elsewhere. The Muslim population accounts now for little more

than one fifth of what it was before the occupation. According to one estimate, about 250.000 Kampuchean Muslims still live in the country. They trace their roots to the ancient Kingdom of Champa in Central Vietnam. This Kingdom, founded in 192 CE, flourished along the eastern coast of Indo-China for 1300 years before it was conquered by the Vietnamese. Islam was introduced into Champa from the 10th to 15th Century by Arab and Persian merchants from Basra, Syria and Oman.

## U.S.A.

### International Institute of Islamic Thought, Washington

The International Institute of Islamic Thought organised an international seminar in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in July 1984. The theme of the seminar was "Towards Reform of Islamic Thought". Muslim thinkers and scholars contributed research papers in the following disciplines: Economics, Philosophy, Sociology, International Relations, Anthropology, Political Sciences and Philosophy. The institute had also organised two international seminars (one in Switzerland in 1977 and the other in Pakistan in 1982).

## POLAND

### The Congress of the Muslim Religious Union

The congress of the Muslim Religious Union of Poland, held every five years, convened in Bialystok recently. The Congress discussed issues related to Islamic doctrine, the history of Muslims in Poland and Muslim communities. The Congress proposed to build new mosques in Bialystok and Gdansk. Mr. Stefan Mucharski was elected chairman of the Collegium of the Union.

## WESTERN THRACE - THE END OF THE ROAD FOR ISLAMIC CULTURE

Almost unnoticed by the world at large and in clear violation of human rights, the muslim minority of Western Thrace in Greece is being subjected to a well-planned campaign of either evict them from the Hellenic state or completely hellenise them.

Mr. Iawao Kamosawa from the Hitotsubashi University, Mediterranean Studies Research Group, Kunitachi City, Tokyo, Japan, in his research on "The Case of Turks in Western Thrace", puts the present Turkish population in the whole of Western Thrace between 100.000 to 120.000, i.e. nearly 50% of the total. In addition, there are Pomak muslims (30.000) concentrated in the mountainous district of Rodopi, who are of Turkish origin and also speak Turkish. There is also a sedentary gypsy muslim population of around 5.000. The scholar witnessed a strong inclination for Islam amongst the Turkish population irrespective of age, sex or degree of education.

The Section III of the Peace Treaty of Lausanne of 1923 binds Greece to grant to the Muslim Turkish Minority in Western Thrace equal rights and security as enjoyed by Greek citizens. The position on the ground is however different. Given below are few instances.

The Pious Foundations or Waqfs are of great religious and economic importance for the Muslims. The Greek Parliament passed a law virtually taking over the control and administration of the Muslim Awqaf and other charitable trusts in Western Thrace (Act 1980). Both the contents of the said bill and the manner of its enactment were extraordinary.

The attitude of the Greek Government concerning minority education

also runs counter to the Articles 40 and 41 of the Treaty of Lausanne and the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education.

\* The Turkish Minority can neither establish nor manage or control any schools and other establishment for instruction and education.

\* There are only 241 primary schools mostly consisting of a single room, for a student body of 12.000.

\* There are only 2 secondary schools. This means that for many Muslim Turkish students, the education ends after the primary level.

\* There are only 211 teachers of Muslim Turkish origin. They are not selected by the minority group but appointed by the Greek authorities. A number of them have also been dismissed.

\* These schools in Western Thrace are without proper text books, due to the strict censorship policy.

\* The appeals of the Minority for protection of their rights mostly go unheard. In one such instance it led to the closing down of the Simandra (Karacanlar) primary school for a whole year in 1982.

These are just a few instances of the denial of minority rights in the field of education and culture. The situation is even worse in political and economic fields. The International Herald Tribune of 28 December 1983, quoting Reuters, summed up the situation as follows:

"Komotini, Greece: 120.000 people living in a paradoxical position: they are Greek citizens, but their welfare is a foreign policy issue...."

## ART NEWS

### EXHIBITION ON "ARAB ARCHITECTURE PAST AND PRESENT"

24 January-17 February 1984, London

The Arab British Chamber of Commerce held its first exhibition on "Arab Architecture: Past and Present" at the Florence Hall of the Royal Institute of British Architects from 24 January to 17 February 1984. The exhibition was a reflection of important issues, all converging on a main point: "Whither Arab Architecture?" In the words of the foreword to the catalogue of the exhibition: "The question is how to use technology to its best advantage - as a tool - to contribute to forms of buildings that are an outcome of an intrinsic assessment of the spirit and essence of Islamic architecture."

The exhibition was arranged under many broad sections such as: Religion and Education, Public Buildings, Domestic and Vernacular, Government and Component Parts etc. In each section were displayed the colour photographs representing some of the finest examples of architectural design in the Arab World.

### EXHIBITION ON "BIRD PAINTINGS FROM MOGHAL ISLAMIC INDIA"

12 June-14 July 1984, London

This exhibition was organised in London by Michael Goedhvis Ltd., Colnaghi Oriental, in association with Mallet. These paintings are owned by Lady Impey, wife of the first Chief Justice of Bengal, Sir Elijah Impey (1732-1802) and depict exotic birds perched on flowering

branches. The exhibition displayed nearly 150 pieces of individual studies dating from 1777 to 1782.

### PAINTING EXHIBITION OF THE BAHRAIN ART SOCIETY, 4-23 June 1984

The Bahrain Art Society held a painting exhibition at the Leighton House, London on 4-23 June 1984. About 100 paintings in oil, water colours and acrylic were displayed, and all the paintings showed the professionalism of the Bahraini artists. Last October, the Society held another exhibition at its new premises in Bahrain. It was opened by H.E. the Prime Minister of Bahrain.

The Bahrain Art Society has been established by Bahrain's leading artists. The Chairman is Sheikh Rashid Khalifa Alkhalifa, a member of the Bahraini Royal Family. He studied art in England and was one of the artists whose works were displayed in the exhibition.

### COURSE ON ISLAMIC DECORATIVE ARTS

Sotheby of London has started a biannual course on Islamic decorative arts. The curriculum includes, among others, Islamic architecture, pottery, metalwork, glass, the arts of the books, rugs and textiles, epigraphy and numismatics, the conservation of pottery, metalwork and textiles. The course is designed to enable the student "to perceive both the essential unity of Islamic art and culture, as well as the rich diversity to be found over a period of 1300 years in em-

pires which extended from Spain to the borders of China". The first course began on 27 February 1984 at the Royal Aeronautical Society of London and the next course will commence on 10 September 1984. It is ironic that among a glittering array of experts and lecturers appointed for the course, there is not even a single expert from the Islamic World.

CONFERENCE OF ARCHITECTS AND  
TOWN PLANNERS OF ISLAMIC COUNTRIES  
May 1984, Lahore

The First Conference of Architects and Town Planners of Islamic Countries was held at Lahore, Pakistan in May 1984. It was attended by architects and town planners of twenty Islamic countries besides muslim architects from the U.S.A., Fiji and PLO. It was inaugurated by H.E. General Mohammed Zia-ul-Haq, the President of Pakistan who emphasised the important role of architects and town planners "to strengthen the Islamic elements of life by weaving the rich variety of Islamic traditions into the diverse modern architectural forms". The Conference unanimously called for the setting up of an Islamic Council of Architects and Town Planners under the auspices of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

THE JORDAN NATIONAL ART GALLERY

The establishment of the Jordan National Art Gallery in 1979 was the culmination of an art movement started in the fifties, which built up momentum during the ensuing two decades. The gallery is situated on one of the seven hills of Amman and is administered by the Royal Society of Fine Arts, a private non-profit institution headed by Their Majesties King Hussain and Queen Noor and Princess Wijdan Ali. The Gallery has already acquired

an important collection of contemporary works of art not only from Jordan but also from other Arab and Islamic Countries. Its collection includes, among others, water-colours and gouaches, calligraphies, paintings, pottery, etc. The society aims to obtain a complete collection of modern Islamic Art.

IAP SILVER JUBILEE AWARD,  
KARACHI, PAKISTAN

The quarterly "Mimar-Architecture in Development" published in Singapore was awarded the Silver Jubilee Memorial Award of the IAP (Institute of Architects, Pakistan) at a recent ceremony held at Karachi Sheraton Hotel. The award citation commended the Mimar "for its continuing efforts in the projection of the development in architecture in the Third World Islamic Countries."

MASTER PLAN OF AL-AIN UNIVERSITY  
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Bids were made for the Master Plan of Al-Ain University of U.A.E. The Swedish firm SWECO AB won the competition which was organised under the aegis of the International Union of Architects. The University will be built in the oasis city of Al-Ain and will accomodate 10.000 students by the year 2000.

EXHIBITION OF DRAWINGS BY ARAB  
CHILDREN, WASHINGTON

The exhibition was held in the month of June 1984 and was jointly sponsored by the Children Museum of Washington D.C. and the Arab League. On view were nearly 75 drawings by children from all over the Arab World chosen among nearly 200 entries. The exhibition was also expected to travel to other cities, including Los Angeles, Houston and Chicago.

## EXCERPTS FROM PROFESSOR GARAUDY'S TALKS

Our readers will remember that Mr. Roger Garaudy, a French professor and philosopher who embraced Islam, visited the Centre on 29 November 1983 for an intellectual talk in the form of a question-answer meeting. Arguing on the dominant modern philosophies and their weaknesses, he stressed the superiority of Islam in solving the problems mankind faces today. He explained his views on European nationalism and its world-wide consequences. He also dwelt upon the importance of art. Excerpts from his talks are given below (original: French).

"From the point of view of culture, I think the situation of our Western culture both reflects and tries to justify the growth model, and this gives a positivist conception of the world ..... which succeeds in practice to deprive our life, our death and our history from any kind of sense ..... This culture, instead of analysing the chaos and showing the way to get out of it, merely reflects, and reproduces it ..... There are thinkers, particularly Christian thinkers, who made an effort to preserve in man what is strictly human, i.e. his transcendental dimension. But unfortunately, the dominant view is the one I have mentioned ..... Therefore, our fundamental problem is the following: as the issue is one of global scale, it can be solved only through global mutual consultations between all the cultures and all the civilisations, China, India, Islam, etc. Not a unification, a consultation, a reciprocal enrichment, a fertilisation ..... Consequently, it is not a matter of denial of Western culture, but of considering it relatively, according to its place to it, all its

place, but only its place; i.e. putting an end to the myth that the West has been the only centre of historical initiative and the only source of values ....."

"..... I think the trouble has appeared in Western philosophy at the moment when, first, the transcendental dimension of man was allowed to atrophy, and second, all the reality was, pretentiously, reduced to concepts. This is the postulate of positivism ..... I think that the great misfortune of what is called science today, and should more modestly be called Western science, is the separation of science from wisdom and revelation ....."

"..... my coming to Islam has not represented, for me, a break-up in my life; instead, it was an accomplishment ....."

"The Qoran itself has given an orientation to us, it has shown what the signification of our life and our history should be ....."

"..... I think Art should play a major role in the Dawa'a for the West. When I was a professor of Aesthetics at the University, I was giving the following definition of Art: 'Art is the shortest way from one man to another'. Since, beyond all the mediations of the concept of abstractions, it renders us directly sensitive to certain spiritual realities. To be very concrete, I would like to give an example which is situated at a few meters from here: Saint-Sophia and Suleymaniye. We have here, in my opinion, a typical sample which is maybe unique in the world; a genius architect like Sinan has directly shown the difference



*Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu and Prof.  
Roger Garaudy*

between a Christian space and a Muslim space. Using the same architectural elements, he has rendered us directly sensitive to the difference between the Christian space and the Muslim space .....

"..... Muslim arabesque in Islamic art, bringing together geometry, calligraphy and music, suggests a conception of God which is not one of its incarnation, but, on the contrary, a conception of its radical transcendence .... I insist on the essentially educative and formative role of arts. In my opinion, if I became a professor of aesthetics, I did it because I was originally a professor of philosophy; if I have tried to explain the arts, all the arts, in my writings on paintings, on dance, on cinema and lastly on architecture, this is because I

think that the basis of education is to teach to a child, to a woman or a man to behave not as if the world was a given reality, but as if it was something to be created; and that the teaching of art is exactly this .....

"..... we face a difficulty when, particularly as Western muslims, we refrain from making judgements, criticisms or giving advices to countries which are already muslim and we try to take up the issue of Islam in its pan-islamic aspect, i.e. by refusing to be caught at the game of ancient colonialists whose biggest historical feat was the disintegration of the muslim community into a series of nations which are unfortunately against each other today; this is the greatest posthumous success of colonialism....."

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

### "Lights Illuminating the History of Turan"

A book by El-Sayed Abdelmu'min El-Sayed Akram, entitled "Lights Illuminating the History of Turan" has been published in Mecca. The book was printed by the Muslim World League with the permission of the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Information.

The author states that Turan (Turkistan) is the land of origin of Turks. He describes this land, which stretches from the Kazwin Sea and Ural River in the West to the Great Wall of China in the East, and from Syberia and Mongolia in the North to Iran, Afghanistan, India and Tibet in the South, on a total area of 5 607 013 square kilometers.

The author tells the history of Turkish tribes that lived in this land, and how they converted to Islam following the military attack to Turan in 86H under the command of Kutayba bin Muslim el-Bahili. He then points out the important role played by Turks in the politics of the Abbasid State, occupying high military and political ranks. He also gives information on the states founded by Turks and their contributions to the spread of Islam. Within this context, he mentions the Samanid, Karakhan, Ghaznavid, Seljuk, Kharazmshahid,

Mongolian and Timur States and, lastly, the Ottoman State.

The book mentions also some important cities in Turkistan, such as Bukhara, Kharazm, Samarkand, Tashkent, Kashgar and Balkh, which gave birth to famous Islamic scientists, philosophers and thinkers like Ibn Sina, Hawarzmi, Zamakhshari, Kashani, Tirmidhi, Abu Dawud, Muslim and Bukhari. Information on the works of the latter is also given.

Furthermore, the author argues over the reasons for which these Turkish rules weakened towards the end of the sixteenth century, the Russians' aspirations on these lands, and the struggle of Muslim Turks to protect their lands and their religion. He also mentions the cruel invasion of Turkish cities by Russians and the Russian-English conspiracies of the middle of the 19th century to divide Central Asia and Turkistan.

In the book, emphasis is put on the Jihad and struggle of Bukhara under the rule of Mangatid Sultans; the author himself is the son of El-Sayed Akram bin Emir Mudhaffuredin, last descendant of these Sultans, and he is a brave combatant having personally lived amidst similar events. After moving to Afghanistan in 1938, he then took refuge in Mecca where he lives now.

## REQUESTS FOR DONATION OF BOOKS

From time to time, the Centre receives requests from various Islamic organisations and institutions, for donations of the Holy Quran and other books on Islamic culture and civilization. Although the Centre tries to help them within its financial possibilities, it is not in a position to meet these demands fully. It has therefore been decided to publish such requests in the Newsletter for wider dissemination of information on these needs and with a view to elicit greater response. In this issue, we are publishing two such appeals.

Ghana Muslim Youth Research, Accra, Ghana has requested copies of the Holy Quran and other religious books. The organisation undertakes studies and research on social problems of Islam. Books can be forwarded to the following address:

Mr. M.M. Ibrahim Muhammed Awal  
Research Director  
Ghana Muslim Youth Research  
P.O.Box 1723, Mamprobi  
Accra, Ghana

Public Library Sujawal, District Thatta (Sind), Pakistan has requested copies of the Holy Quran,

books, magazines etc. on Islamic history and culture. The address is given below:

Abdul Aziz Mendhro  
Public Library  
Sujawal (District Thatta)  
Sind, Pakistan

### Video Cassettes Prepared by the Centre

As mentioned in the previous issues of the Newsletter, two documentary films were prepared by the Istanbul Centre. One of the films is on the "Life and Works of the Late Calligrapher Hamid Al-Amidi (Aytaç)" and Islamic calligraphic arts, and the other, on the arts of Illumination and Gilding. These documentary films are now available in video cassettes in Arabic, English and Turkish.

Request can be made by writing to:

The Secretariat of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture,  
P.O.Box 24,  
Beşiktaş, Istanbul, Turkey.

## ISLAMIC CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

In this section, we shall present selected Islamic cultural institutions of high scholarship and repute. We will try to give basic information on their goals and objectives, their researches and other activities, publications, etc. In this issue, we are introducing the "International Institute of Islamic Thought", American Temple University, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

### The International Institute of Islamic Thought

The International Institute of Islamic Thought was established in 1981. It is an autonomous nonprofit institution which aims at "activating Islamic thinkers and revitalising the processes of Islamic thought. Its purpose is to assist Islamic minds to research, develop, articulate and establish a viable Islamic position on the contemporary issues of thought and life". In order to realise these objectives, the Institute seeks to promote research in the Islamic world and disseminate the results of such activities. Basically, it strives to:

- establish contacts with and among scholars in the field of Islamic thought;
- encourage, by all possible means, Islamic research, thought and ideas;
- promote gatherings of scholars

working on Islam in order to discuss, plan and conduct Islamic research and publication programmes;

- institute grants to scholars working on Islam and/or commission them to undertake researches on Islamic subjects;
- publish the results of the projects carried on at the Institute;
- cooperate with other cultural, religious and educational organisations having similar purposes.

In this realm, the Institute organises specialised seminars and workshops on the products of Islamic thought in various fields and regional and international meetings of scholars working on Islam; gives fellowships for research or writings, and grants in support of field studies pertinent to its purposes. The results of the Institute's research activities are published under the following titles: "State of Art" Series, "Legacy Presentation" Series, "Discipline" Series, "Creative Synthesis" Series, and "Contemporary Problems" Series.

President: Dr. 'Abdul Hamid Abu Sulayman  
Director: Dr. Isma'il R. al Faruqi  
Address: P.O.Box 1066,  
Washington, D.C. 20013  
Offices: 12015 Leesburg  
Pike, Herndon, VA 22070  
Phone: (703) 450-4373  
Telex: 908174

## THE CENTRE IN THE PRESS

### Forum

An article by İsmail Soysal, Turkish Ambassador, was published in Forum, 15 April 1984, under the title "Research Centre of the Islamic Conference in Istanbul". The article introduces the Istanbul Centre starting with the procedures by which it was created highlighting its aims and objectives in the broad fields of history, art and culture. It enumerates the various publications issued by the Centre since its beginnings and points out that the research activities and the library administration are being carried out using computer facilities. It mentions the fact that the Secretariat of the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage is in Istanbul and that the first meeting of this Commission was held in Istanbul, which is beneficial both for the Centre's work and for a better appraisal of the Islamic cultural heritage that lies in this historical city. Also, emphasis is put on the involvement of the Centre in the very important task of re-writing and re-interpreting Islamic history; today, the latter is generally written by non-Islamic authors, and contains misleading interpretations susceptible to lead to dissensions among Islamic countries.

### Turkish Daily News

Niki Gamm's inclusive interview with the Director General of the Centre was published in the Turkish Daily News of Monday, 25 June 1984, under the title "The Islamic Research Center; a Unique Institution". During the interview, the Director General explained the ac-

complishments of the Centre in its first four years. He answered the questions concerning the establishment of the Centre in 1980 and gave a description of the Centre, its library, its publications, and the relations established with other organisations, with universities, scientists, etc. He pointed out that the Centre is probably the first institution in Turkey using the word-processing facilities in English and in Arabic at the same time. He also talked about symposia planned to be organised by the Centre in collaboration with other organisations and/or Governments in the near future, namely the symposium on Islamic Medicine to be held in Istanbul, the symposium on Islamic and Oriental Studies scheduled to be held in Cairo in November, and the one on West-Asian History, to be held next spring in Islamabad. Lastly, he mentioned the heads of state and eminent scholars who visited the Centre, which is an indication of the international interest shown to this young and successful institution.

### Arabia

Mushtak Parker's interview with Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu appeared in the monthly Arabia of March 1984 under the section "Living Heritage" and the title "Recording Islam's Heritage". The interview touches on crucial questions related to the Centre's activities and their significance within the framework of Islamic Solidarity. In the Director General's words: "a research centre for Islamic culture, history and art is necessary for serving Islamic solidarity objec-

tives..... if we, as Muslims, cannot reshape our mentality on real Islamic values which urge all Muslims to promote brotherhood and support for each other, then we cannot succeed in other things. This cannot be done by speeches and slogans, but through hard academic research. This is our function...."

#### Arts and the Islamic World

Architect Mr. Ayyub Malik's report concerning the symposium on the "Common Principles, Forms and Themes of Islamic Art" organised by the Centre in April 1983 was published in the magazine Arts and the Islamic World, Volume I, No.3, of Summer/Autumn 1983. The report, beside introducing the Istanbul Centre, its aims and objectives, gives an excellent, detailed and appreciative evaluation of the symposium. It gives information on the subjects treated during the presentations and discussions on the various aspects of Islamic arts it enumerates the rich events and activities that accompanied the symposium, namely the documentary films prepared by the Centre, the various exhibitions, and visits to specialist museums and historical buildings and mosques. Mr. Malik states that despite the broad range of the subject of the symposium and the limitation on the time available, considerable ground was covered and that "it must be reassuring that such events take place and generate increasing awareness of the valuable heritage, but there is no denying that considerably more needs to be done, and urgently, to give a clearer purpose and direction to the Islamic arts..."

#### Al-Ahd

Professor Ahmed Al-Anany, a famous Jordanian thinker and writer, has

published an article entitled "Research Centre in Istanbul" in the magazine Al-Ahd (number 413, dated 8.3.1983). The article introduces the Centre and its work. It tells especially about the book entitled The Muslim Pious Foundations and Real Estates in Palestine published by the Centre. The author says: "Reading the Waqf documents, we feel a deep sorrow and plunge into a reflection; not only because each and every stretch of Palestine belongs to Muslims or to some Christian Arabs faithful to the State, but because of Muslims' Takwa (abstinence) according to which, for the cause of God, all properties are spent and material means are devoted, in an ideal way, for the Islamic culture and high morals. In summary, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu and Dr. Mohammed Tamimi, and wish them God's blessings. This work constitutes a basis for our sacred rights."

#### Ahlan Wa Sahlan

The Ahlan Wa Sahlan magazine, issued by the Saudi Arabian Airlines, Jeddah, published an article on the Centre written by its correspondent Mr. Mushtak Parker, in Volume 8, issue 3 of Jumada II, 1404H (March 1984). In this article, the author explains the important role played by the Centre in underlining the common characteristics and concepts of Muslims as expressed in Islamic culture. He mentions the stages of establishment of the Centre, from the decision of the 7th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Istanbul in 1976 on the principle of creating the Centre, to the adoption of the first work programme and the first budget of the Centre by the 11th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Islamabad. Lastly, he enumerates the main activities of the Centre and points out the material assistance extended by

Saudi Arabia, and the support of the Turkish Government which ratified the Centre's Statute Agreement, giving diplomatic immunities to the Centre.

#### Asharq Al-Awsat

In the 15 and 21 April 1983 issues of Asharq Al-Awsat, articles were published concerning the symposium on the "Common Principles, Forms and Themes of Islamic Art" organised by the Centre in April 1983 and the exhibitions organised simultaneously with the symposium. The same journal published also news on the First Preliminary Meeting of the International Commission for the Preservation of the Islamic Cultural Heritage that was held the same month.

#### Al-Liwa

In the 26 March 1983 issue of the Jordanian Al-Liwa, the interview of Rashid Al-Abdullah with the Director General of the Centre was published. The interview was done during the symposium on the "Common Principles, Forms and Themes of Islamic Art" organised by the Centre in April 1983, and concerned the activities of the Centre.

#### Al-Dustur

The Jordanian daily Al-Dustur published, in its 30 April 1984 issue, an interview with the Director General of the Centre. Dr. Ekmeleddin

Ihsanoğlu gave information on the various activities and researches of the Centre while he was participating at the Third Congress of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al Albait Foundation) in Amman.

#### Al-Madina

The Al-Madina daily in Jeddah, on the front page of its 13.4.1404H, (6 January 1984) issue, published the news informing that the Centre completed the Bibliography of Translations of the Meanings of the Holy Quran. It mentions that this important scientific work has been presented to the leaders of the Islamic World by H.E.Mr.Habib Chatty, Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, during the Fourth Islamic Summit Conference held in Casablanca, Morocco, in January 1984.

#### Al-Madina

Mohammed Abdou Sabbagh's interview with the Director General of the Centre was published in the 7.9.1404H (6 June 1984) issue of the daily. During the comprehensive interview, Dr. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu pointed out the efforts deployed by the OIC in order to protect and preserve the Islamic heritage, and the support extended to the Istanbul Centre since its inception. He also spoke about the phases of establishment of the Centre and gave information on the main scientific activities of the Centre, the way they are organised, the Governing Council of the Centre, the Centre's sources of finance, etc.

## EDITOR'S POST AND COMMENTS

"I am very grateful indeed for your sending me the third issue of Newsletter, which I found very useful for us to increase our knowledge and information concerning Islamic activities all over the world, particularly the activities of O.I.C. members in the field of cultural affairs."

Dr. Anwar Harjono  
Director  
Islamic Centre for Research and Development,  
Jakarta, Indonesia

"Thank you very much for posting us your latest Bulletin in Arabic. Could we request you to keep us posted both Arabic and English versions as we carry out teaching in English and have non-Arabic speaking members who may benefit from your Bulletin."

Dr. Hussain M. Ateshin  
Chairman  
Department of Architecture,  
School of Environmental Design,  
King Abdulaziz University,  
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

"I have got the first two issues of your Newsletter through a friend and found it very informative. I am, beside my job as a civil servant in İmar ve İskan Bakanlığı (Ministry of Construction and Housing), a researcher on the field of Islamic art and culture, and presently writing a PhD thesis on the "Concept of Environment in the Early Islam". Would you kindly put my name on your mailing list for Newsletter and send me the back issues starting with no: 3."

Mete Ataç  
Ankara, Turkey

"I was pleased to receive a copy of issue No.3 of the Newsletter through the Office of International Relations of the Ministry of Education. I found it very interesting. Since such publications are useful resources for the staff members of our organisation as well as our library, thus I would ask you to send us the previous and subsequent issues of the Newsletter continuously. If we should pay subscription as well as postage fees, please let us know in details."

Dr. G.A. Haddad Adel  
Deputy Minister and Chairman of Research and Educational Planning Organisation of the Ministry of Education  
Tehran, Iran

"We thankfully acknowledge the receipt of your publication "Al-Nashrat Al-Akhbariya", Vol.4, November 1983 which is very informative and at the same time very interesting. We believe, such a publication will be a valuable acquisition for the Library and Information Centre of AUDI."

Dr. M.A. Al-Hammad  
Director General  
Arab Urban Development Institute,  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

"I congratulate you for the excellent "Newsletter" whose November 1983 edition reached me yesterday. The activities of the Istanbul Centre towards the position of Islamic arts and literature are praiseworthy."

Dr. Ashraf-uz-Zaman  
Special Adviser to the Chairman on Economic and Ummah Affairs,  
Dar Al-Maal Al-Islami (DMI) S.A.  
Geneva, Switzerland

"Thank you for mailing to me your Newsletter of Nov. 1983. I am delighted to see growing interest in Islam. I should very much appreciate being kept on the mailing list since we do have conferences on the Muslim World periodically."

Dr. Caesar E. Farah  
Professor of Middle Eastern and Islamic History,  
University of Minnesota,  
U.S.A.

"I acknowledge with many thanks the receipt of the third issue of the Newsletter. It is realistically very useful. The coverage is wide as well as informative. Though short and simple, its features like "Focus on Islamic Culture", "Research and Publications", "Peoples and Events", "Social and Cultural Round-up", "Spotlight on Cultural News", "Rare Books from the Library", are interesting and stimulating. The printing is also remarkable."

N. Akmal Ayyubi  
Dept. of Islamic Studies,  
Aligarh Muslim University,  
Aligarh-202001, India

"The Centre, which I had the privilege to visit is, through the impulsion given by its Director Dr. Ekmeleddin and his colleagues, one of those who will carry tomorrow the torch illuminating future generations on the ancient and actual arabo-islamic culture.

All our wish is to see it developing and continuing to benefit from the support of the Islamic World, exactly as Dr. Ekmeleddin has the trust which made it possible for him to realise a great progress in such a short period."

Istanbul, 30 December 1983  
Ravane Mbaye  
Director  
Institut Islamique de Dakar  
Dakar, Senegal

"I have recently seen the Newsletter issued by your Centre. I was pleased to read the news and your Centre's activities in it. These informations and activities are indications of the efforts deployed by your Centre in various fields. This is a very important publication, so please send it regularly to our library, in order that the Marrakech people could benefit from it."

Ahmed Mutefekkir  
Imam-i Ali Library  
Marrakech, Morocco

"I received your Newsletter. I read the rich news and information it contains. Despite its small size and simple appearance, it really surpasses many major magazines on Islamic culture and art as to its significance and contents. May God help you succeed in this task and in your other activities."

Dr. Abdelkader Al-Rihawi  
Professor of Islamic Architectural Arts,  
College of Engineering,  
King Abdulaziz University,  
Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

"I was very pleased to read your Newsletter full of reports on serious and regular activities. Although it is very young, it reflects righteousness and continuous efforts that started with belief. With the help of God, it will mature and will develop in congruence with the eternal Islamic heritage by performing important tasks."

Ali Muhyiddin Al-Karadag  
Al-Azhar University,  
Cairo, Egypt

"I was happy to read your Newsletter. I kindly request that you send it to Prof. Akram Midani, Dean of the Faculty of Fine Arts of the Carnegie University, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, who is particularly interested with questions of cultural heritage."

Dr. Sabah Kabbani  
Damas, Syria