



Press Release

**RESULTS OF THE
8th INTERNATIONAL CALLIGRAPHY COMPETITION
DEDICATED TO THE LATE SYRIAN CALLIGRAPHER
M. BADAWI AL-DIRANI**

***SPONSORED BY
THE ABU DHABI CULTURE AND HERITAGE AUTHORITY***

Abu Dhabi, Istanbul, 15 April 2010

The Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) is pleased to announce the results of the Eighth International Calligraphy Competition which is dedicated to the late Syrian Calligrapher Muhammad Badawi al-Dirani (1312-1387 H./1894-1967). The international competition aims to preserve and revive the principles and methods of classical Islamic calligraphy by encouraging the present day and future generations of calligraphers to follow the original principles and common concepts established throughout the ages by the masters of this art, far from the foreign influences which are not in conformity with the traditional concept of Islamic calligraphy. The calligraphy competition is organised periodically once every three years.

H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin Ihsanoğlu, Honorary Chairman of the Jury, attended some of the meetings of the Jury which took place between 5 - 15 April 2010 at the headquarters of the Centre in the Historical Yıldız Palace, in Istanbul. The sessions continued under the Chairmanship of Mr. Hasan Çelebi and with the participation of following members:

- Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, Chairman of the Organizing Committee;
- Mr. Mustafa Uğur Derman, Expert of Calligraphy, IRCICA;
- Mr. Mus'ad Khudair Al-Borsaidi, Professor of Calligraphy, Egypt;
- Mr. Ubaida Muhammad Al-Banki, Professor of Calligraphy, Syria;
- Mr. Belaid Hamidi, Professor of Calligraphy, Morocco;
- Dr. Abdul Reza Bahia, Professor of Calligraphy, Iraq;
- Mr. Jalil Rasouli, Master of Calligraphy, Iran;
- Mr. Mehmet Özçay, Master of Calligraphy, Turkey;
- Mr. Davut Bektaş, Master of Calligraphy, Turkey.

Mr. Muhammed Tamimi, Coordinator of the competition, his assistant Mr. Said Kasımoğlu, and Mrs Özlem Bulut from the Competition Secretariat, assisted the Jury through its working sessions.

Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA and Chairman of the Organizing Committee explained the activities undertaken by the Centre and the competition Secretariat during the last three years to implement this competition at an international level. The eighth calligraphy competition was comprised of the following ten styles: jaly thuluth, thuluth, naskh, jaly taliq, taliq, jaly diwani, diwani, qufi, riq'a and maghribi. The Jury was presented with the 969 works, encoded beforehand, submitted by 683 participants from 31 countries. After a selection and evaluation process, the remaining best works were chosen for the final decision. The works were examined from all aspects and those worthy of awards and mentions were selected, as shown in the attached table.

The Jury focused on precision in writing and did not comply with any particular school. This will be reflected clearly in the catalogue of winners' works that will be published. It also took into consideration criteria such as conformity with the rules of calligraphy, performance in writing, creativity of the composition, and observance of the conditions of the competition, disregarding some small deficiencies noticed in some of the relatively good works.

The Jury noticed that the level in jaly taliq style was not as satisfactory as required; and decided to withdraw the first and second awards in this style. The level of some of the works being high in jaly thuluth, thuluth, naskh and diwani styles, the Jury decided to allocate eight incentive prizes, US\$1000 each, for these styles. The results are mentioned in the attached list: 28 awards, 32 mentions and 8 incentive prizes, i.e. a total of 68 awards and mentions amounting to US\$ 126.500 in total, won by 64 participants from 15 countries.

An exhibition of the winners' works will be held at IRCICA's headquarters in Istanbul for a few days; an award ceremony will be organised, and sponsored and hosted, by Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage, on 2 June 2010. A catalogue of the winners' works will be published, to be distributed to the winners, and certificates will be presented to them.

The Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) in Istanbul and Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage take this opportunity to express their sincere gratitude and appreciation to the esteemed Jury for its sincere efforts to reach these results; congratulate the winners, and express their wishes of success to all participants in the future competitions.

M. BADAWĪ al-DĪRANĪ (1312-1387/1894-1967)

Muhammed Badawi al-Dirani, an eminent calligrapher of Syria in the twentieth century, was born in Damascus in 1894. He is called al-Dirani in reference to Daria, a village in the Damascus countryside. He was educated in Quranic schools from his early childhood. He engaged in calligraphy when he was twelve years old. He took lessons from calligrapher Mustafa Siba'i (died in 1919), student of Sahib Qalam (died in 1897), who taught him the rules of ta'liq, a calligraphy style that he later mastered. Then he met calligrapher Yusuf Agah bin Muhammed -known as Rasa- who was sent by Sultan Abdulhamid II to Damascus to write the inscriptions of the Umayyad Mosque after the fire that hit it. Badawi learnt from him the calligraphic styles of diwani, thuluth, naskh and riq'a. For seventeen years Al-Dirani worked in his office of the famous calligrapher Mamdouh al-Sharif, who taught him the rules of kufi and jaly diwani. Later, he opened his own office in al-Bous street, in the Sulaimaniyah district near the Umayyad Mosque.

In the ta'liq style, Badawi developed a style similar to Sahib Qalam's. His style was appreciated by professionals as well as the public, and calligraphers followed his example. He was also distinguished in thuluth, the style of Rasa and Mamduh, but followed the example of calligraphers Shafiq and Aziz al-Rafa'i. He mastered jaly thuluth, as is seen in the inscriptions of the Othman, Rawdha and Thuraya mosques, the Ministry of Justice building and in the People's Assembly building.

Al-Dirani taught calligraphy at Damascus schools, to many prominent calligraphers such as Zuhair Manini, Abdul Razzaq Qusaibati, Othman Taha, Ahmed al-Mufti, Mahmoud al-Hawari etc. He also taught writers and poets including Nizar Qabbani, Dr. Shakir Mustafa, Dr. Najat Qassab Hassan, Yasser al-Malih, among others.

He traveled to Istanbul to see the calligraphic works located there and stayed with the renowned calligrapher Hamid al-Amidi. Al-Dirani also traveled to Alexandria where he was the guest of Mohammed Ibrahim. He then traveled to Cairo where he met calligrapher Muhammed Husni al-Baba and then returned to Istanbul in 1965.

Al-Dirani was a close friend of calligrapher Hashim al-Baghdadi who wrote the epitaph on his tombstone after his death on 25 July 1967.

In 1968 calligrapher Badawi al-Dirani was granted the Syrian Order of Merit of First Class. He left a wide range of excellent calligraphic works in all calligraphy styles, but mostly in ta'liq style.

AWARDS

1- JALY THULUTH

		Name, Surname	Country	Nationality
1 st Award	7.500 \$	Muhammed Yaman	TURKEY	
2 nd Award	5.000 \$	Abdurrahman Depeler	TURKEY	
3 rd Award	2.500 \$	Ahmed Fares Rezq Awad	EGYPT	

MENTIONS (1.000 \$)

Name, Surname	Country	Nationality
Muhammad Ali Zahid	PAKISTAN	
Ali Mamdouh A. M. Ahmed	EGYPT	
Khalid M. El-Seyyid Mujahid	EGYPT	

INCENTIVE PRIZES (1.000 \$)

Name, Surname	Country	Nationality
Ahmed N. M. Asmar	PALESTINE	

2- THULUTH

		Name, Surname	Country	Nationality
1 st Award	7.500 \$	Sabah Erbilli	ENGLAND	
2 nd Award	5.000 \$	Ayman Hassan	KUWAIT	Syrian
3 rd Award	2.500 \$	Mahfoodh Dhannoon Younus	IRAQ	

MENTIONS (1.000 \$)

Name, Surname	Country	Nationality
Nuria Garcia Masip	GERMANY	Spanish
Ahmed Mohmed Sayd Mostafa	EGYPT	
Jassim Mohamed Meraj	KUWAIT	

INCENTIVE PRIZES (1.000 \$)

Name, Surname	Country	Nationality
Fatih ÖZKAFKA	TURKEY	
Ahmed Fares Rezq Awad	EGYPT	
Abdu M. Hasan Jamal	EGYPT	

3- NASKH

		Name, Surname	Country	Nationality
1 st Award	7.500 \$	Sabah Erbilli	ENGLAND	
2 nd Award	5.000 \$	Hadi Kazim Naif Deraja	IRAQ	
3 rd Award	2.500 \$	Khalil Omar Dabah	SYRIA	

MENTIONS (1.000 \$)

Name, Surname	Country	Nationality
Ihap Ibraheem Ahmed Thabet	PALESTINE	
Saman Kake Dewane Husein	IRAQ	
A. Al-Abde b. Ahmed	SYRIA	

INCENTIVE PRIZES (1.000 \$)

Name, Surname	Country	Nationality
Mahmoud Alban	SYRIA	

4- JALY TA'LIQ

		Name, Surname	Country	Nationality
1 st Award		Withdrawed		
2 nd Award		Withdrawed		
3 rd Award	2.000 \$	Ayman Hassan	KUWAIT	

MENTIONS (1.000 \$)

Name, Surname	Country	Nationality
Mamoun Yaghmour	KUWAIT	Syrian
Ferhat Kurlu	TURKEY	
Mohamed Kana	SYRIA	
Shaikh Mohammad Ishaq	ENGLAND	
Jaylani Gharbi	TUNUSIA	

5- TA'LIQ (Nastaliq)

		Name, Surname	Country	Nationality
1 st Award	5.000 \$	Alirez Mohebi Sheikhlari	IRAN	
2 nd Award	3.000 \$	Ghasem Memazadeh Ghafari	IRAN	
3 rd Award	2.000 \$	Mahdi Forouzandeh	IRAN	

MENTIONS (1.000 \$)

	Name, Surname	Country	Nationality
	Ali Reza Taljangani	IRAN	
	Mohammadreza Rahimipour	IRAN	
	Rezaee Mostafa	IRAN	

6- JALY DIWANI

		Name, Surname	Country	Nationality
1 st Award	5.000 \$	Mohanad Al-Saai	SYRIA	
2 nd Award	3.000 \$	Abdulrazzak Mohamad Mahmud	U.A.E	Syrian
3 rd Award	2.000 \$	Gamal Mahmoud M. Afify	EGYPT	

MENTIONS (1.000 \$)

	Name, Surname	Country	Nationality
	Moaead Al-Saai	SYRIA	
	Hüseyin Hüsnu Türkmen	TURKEY	
	Seyit Ahmet Depeler	TURKEY	

7- DIWANI

		Name, Surname	Country	Nationality
1st Award	3.000 \$	Abdulrazak Karakash	SYRIA	
2nd Award	2.000 \$	Husain Ali Shaqule	SYRIA	
3rd Award	1.000 \$	Abdulrazzak Mohamad Mahmod	U.A.E	Syrian

MENTIONS (1.000 \$)

Name, Surname	Country	Nationality
Mohamed Iyd Nasif	SYRIA	
Ihap Ibraheem Ahmed Thabet	PALESTINE	
Mohamed Ali Mostafa	SYRIA	

INCENTIVE PRIZES (1.000 \$)

Name, Surname	Country	Nationality
Abdussamed Mahfad	MOROCCO	
Ahmed Fares Amry	SYRIA	
Ahmed Abid Abu Naif	KUWAIT	

8- KUFI

		Name, Surname	Country	Nationality
1st Award	2.000 \$	Muhammad Ashraf Heera	PAKISTAN	
2nd Award	1.500 \$	Kamel Bahri	TUNUSIA	
3rd Award	1.000 \$	Amer Ben Jeddou	TUNUSIA	

MENTIONS (1.000 \$)

Name, Surname	Country	Nationality
Uthman Khamid H. Ibraheem	EGYPT	
Mohammed Lemaalmine	MOROCCO	
Moustafa Ben Aek Kouadri	ALGERIA	

9- RIQ'A

		Name, Surname	Country	Nationality
1st Award	2.000 \$	Ahmed Majid Khayate	SYRIA	
2nd Award	1.500 \$	Mahmoud A. Lateef Dosho	EGYPT	
3rd Award	1.000 \$	Fatma Juma Ibraheem	SYRIA	

MENTIONS (1.000 \$)

		Name, Surname	Country	Nationality
		Waleed Ali Mohamed	EGYPT	
		Mahmoud Farhan Trablusi	SYRIA	
		Mohamed Bahsiti	SYRIA	

10- MAGHRIBI

		Name, Surname	Country	Nationality
1st Award	2.000 \$	Jamal Bensaid	MOROCCO	
2nd Award	1.500 \$	Nur Khamidiyah	INDONESIA	
3rd Award	1.000 \$	Mohieddine Khcharem	TUNUSIA	

MENTIONS (1.000 \$)

		Name, Surname	Country	Nationality
		Mohamed Tafrent	MOROCCO	
		Hasanin Mukhtar A. Salim	EGYPT	
		Mahdi Ramiz Hasan Turqavi	EGYPT	French