



Newsletter



OIC RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE

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The Islamic Conference of Ministers of Culture met on its Fifth Session in Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya

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22-28 October 2007

IRCICA's participation in the UNESCO General Conference

History congress to mark the centenary of the
1908 Constitution of the Ottoman State
Istanbul, 7-10 May 2008

Prince Faisal bin Fahd Award for the
Preservation of Islamic Architectural Heritage:
The competition continues

International congress on "Employment of Traditional Handicrafts in
Architectural Projects" to be held in Tunis
2-7 June 2008

Music Festival and Tourism Film Festival for
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Art exhibitions

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IRCICA Publications

Newsletter



Research Centre for Islamic History,
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Editorial

During the period since the last issue of the *Newsletter*, our Centre hosted both administrative and academic meetings related to the various fields of its mandate. The first meeting was the twenty-second session of the Governing Board of IRCICA. The Board is comprised of nine specialists appointed by the OIC Member States on basis of their authority in the Centre's fields of activities, together with the Secretary General of the OIC or his representative and the Director General of IRCICA. The countries currently represented in IRCICA's Governing Board are Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates. In this session, the Board reviewed and approved the Centre's activity report for 2007 and its proposed work plan for 2008 before their adoption by the Member States at the next session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Affairs Ministers. The meeting of the Board, particularly its opening ceremony that was followed by the press and an interested audience, was an excellent opportunity to highlight the diverse aspects of our present activities: recent symposiums, publications, and especially the two major long term projects undertaken by the Department of Architecture of IRCICA since last year, namely the "Prince Sultan bin Selman Data Bank of Islamic Sites and Monuments" and the "Al-Quds 2015" program of studies and architectural workshops.

A last part of the opening ceremony was devoted to the presentation of calligraphy diplomas (*Ijaza*) to trainees from various countries having successfully completed the courses coordinated by IRCICA since last year. Previously, on the occasion of Centre's 25th Anniversary commemorated in November 2005, a number of calligraphy diplomas were presented to six calligraphers from five countries. This time, thirteen calligraphers from seven countries received diplomas. This raised the total number of calligraphers having received diplomas through the Centre over the past decades to fifty-five persons from twenty-two countries. We had the pleasure of taking part in the cultural program

titled "Saudi Arabia Cultural Days" which was organised jointly by the Governments of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Turkey during the last week of October. On this occasion we hosted a series of lectures which were followed with interest by a learned audience. During the same period, the visit of the Minister of Culture and Information of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Mr. Iad Madani gave us the opportunity to define some new projects to be undertaken jointly by the Ministry and IRCICA in the near future.

The congress on "Egypt in the Ottoman Era", held during the last week of November, brought together sixty-three participants from eleven countries and from Egypt itself. It was the third congress of IRCICA to be devoted specifically to the period of the Ottoman State, after the congresses on "Learning and Education in the Ottoman State" (on the occasion of the 700th anniversary of the Ottoman State, Istanbul, 1999) and "Bilad al-Sham in the Ottoman Era" (Damascus, 2005). We include in this issue news of the congress and a list of the papers presented. The latter will be collected in a book, which we expect to publish in 2008.

A major scholarly event, next in this series of congresses, is the international congress on "The Second Constitutional Period/*Meşrutiyet* on its Centenary" to be held in Istanbul on 7-10 May 2008. Another event scheduled for 2008 is related to our Craft Development Program: an international congress on "Employment of Traditional Handicrafts in Architectural Projects" will be held in Tunis, on 2-7 June.

Lastly, I would like to announce that by decision of IRCICA's Governing Board, the application period of the competition for the Prince Faisal bin Fahd Award for the Preservation of Islamic Architectural Heritage has been extended, in order to make a new call for participation especially from regions from where no applications were received. Interested parties can find information on the competition in this issue of the *Newsletter*.

Dr. Halit Eren

The Prime Minister of Turkey H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan received a facsimile edition of the copy of the Holy Quran attributed to the time of Caliph Othman, published by IRCICA



H. E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of Turkey, inaugurated the newly renovated “Holy Relics” Section of Topkapı Palace Museum in Istanbul, on 29 December 2007. The opening was also attended by the Minister of Culture and Tourism Mr. Ertuğrul Günay, the Minister of Public Works and Settlement Mr. Faruk Nafiz Özak, the Minister of Environment and Forestry Mr. Veysel Eroğlu, the Governor of Istanbul Mr. Muammer Güler and the Metropolitan Mayor of Greater Istanbul Mr. Kadir Topbaş. Prime Minister Erdoğan delivered a comprehensive address, in which he underlined that all heavenly religions and beliefs uphold righteousness, justice and compassion. He said that the collections of the Holy Relics section represent a spiritual treasure which gives Istanbul and Turkey the greatest pride to be the keeper; this treasure inherited from the three major heavenly religions is of inestimable value. The Prime Minister said that the sacred relics of Prophet Mohammed and many other prophets kept in this section will enlighten the hearts of believers not only at present but also for the future generations; the gifts our ancestors sent to the holy places during centuries reflect the importance they gave to culture, to arts and artisans. “The door of the Kaba is here. The locks of the Kaba are here. It would be a big mistake to consider and to picture this history as bygone history. This place is not only a museum but the abode of a living civilization. ... As a reward for loyalty to this legacy, for centuries Istanbul was the capital of our civilization. In this capital not only Muslims but the adherents of all beliefs lived in safety and security. ... This place houses symbols of the search for eternal truth, history of mankind, and the sacred cause that gives humankind it humanness. Following the address of Prime Minister Erdoğan, Dr. Halit Eren, Director

General of IRCICA presented the Prime Minister with one of the latest publications of IRCICA, consisting of a facsimile edition of the copy of the Quran which is attributed to the time of Caliph Othman, the third caliph. The original copy is kept in the Topkapı Palace Museum. The edition and the accompanying scholarly study by Dr. Tayyar Altıkulaç were published by IRCICA in 2007. Mr. Ertuğrul Günay, Minister of Culture and Tourism of Turkey, Mr. Orhan Düzgün, Director of Museums, and Prof. İlber Ortaylı, Director of Topkapı Palace Museum, also gave addresses.

The relics include personal articles and garments which belonged to Prophet Mohammed and other prophets and to the companions of Prophet Mohammed. The section also houses keys and locks of the Kaba, rare manuscripts, and containers and wrappers in which the objects were carried from Mecca and Medina to Istanbul. These objects of great religious significance are also excellent works of art. Following the conquest of Egypt by Sultan Selim I in 1517, the Caliphate passed on to the Ottomans; so were the keys of Mecca and the relics relating to the Kaba. Some of the relics were transported to Istanbul, the seat of the Caliphate, and some others were placed in the tomb of Prophet Mohammed. Precious gifts, new curtains and keys for the Kaba were sent every year from Istanbul and from other regions of the Muslim world. Thus the number and variety of the holy relics relating to the Kaba increased continuously over the centuries. Those relics to be brought to Istanbul were meticulously registered and delivered to the officials in charge of transferring them. They were preserved with utmost care and respect for centuries. The holy relics were opened for public view in 1962.

**Visit of H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohamed al-Qassimi,
Member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates and
Emir of Sharjah, to IRCICA**



H.H. Sheikh Dr. al-Qassimi visited IRCICA on many occasions earlier and received information on the activities. Here, with H.E. Prof Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Dr. Halit Eren and guests at IRCICA.

H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohamed al-Qassimi, Member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates and Emir of Sharjah, has closely followed the progress of IRCICA's activities and extended his support to some major projects for the rebuilding of destroyed monuments of Islamic architectural heritage. As an expression of gratitude for his contributions to Islamic studies and the preservation of cultural heritage, in his qualities as a scholar on the history of the Gulf region, a patron of research activities and founder of a number of numerous institutions of education, museums and public services, Sheikh Dr. al-Qassimi was presented with the IRCICA Award for Patronage in the Preservation of Cultural Heritage and Promotion of Scholarship (2000). He holds many prizes, including the King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam (2002). Recently, Sheikh al-Qassimi provided the funding for the printing of the book *Al-Mushaf Al-Sharif Attributed to 'Uthman bin 'Affan (The copy at the Topkapı Palace Museum)*, prepared with a study by Dr. Tayyar Altıkulaç and published by IRCICA.

H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohamed al-Qassimi's visit to IRCICA together with the Secretary General of OIC H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, on 9 November 2007, was an occasion to present him this book. Sheikh al-Qassimi was also briefed by the Director General of the Centre on recent developments regarding the activities in various fields.



From the left: Prof. E. İhsanoğlu, Sheikh Dr. al-Qassimi, Dr. Halit Eren.

International congress on “Egypt during the Ottoman Era” held in Cairo, organised by IRCICA and the Supreme Council of Culture, Ministry of Culture of Egypt
26-30 November 2007

IRCICA and the Supreme Council of Culture attached to the Ministry of Culture of the Arab Republic of Egypt have jointly organised the congress on “Egypt during the Ottoman Era” which was held in Cairo, on 26-30 November 2007.

The opening session at the Opera House in Cairo heard the message of the Secretary General of OIC H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, which was read by Mr. Qasim Al-Masry, Advisor at the OIC General Secretariat, and the message of the Minister of Culture of Egypt H.E. Mr. Faruk Hosny which was read by Mr. Ali Abu Shadi, Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Culture. Then, the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren addressed the session, followed by a keynote paper by Prof. Raouf Abbas from Egypt, a senior historian of the Ottoman period.

The same day, an exhibition titled “Egypt in the Ottoman Documents” which was prepared by the General Directorate of State Archives of Turkey, Department of Ottoman Archives, was opened. This event was officiated by: Ambassador Şafak Gökçürk, Ambassador of Turkey in Egypt; Dr. Halit Eren; Mr. Ali Abou Shadi; Mr. Halilullah Özcan, Deputy Director General of State Archives, and Mr. Cevat Ekici from the Archives.

In his message, the Secretary General of the OIC expressed his pleasure to see this congress convene on the theme of the Ottoman period in Egypt, one that deserves much scholarly attention and objective research. The rich and long history of Egypt always drew wide interest and filled the library shelves around the world. There is no university that does not cover

at least one aspect of it. However, the Ottoman period was not as fortunate in this regard as the periods before and after it. The beginning of modern historical writings in the 1930s coincided with political and ideological factors which affected the interpretation of Ottoman history in a way that it appeared in school books as the worst period in Egypt. Some orientalist saw in it a dark age similar to that of medieval Europe. Some overlooked the successive changes in the balance powers between the east and the west throughout history. They forgot that during the geographical and maritime expeditions European fleets reached the southern Muslim lands striving to take control of the Red Sea and the Arab Gulf; that Western powers competed to spread their influence over the Arab East.

These and many other historical facts were not taken into consideration. However, now with the refinement of research methodology, we know that the history of Egypt in the Ottoman era cannot be understood without taking into consideration Ottoman history in general and the Ottoman context in the Mediterranean region which provided for wide commercial and cultural exchanges and made of Egypt in that period a centre of activities in all fields. The Secretary General said that today the two nations, Turks and Egyptians continue to be linked together with a history they shared in the midst of many successive events of world politics and stood side by side in political struggles and cultural processes. In his message to the congress, the Minister of Culture of Egypt Mr. Faruk Hosny said that the Ottoman period in Egypt which lasted four centuries minus three years (1517-1914)



will always be the object of studies. That was the period when Egypt was under the rule of the caliphate; after abolition of the latter and proclamation of independence the strong bonds linking the Turkish and the Egyptian peoples remained intact. Further research needs to be devoted to the theme of “Egypt during the Ottoman Era” in order to discover, among others, in which areas the Egyptian and Turkish societies influenced each other during those four centuries. The Minister expressed the hope that the congress would foster studies in history, economics, politics and other social sciences focusing on Egypt during the Ottoman period as a specific subject area within their disciplines. Dr. Eren expressed his appreciation of the productive cooperation existing between the Government and the academic and cultural institutions of Egypt on one hand and IRCICA on the other and which had been growing since the earliest years of the Centre. This cooperation is manifested both at the institutional level and in joint activities. Egypt is represented in the ten-member Governing Board of IRCICA, by Prof. Abdul Hafez Helmy Mohammad, Vice-Chairman of the Board. A number of Ministers and other statesmen from Egypt visited the Centre over the past years. As to cooperation in the activities, a symposium on “Traditional Crafts in Islamic Architecture: Mushrabiyya and Stained Glass” was organised jointly by the Ministry of Culture of Egypt and IRCICA, in Cairo, in December 1995. A large number of researchers, artists etc. from Egypt participated in the events organised by IRCICA. Furthermore, four publications by the Centre are about Egypt: the album *Egypt As Viewed in the Nineteenth Century* (2001), *Islamic Monuments of Cairo in the Ottoman Period* (by Mohamed abu'l Amayem, ed. by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, 2003), *Turkish Cultural Traces in Egypt* (by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, 2003), and *The Turks in Egypt and their Cultural Heritage: Bibliography of the Printed Turkish Culture from Mehmed Ali Pasha to Our Time and an Evaluation* (by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, 2006).

The titles of the papers presented at each session were:

Plenary Session
Chair | Halit Eren

- Nelly Hanna
Awqāf of the Craftmen's Guilds in Cairo in the XVIIIth Century
- André Raymond
Popular Classes, Dangerous Classes in Cairo in the XVIIIth Century
- Abdul-Karim Rafeq
Ottoman Egypt and Syria: A Comparative Perspective
- Mehmet İpsirli
A Prosopographic Survey on Egyptian Governors during the Ottoman Period

Session I
Chair | Emad Abou Ghazi

- Sabri Al Adil
The Status of Al Azhar scholars in the Study of Rational and Applied Sciences in the Ottoman Era: A study of the ideas of Sheikh Ahmed Al Demanhour
- Muhammed Çelik
Remarks on the Personality of the Scholar al-Suyuti and his Research Methods to Show the Scientific Level in Egypt in the Early XVIth Century
- H. İnci Önal
Impact of Ottoman Libraries on Education Systems in Egypt and Turkey: Ideal and Realities
- Sinan Marufoğlu
The Role of Waqf Institution in Financing the Educational Institution in Egypt during the Ottoman Era: An Analytical Study of the “Waqf Document” Relating to Some Egyptian Villages during the Reign of Ali Pasha



Session II
Chair | Magdi Guirguis

Mustafa Bilge

Suez Canal in the Ottoman Sources

Azmi Özcan

Egypt in the Khilafat Policies of England

Mihai Maxim

*The Egyptian Autonomy during the Ottoman Era in the Light of
New Turkish Documents Preserved in the Prime Ministry's Ottoman
Archives in Istanbul*

Cevdet Küçük

The Egypt Policy of Abdulhamid II

Session III
Chair | Nelly Hanna

Peter Gran

*The Use of Early Modern History for the Study of Modern History-
Egypt and its Historiography*

Halilullah Özcan

*The Importance of Prime Ministry's Ottoman Archives from the
Viewpoint of Egyptian Historical Sources*

Orhan Kılıç

Haj Emir's Institution in the Ottoman State: Egypt Example

Jane Hathaway

*The Anomalous Career of the Exiled Ottoman Chief Eunuch Yusuf
Agha in Egypt*

Session IV
Chair | Raouf Abbas

Rudolph Peters

*New Sources for the History of al-Qasr (Dakhla Oasis) in the Ottoman
Period*

Atilla Çetin

*In the Ottoman Bureaucracy Top Level Bureaucrats, Soldiers and Civil
Servants who got their training in Egypt (XIXth and XXth centuries)*

İdris Bostan

*An Ottoman Base in Eastern Mediterranean: Alexandria of Egypt in
the XVIIIth Century*

Ahmet Yaramış

*The Activities of Hüsrev Pasha during his Governorship in Egypt
(1801-1802)*



Session V
Chair | Imad Hilal

Feridun M. Emecen

*Military Developments in the Middle East: The Subject of Firearms in
Ottoman-Mamluk Rivalry*

Abdullah Al Nabawi

*Facilities of Passage and Hospitality for the Ottoman Officials and
Princes of the Neighboring Countries during the XIXth century*

Özen Tok

Administrative Situation in Egypt in the XVIIth Century

Nora Lafi

*The Nature of Urban Government in Ottoman Egypt: Questions and
Interpretations*

Session V
Chair | Mehmet İpşirli

Abdurrahim Benhadda

Egypt as seen by the Moroccan Pilgrims during the Ottoman Era

Stefan Reichmuth

*Murtada al-Zabidi in Egypt (1753-91): Inquiries into the Social and
Discursive Networks of a scholar and publisher in Ottoman Cairo*

Kadri Yıldırım

*Situation of Literature in Egypt during the Ottoman Era: XIth century
H. (XVIIth century A.D.) and Cairo as an example*

Majid Izzet Israel

*Wadi El-Natrun in the Writings of the Travelers during the
Ottoman Era*

Session VI
Chair | Michel Tuchscherer

Ali İhsan Gencer

The Governor of Egypt Mehmed Ali Pasha's Visit to Istanbul

İsmail E. Erünsal

*The contribution of the Egyptian experience in the improvements of
Ottoman Vakif libraries after Tanzimat*

Rizq Hassan Ahmad Nuri

Farmers and Authorities in the Period of Mehmed Ali

Ahmet Uysal

*The East and the West in the Writings of Egypt's Ali Mubarak Pasha
and Istanbul's Ahmed Midhat Efendi in the Late XIXth Century*



Session VII,
Chair | Kemal Filali

Hüsrev Subaşı

Calligraphy and Calligraphers in Egypt during the Ottoman Era

Özkul Çobanoğlu

The Cultural Interrelationships between Turkish Minstrel Tradition and Egyptian Folk Culture in the Socio-Cultural Contexts of Egyptian Coffeehouses in Alexandria and Cairo

Mustafa Koç

Cultural Life and Sufi Circles in Egypt

Session VIII
Chair | Abdurrahim Benhadda

Fazıl Bayat

The Relations of the Ottoman State with Land and Population in Egypt During the Ottoman Era

Kamel Filali

Cairo: Crossroads of Maghrebi Religious and Scholarly Migrations in the XVIIth and XVIIIth Centuries

Gocha Japaridze-Daniel Crecelius: The Georgian Dominance of Egypt in the XVIIIth Century

Magdi Guirguis

Copts, Religion, and the Question of Identity in the Ottoman Period

Session IX
Chair | Nora Lafi

Seyid Ashmaoui

Gossip and Rumors in Ottoman Egypt 1517-1798: Political and Social Role

Zeinab Abu Sinnah

Popular and Non-popular Ceremonies of Turks in Egypt during the Ottoman Era

Aymen Ahmed Muhammed Mahmoud

The Censuses of Population in Egypt during the Ottoman Era: The XVth Century Rural Census as a Model

Salah Ahmed Haridi Ali

Woman in the Dependency System in the Ottoman Egypt (923-1213 H./1517-1798)

Session X
Chair | André Raymond

Dalenda Lagueche

The Fabric of Province beyond the Center of Empire: Economic Relationship between Egypt and Tunis during the Ottoman Era

Hussam Abdul Mou'ti

Industry and Trade of Sugar in Egypt during the Ottoman Era

Recep Ulusoy

Ottoman Monetary System and Egyptian Currency

Session XI
Chair | Mustafa L. Bilge

Michel Tuchscherer

Butchers, Cattle Breeders and Cattle Merchants in Ottoman Alexandria (XVIIth-XVIIIth c.)

Nasser Othman

Production of Textile in Rashid City during the XVIIIth Century

Nassera Abdelmutadjali

Euro-Ottoman Trade Agreements and their Impact on Trading in Alexandria

Amr Ahmed Abd al- Mansour

The Gold Crisis in Egypt under the Ottoman Rule: from the Ottoman Conquest till the beginning of the eighteenth century

Session XII
Chair | Naser Ibrahim

Valerie Gonzalez:

Ottoman Cairo The Formation of the Traditional City (1517-1798)
Muhammad Hussam al-Din Ismail Abdulfettah: The Urban Development of Rashid City from the XVth Century to the XIXth Century

Slavka Draganova

Ottoman Archives Related to Egypt: Fund 'Cairo' at the National Library of Sofia, Bulgaria

Session XIII
Chair | Valerie Gonzalez

Naser Ibrahim

Attorneys in Alexandria Court during the Ottoman Era: Suleyman Qunayd as an Example

Magda Makhoul

The Administrative Code of Egypt Province during the Ottoman Era "Kanunname-i Misr" in the light of Islamic Law

Mehmet Mahfuz Söylemez

Establishment of the Ottoman Judicial Organization in Egypt and a Research on the First Egyptian Qadis

Ghada Tosun

Relation of People with Court

Ayhan Ceylan

Modernisation of Legislature in Egypt during the Ottoman Era (XIXth Century)

Imad Ahmed Hilal

The Acts of the Beast are Excusable: Penal Responsibility between Sharia and Law in Egypt during the XIXth Century.



Opening of the exhibition of Ottoman archive documents by Mr. Ali Abu Shadi, Dr. Halit Eren and Ambassador Şafak Göktürk.

The Governing Board of IRCICA met on its Twenty-second session Istanbul, 19-20 October 2007



From the left: H.R.H. Ambassador Dr. Wijdan b. Fawaz al-Hashimi, H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Dr. Halit Eren.



The Board members, and guests from diplomatic and academic circles were present of the ceremony

The Governing Board of IRCICA held its twenty-second session on 19-20 October 2007, under the chairmanship of H.R.H. Ambassador Princess Dr. Wijdan b. Fawaz Muhanna al-Hashimi and in the presence of H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC. The following members were present: Dr. Abdul Aziz Abdullah Turki al-Subaie (State of Qatar); Dr. Saad bin Abdul Aziz al-Rashid (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia); Mr. Mohammed al-Murr (United Arab Emirates); Dr. Amadou Cisse Ndieguene (Republic of Senegal); Mr. Waleed Fadel al-Fadel (State of Kuwait); Prof. Mehmet İpsirli (Republic of Turkey); Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA. Prof. Abdul Hafez Helmy Mohammad (Vice-Chairman of the Board) from the Arab Republic of Egypt and Dato Haji Abdulaziz Deraman from Malaysia were unable to attend the session due reasons of health.

The opening ceremony heard the comprehensive message of H.E. Mr. Ertuğrul Günay, Minister of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey which was read by H.E. Mr. Mustafa Büyük, Undersecretary of the Ministry. The Consul Generals of the Member States accredited in Istanbul were present.

Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, gave a welcoming address in which he outlined the main activities carried out during the last couple of years, including the congresses organised in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Romania, Kazakhstan; the long-term program launched by IRCICA's Department of Architecture under the title of Al-

Quds 2015, comprising a series of studies and workshops; the "Islamic Architectural Heritage Database" sponsored by Prince Sultan Bin Selman bin Abdulaziz (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) and implemented by IRCICA, the facsimile edition of the copy of the Quran located at Topkapi Palace Museum in Istanbul and its scholarly study by Dr. Tayyar Altıkulac, published by the Centre. Dr. Eren also noted with gratitude that the Turkish Government newly allocated to the Centre another building within Yıldız Palace, the Silahane (Armoury), one of the most important buildings of the complex, where the Centre will set up an international electronic library in Islamic studies. H.R.H. Ambassador Dr. Wijdan al-Hashimi, Chairperson of the Governing Board, addressed the ceremony, expressing her appreciation of the achievements of IRCICA since the previous meeting of the Board as outlined by the Director General in his address. Ambassador Dr. al-Hashimi expressed gratitude to H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC, for his continuous and invaluable support of the Centre's activities. She commended IRCICA qualifying it as one of the most efficient cultural institutions of the Muslim world. In his message, the Minister of Culture and Tourism of Turkey H.E. Mr. Ertuğrul Günay conveyed his appreciation of the fact that IRCICA continues to undertake innovative activities in various fields highlighting the Islamic culture and civilization, the history, arts and cultures of Muslim nations, and thus helping to make these facts and riches better known and understood around the world. The Minister pointed out that creating affinities between nations



H.E. Mr. Mustafa Büyük



The working sessions

by bringing forth the notions of common history and common heritage constitutes a most direct and beneficial way of building cooperation and solidarity in international relations. IRCICA's contributions to this end fulfil a historical mission. The Minister affirmed the Centre of the Turkish Government's continuous support.

The Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu said, in his address, that IRCICA as the cultural subsidiary of the OIC has been fulfilling its mission in an increasingly effective way through authentic activity programs reflecting the true features of Islam, the development of its civilization and the cultural exchanges it generated between nations and civilizations of the world. Prof. İhsanoğlu said that these activities contribute to cultural solidarity among the OIC Member States while at the same time they open channels for cultural dialogue between Muslim countries and other nations and communities. This contribution of IRCICA serves at the same time the objectives set forth in the Ten-Year Program of Action of the OIC adopted by the Third Extraordinary Summit Conference held in Makkah in December 2005 which stresses the need to correct misjudgments about Islam, reflect its true image, disseminate respect for cultural diversity and combat Islamophobia. The Secretary General expressed his gratitude to H.R.H. the Chair and the distinguished members of the Governing Board. He congratulated the members of IRCICA, particularly the Director General, for their achievements.

A special section in the last part of the ceremony was devoted to the presentation of *Ijaza* in the art of calligraphy (certificates of qualification) by three teachers of calligraphy, namely Hasan Çelebi, Davut Bektaş and Ferhat Korlu, to thirteen calligraphers from seven countries (Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Spain, Syria, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates) whom they had trained in various styles of writing, in courses coordinated by IRCICA during 2006 and 2007 (see IRCICA Activities section).

During the working sessions, Dr. Halit Eren presented a report outlining the activities undertaken by the Centre during 2007 and the proposed work program for 2008. The Board adopted the activity report and the proposed work program. It expressed its satisfaction regarding the progress made by the Centre in research, publications, studies in various fields and the symposiums, conferences and exhibitions which were held on its premises or in the

member countries. The Board also expressed its satisfaction of the various projects implemented by the Centre in cooperation with the cultural and academic institutions within and outside the member countries. The members of the Board commended the steps which were taken by the Centre in view of its future activities which opened new avenues for the latter.

The Board expressed its deep appreciation of the allocation to the Centre, by the Government of Turkey, of the Silahane (Armoury) building within the Yıldız Palace complex, which will house the electronic library to be established by the Centre; it lauded the generous support extended by H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, Vice - President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Emir of Dubai, towards this project.

During the sessions, the Board members were briefed by Prof. Arch. Amir Pasic, Head of the Department of Architecture of IRCICA, on two major projects, namely the Data Bank of Islamic Sites and Monuments and the "Al-Quds 2015" program of architectural studies and workshops. The Board expressed its gratitude to H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Selman for the generous contribution brought towards the Data Bank. It underlined the importance of the ten-year program "Al-Quds 2015" carried out by IRCICA and expressed its wishes of success to the Centre in its implementation.

The Board commended the publication by the Centre of the copy of the Holy Quran attributed to the time of Caliph Othman bin Affan taking note of the high quality of the edition, expressing its gratitude to H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohammed al-Qassimi, member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates and Emir of Sharjah, for taking charge of the printing expenses. The Board members exchanged views on various other activities of the Centre including: the IRCICA Award for Excellence in Research and the IRCICA Award for Patronage in the Preservation of Cultural Heritage and Promotion of Scholarship, both planned for 2008; participation in international fairs within and outside the Muslim countries; dissemination of the Centre's publications in universities around the world. The report and recommendations of the session will be presented to the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States.



The working sessions



A souvenir photo of the session

The Islamic Conference of Ministers of Culture met on its Fifth Session in Tripoli, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya 12-14 November 2007

The Fifth Session of the Islamic Conference of Ministers of Culture was held under the high patronage of Muammar Al-Qaddafi, Leader of the Libyan Jamahiriya, on 21-23 November 2007. Tripoli was hosting the conference marking the city's designation, by the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO, a specialised institution of the OIC), as the Capital of Islamic Culture for 2007 for the Arab region. The Conference discussed six main issues on which ISESCO presented reports: the implementation of the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World; activities in the fields of culture and communication; efforts in the fields of dialogue and cultural diversity as well as in refuting smear campaigns targeting Islam and Muslims, the follow-up of the implementation of the Islamic Cultural Capitals Program, its efforts in the field of the implementation of the Strategy for Islamic Cultural Action in the West, and in protecting the cultural and civilisational heritage in the Islamic world.

In its Final Communiqué, the Conference, based on the orientations of the Ten-Year Programme of Action of the OIC to Meet the Challenges Facing the Muslim Ummah in the 21st Century, the resolutions of the Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers in its previous sessions (Dakar, 1989; Rabat, 1998; Doha, 2001; Algiers, 2004) and other documents, issued commitments in the following fields: "Promoting and Protecting the Islamic Cultural Identity", One: Presenting the True Image of Islam and the Islamic Culture; Two: Catering for Intangible Islamic Cultural Heritage; Three: Catering for Tangible Islamic Heritage; "Cultural Rights for All", One: Cultural Sensitization of the Public Opinion, Two: Cultural Rights for Children and the Youth, Three: Cultural Rights for Women, Four: Cultural Rights for the Marginalized, Five: Promoting the Role of Civil Society in the Development of the Cultural Sector; in the field of cultural awareness, One: Raising Awareness about the Environment, Health and Population, Two: Development of Human Resources in Cultural Fields, Three: Developing Cultural Tourism; furthermore, in the field of "Promoting Cultural Diversity and Cultural Takaful and Spreading the Culture of Peace Dialogue and Coexistence": One, the Promotion of Cultural Diversity, Two: Encouraging Cultural Takaful, Three: Spreading the Culture of Dialogue and Coexistence; "Building the Society of Knowledge, Information and Communication", One: Bridging the Digital Divide between the Islamic World and its International Surroundings, Two: Research and Training.

In its Resolutions, the Conference of Ministers of Culture

1 » Commended the efforts of the Centre to achieve various projects in cooperation with the cultural and academic institutions in the Member States and worldwide in the fields of research, publication and promotion of scholarly

studies on various subjects, as well as in organizing scientific symposia, cultural lectures and exhibitions.

2 » Took note of the contribution made by the Centre towards encouraging activities of dialogue among civilizations through its research, publications and congresses aiming to present the true image of Islam and Islamic culture.

3 » Placed on record its appreciation for the Centre's successful organisation of the International Congress on Tourism and Traditional Handicrafts, the International Award for the Craft Innovations in the Muslim World and the number of exhibitions of artisans at work which took place in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 7-14 November 2006 under the High Patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, in cooperation with the Supreme Commission for Tourism in Saudi Arabia.

4 » Took note of the progress the Centre achieved in establishing a data bank on Islamic monuments and sites which was launched with the generous support of H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Salman, Secretary General of the Supreme Commission for Tourism, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, aiming to document and classify archaeological and historical Islamic sites in the Member States.

5 » Expressed its appreciation to all the Member States for the moral and material support they are extending to IRCICA to enable fulfillment of its mission, particularly the Republic of Turkey, the host country of IRCICA, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the host country of the OIC; and placed on record its gratitude for the support and the patronage extended by the Kings, as well as the Princes, the Heads of State and the Heads of Government in the Member States, which found their most eloquent expression recently in the visit which the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques His Majesty King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz has made to IRCICA during his official visit to Turkey, accompanied by H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the Prime Minister of Turkey, on 10 August 2006, and more recently, in the Prime Minister's graciously accepting the IRCICA Award for Patronage of Inter-Cultural Dialogue, presented to him by H.E. the Secretary General of the OIC and the Director General of IRCICA at an official ceremony held on 2 February 2007, as a manifestation of the support and encouragement extended to the Centre's activities.

During the conference period, the Director General of IRCICA, accompanied by Dr. Nazih Marouf, Director of the Craft Development Program, met with the Ministers of the participating Member States, the Secretary General of the World Islamic Call Society Dr. Muhammed Ahmed al-Sharif, and Dr. Robert Palmer, Director, Directorate of Culture and Cultural Heritage, Council of Europe.

IRCICA Activities

Trainees in calligraphy received their diplomas

19 October 2007

For over fifteen years IRCICA has been coordinating training courses in various fields of arts, particularly the art of calligraphy. Trainees from within and outside the OIC Member States are participating in these courses, mostly in Istanbul during the summer months, but also by correspondence at other times. The courses are taught by leading masters of this art. In conformity with traditional practice, successful trainees receive *Ijaza* (diploma, license or certificate of qualification) signed by their teachers and indicating the style of writing in which they were trained. Fifty-five calligraphers from twenty-two countries received diplomas through the Centre until now. Diploma ceremonies are organised for groups of trainees and placed generally within the framework of events hosted or organised by the Centre. Thirteen calligraphers - from seven different countries - who recently completed their training courses received their diplomas before the international audience from the OIC Member States, during the opening ceremony of the Twenty-second Session of IRCICA Governing Board held on 19 October 2007. The ceremony was held in the presence of H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC, H.E. Mr. Mustafa Büyük, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey representing H.E. the Minister Mr. Ertuğrul Günay, the heads of the Consular Missions of the OIC Member States in Istanbul, together with the Board's Chair H.R.H. Ambassador Dr. Wijdan al-Hashimi and distinguished members. Addressing the audience before the presentation of diplomas,

Director General Dr. Halit Eren said that IRCICA's activities cover a wide range of subjects, one of them "Islamic arts", and that within the latter calligraphy has a special place. He expressed pride that IRCICA won recognition world-wide as a focal point in this field. He said that this was made possible through the specially designed long-term programs which were established in the early 1980s by H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, who was the Director General of IRCICA from 1980 until the end of 2004. These programs aim to preserve this art in its classical styles, to encourage the performance and transmission of expressions of traditional spirit and creativity, such as most eloquently expressed in calligraphy and connected arts, and promote cooperation among calligraphers of the world. Dr. Eren explained that in this field the Centre organises competitions, exhibitions, conferences and training programs. The calligraphy competitions are held once every three years; the seventh competition in the series was finalised last April. As to the exhibitions, the Centre frequently organises calligraphy exhibitions on its premises and in various OIC member countries by displaying the award-winner works. Furthermore, it coordinates training courses for calligraphers from all over the world who wish to upgrade their skills in various styles of writing. Congratulating the calligraphers who were entitled to receive diplomas, he said that this was an important point in their careers in this art, since in the classical tradition the *Ijaza* delivered by the teacher is a license that certifies the



The *Ijaza* of Mr. Mandi (United Arab Emirates), who successfully wrote *Hilyas* (description of the features of Prophet Mohammed) in two styles certifies to a high level of advancement.



Calligrapher: Mr. Mohammed Mandi from the United Arab Emirates



Mr. Cafer Kelkit from Turkey



Calligrapher: Ms. Noria Garcia from Spain



Calligrapher: Dr. Halil Önsoy from Turkey



Calligrapher: Mr. Jasim Mohammed Miraj from Kuwait



Calligrapher: Mr. Mahmoud Ibrahim Salamah from Egypt



Calligrapher: Ms. Nermin Çokay from Turkey

student is qualified to practice this art. “But in another sense it is a beginning, the beginning of the unending pursuit of perfection. I believe that receiving their *Ijaza* in the presence and from the hands of the representatives of the Member States present here today will add further significance and mark their career with such a memorable occasion.”

Then, the *Ijaza*-diplomas were distributed to the calligraphers. Some of the guests present at the ceremony were invited to the stage to give the diplomas to their holders, together with the Secretary General of OIC Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu and the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren. Thus, Mr. Mahmoud Ibrahim Salamah from Egypt received his *Ijaza* for Jaly Diwani style issued by his teacher Mr. Hasan Çelebi. The Consul General of Egypt, Ambassador Mrs. Iman Mostafa, was invited to present the *Ijaza* document. Mr. Salamah had also received an *Ijaza* for the Thuluth-Naskh style from Mr. Hasan Çelebi earlier, in November 2005.

Dr. Halil Önsoy from Turkey received his diploma issued by his teacher Mr. Ferhat Korlu, in the Thuluth-Naskh style category. Mr. Mustafa Büyük, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey, was invited to present the document.

Ms. Noria Garcia from Spain was given a diploma by her teacher Mr. Davut Bektaş, in the Thuluth-Naskh category. The document was given to her by Ambassador Dr. Wijdan al-Hashimi, Chair of the Governing Board of IRCICA.

Mr. Mohammed Mandi from the United Arab Emirates received his diploma in the Thuluth-Naskh style issued by Mr. Hasan Çelebi and presented to him by Mr. Essa Abdulla Massoud, Consul General of the United Arab Emirates in Istanbul, and Mr. Mohammed al-Murr, member of IRCICA Governing Board representing the United Arab Emirates.



Mr. Farid Ali received the diploma on behalf of Mr. Nayif al-Hezza (Kuwait)

The diploma of Mr. Jasim Mohammed Miraj from Kuwait, in the Thuluth-Naskh style category, signed by his teacher Mr. Davut Bektaş, was given to him by Mr. Waleed Fadel al-Fadel, representative of Kuwait in the Governing Board of IRCICA.

Ms. Nermin Çokay from Turkey was given a diploma for the Thuluth-Naskh style by her teacher Mr. Davut Bektaş. Dr. Abdul Aziz Abdullah Turki al-Subaie, the Governing Board member representing Qatar, gave her the diploma.

Mr. Haytham Hamada from Syria received his diploma in the Thuluth-Naskh style signed by Mr. Hasan Çelebi, presented by Mr. Larbi Latroch, Consul General of Algeria in Istanbul.

Ms. Deniz Öktem Bektaş, who was trained by Mr. Davut Bektaş, received her diploma for the Thuluth-Naskh style which was given to her by Dr. Saad A. al-Rashed, member of the Governing Board representing Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Metin Jawdat from Iraq received his *Ijaza* for the Thuluth-Naskh style signed by Mr. Hasan Çelebi. The document was given to him by Ambassador Salah Abdussalam al-Azzawi, Consul General of Iraq in Istanbul.

The diploma of Mr. Nayif al-Hezza' from Kuwait, issued by Mr. Çelebi for the Thuluth-Naskh style, was received, in his absence, by Mr. Farid Ali, a painter and art specialist from Kuwait. The document was given by Dr. A. Cisse Ndieguene, Governing Board member representing Senegal.

Mr. Ahmet Koçak from Turkey was given a diploma the Thuluth-Naskh style, signed by Mr. Davut Bektaş, and the document was given to him by Mr. Seyyed Kemal Yassini, Consul General of Iran in Istanbul and Prof. Mehmet İpşirli, member of the Governing Board representing Turkey.

Mr. Cafer Kelkit from Turkey received his diploma signed by Mr. Hasan Çelebi, for the Thuluth-Naskh style, and the diploma was given to him by Ambassador Mr. Tannous Aoun, Consul General of Lebanon in Istanbul.

The diploma of Mr. Nurullah Özden from Turkey, issued by Mr. Davut Bektaş for the Thuluth-Naskh style, was given to him by Mrs. Gunay Efendiyeva, Consul, Consulate General of Azerbaijan in Istanbul, and Mr. Wahid Khursheed, Consul General of Pakistan in Istanbul.



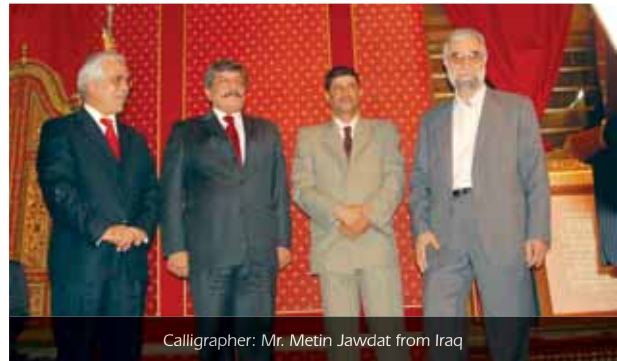
Calligrapher: Mr. Haytham Hamada from Syria



Calligrapher: Ms. Deniz Öktem Bektaş from Turkey



Calligrapher: Mr. Ahmet Koçak from Turkey



Calligrapher: Mr. Metin Jawdat from Iraq



Calligrapher: Mr. Nurullah Özden from Turkey

IRCICA's participation in the "Saudi Arabia Cultural Days" 22-28 October 2007

IRCICA hosted a series of lectures within the framework of the "Saudi Arabia Cultural Days" program which was organised by the Governments of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Turkey through the Ministry of Culture and Information of Saudi Arabia and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey. The program included:

- » "Saudi Arabian Literature - Thoughts", lecture by Dr. Ahmed Altami (23 October 2007);
- » "Handwriting Workshop: Experience of a Saudi Handwriter" by Mr. Naser Almaimun (24 October 2007);
- » "Dressing Ceremony of the Holy Qaba", by Mr. Nassir al-Harisi (25 October 2007);
- » "Developing relations between Saudi Arabia and Turkey", lectures by Dr. Ahmad al-Zaylai, Dr. Talal al-Shaban, Dr. Ibrahim al-Qarni (25 October 2007).

At the opening of the first lecture at IRCICA, Director General Dr. Halit Eren briefed the audience about the activities of IRCICA in general and the events it organizes with the aim of promoting international cultural relations in particular. In this regard, he recalled the Islamic Countries Cultural Week which was organised in 2005 on the occasion of the Centre's 25th anniversary, in which various Member States had participated with concerts, folkloric performances, academic lectures, and exhibitions of paintings and handicrafts. The kingdom of Saudi Arabia had contributed to all these aspects of the program. The Director General said that the Centre had also organized a Libyan Cultural Week in 2003, a Kyrgyzstan Cultural Week in 2006 and an Isfahan Cultural Week in 2007. He expressed his belief that the Saudi Arabia Cultural Days program was going to be a highly effective event in introducing various aspects of cultural, social and literary life in Saudi Arabia to the public through these scholarly lectures.



Dr. Ahmed Altami

literature, while the main figure in the second school was Muhammad Surur al-Sabban. Young poets who followed Sabban's footsteps later formed the main branch of Arab literature. The poets who flourished in 1930s, 1940s and 1960s laid the foundations of poetry in later periods. They mainly dealt with topics such as love for one's motherland, national feelings, love of nature and human love. The modern school that covers the period until mid-60s introduced some changes both in the form and content of poetry, hence in the Arabic *qasida*. In this period one also sees the influences of



Mr. Nassir al-Harisi

surrealism and symbolism on Arab poetry. Dr. Ahmed Altami stated that women poets flourished after 1960s. Fawziya Abu Khalid is the first woman poet with a *diwan* (collection of poetry). The lecturer then focused on other forms of literature such as short stories and novels. Short stories existed since the time when the Tales of One Thousand and One Nights were written. They

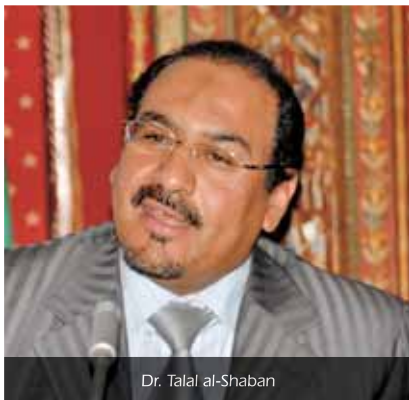
also started to appear along with poetry from 1920s onwards. Both man and woman writers gained renown. They generally used a symbolic language. The first novel that appeared in 1930s had a simple form. No other novel was produced until 1948 in this formative period. The novel became widespread starting from 1980s until the present day and nearly 400 novels were produced in this period. The authors mainly dealt with the transformation in Saudi society and social problems. Particularly the period after 1992 can be called "the era of the novel". At the end of his lecture, Dr. Altami focused on literary criticism and the development of literary institutions such as the literary club.

» In his lecture titled "Handwriting Workshop: Experience of a Saudi Handwriter", Mr. Naser Almaimun told the audience about his own experience as a calligrapher; his teachers, the training courses he received, and the contributions and guidance provided by IRCICA throughout this process.

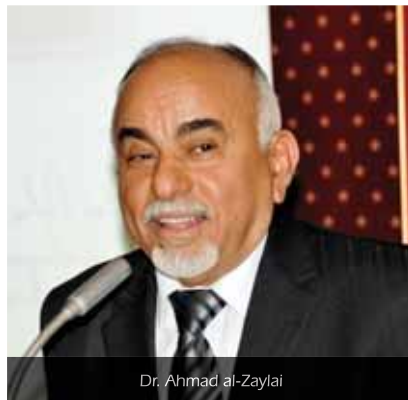
» In his lecture on the "Dressing Ceremony of the Qaba", Nassir al-Harisi presented a historical account of the dressing ceremony of the Holy Qaba, showing slides of the ceremonies. He pointed out that no curtain covered the Qaba before the time of Prophet Ismael and different views exist as to by whom the curtain was used first. Following the conquest of Mecca, Muslims showed utmost care for this curtain. The same care was shown by the Four Caliphs, the Umayyads, the Abbasids and the Mamluks. During



Panel on "Developing relations between Saudi Arabia and Turkey". On the right, Mr. Abu Bakr Ba Qadr, Undersecretary, Ministry of Culture and Information, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on the left, Dr. Ibrahim al-Qarni.



Dr. Talal al-Shaban



Dr. Ahmad al-Zaylai



Mr. Naser Almamun

the Ottoman period particularly the Sultans Selim I and Suleyman the Magnificent established endowments for the maintenance of the Holy Qaba. The lecturer said that the Saudis also attached great importance to the curtains of the Holy Qaba. Mr. al-Harisi showed samples of curtains of the Holy Qaba, also known as *burku* or *sitara*, purses of keys of the Holy Qaba, and described the periods and conditions under which they were produced.

» Dr. Ahmad al-Zaylai, Dr. Talal al-Shaban and Dr. Ibrahim al-Qarni gave lectures on "Developing relations between Saudi Arabia and Turkey". In his lecture, Dr. al-Zaylai stated that it was mainly the western scholars who made archaeological excavations in Saudi Arabia about forty years ago. Saudi scholars began to work in this field after 1940s. Some works from the Ottoman period were also discovered. He pointed out that King Saud University is working on the subject. Regarding the Islamic works in Mecca and the inscriptions in kufic script, the main archaeological sites were determined at the turn of the 1970s and some works were found. Umm al-Qura University is also undertaking excavations on the line between Mecca and Medina. Some inscriptions with Quranic verses were discovered.

Dr. Talal al-Shaban, who is a specialist of the architecture of the Ottoman period, spoke of the Ottoman buildings in the country. He pointed out that there are civilian, military and religious works in Mecca and Medina. Ottoman art

contributed to the architecture of the Prophet's Mosque in Medina. The tulip motifs in this mosque are similar to those in the mosques in Istanbul, Bursa and Amasya in Turkey. The lecturer compared the architectural works in Konya, Istanbul, and Bursa with those in Medina. He stated that the works in Medina are less imposing - as to size and decorations. He also underlined the resemblance between the fortresses on the road to pilgrimage between Istanbul and Medina and the fortresses in Turkey. At the end of his lecture, Dr. Shaban underlined the contributions of Turks to Islamic architecture particularly in the 11th and 12th centuries. He also briefly focused on the famous Ottoman architect Sinan and his works.

Dr. Ibrahim al-Qarni, who teaches in the Department of Languages and Translation of King Saud University, talked about the efforts to encourage the teaching of eastern languages in Saudi Arabia. Turkish was chosen as a pilot language in this respect. Dr. al-Qarni informed the audience that the Center for European Languages and Translation was established in 1977, the Institute of Languages and Translation in 1991 and the Faculty of Languages and Translation in 1995. The Program in Turkish Language, which is a three-year program, was established in 1993. The program aims to admit 100 students next year. It contributes to the cultural cooperation between Turkey and Saudi Arabia through the exchange of instructors, as well as scholarships in graduate studies and publications.

Visit of H.E. Mr. Iad Amin Madani, Minister of Culture and Information of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to IRCICA and signing of a new Cooperation Agreement

24 October 2007

On the occasion of the “Saudi Arabia Cultural Days”, H.E. Mr. Iad Amin Madani, Minister of Culture and Information of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and a delegation from the Ministry visited IRCICA on 24 October 2007. The Minister was already acquainted with the Centre’s activities through earlier visits and contacts; in particular, he was a member of the entourage of The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdallah bin Abdulaziz al-Saud during the King’s visit to IRCICA on 10 August 2006 in company of the Prime Minister of Turkey H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. In this visit the Minister received information from Dr. Halit Eren on some recent progress in the activities.

During this visit, a Cooperation Agreement was signed between the Ministry of Culture and Information of Saudi Arabia and IRCICA, to further strengthen contacts and cooperation in their activities relating to cultural development, studies on cultural heritage and the promotion of cultural cooperation among the OIC Member States. In particular, the agreement determined the modalities of an exhibition of historical photographs of Saudi Arabia to be opened in Jeddah and then travel to various cities of the Kingdom. It will consist of photographs of the cities, sites



A comprehensive cooperation agreement was signed

and monuments of Saudi Arabia to be chosen from the Yıldız Palace archive collection which dates from the end of the 19th-beginning of the 20th century. Taking into consideration that this collection has have a high documentary value, it is planned that the exhibition would display some eighty photographs but that more than twice as many would be reproduced in a catalogue to be published in relation with the exhibition. The Minister recorded his impressions in the Visitors’ Book, as follows: «I am

happy to visit the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture once again, together with my colleagues from the Ministry of Culture and Information, on the occasion of the Saudi Cultural Days organised in Turkey. Some of the activities held within this framework are taking place at the headquarters of IRCICA. We would like to renew our thanks for that and for the warm welcome and kind interest extended to us. The present visit has been an occasion to reach an agreement on organising an exhibition of historical photographs, drawn from the Centre’s archives, to be held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. I pray to God that He may help the staff of this Centre, at their head H.E. the Director General Dr. Halit Eren, in implementing a wide range of projects towards the aim of promoting cultural development and strengthening culture in the Muslim world.»

Visit of Mr. Veysel Eroglu, Minister of Environment and Forestry, Republic of Turkey, to IRCICA

27 October 2007

H.E. Mr. Veysel Eroğlu, Minister of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Turkey, visited IRCICA on 27 October 2007. Director General Dr. Eren guided the Minister to the various sections of the Centre and briefed him on the projects and activities. The Minister also saw the repairs and arrangements being conducted in the “Silahhane” (Armoury) building which was allocated by the Turkish Government to the Centre earlier in 2007 to serve as premises for IRCICA’s expanding library. Mr. Veysel Eroğlu recorded his impressions in the



The Minister saw an art exhibition being held at IRCICA

Visitors’ Book, as follows: “I have followed the activities of IRCICA closely. Through the large number of seminar and congresses it organized, the Centre opened new horizons and built splendid bridges between the past and the present. The valuable efforts it deploys to transfer our history and culture to the new generations are meritorious. I sincerely congratulate all those who work at IRCICA and wish them continuous success. I also wish the Director General and the Governing Board members permanent success and I greet them.”

IRCICA's participation in the 34th Session of UNESCO General Conference

16 October-3 November 2007

IRCICA participated in the 34th Session of the UNESCO General Conference which was held in Paris from 16 October to 3 November 2007. The address of the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren at the General Conference was read by Dr. Nazih Marouf, Director of the Craft Development Program at IRCICA. In his address the Director General briefly described the activities of IRCICA with an emphasis on those fields of common interest for UNESCO and IRCICA. He reviewed the progress achieved in the cooperation between the two organizations, which, he said, had expanded after the signing of the memorandum of understanding for cooperation in 1996 and further after the revised and enlarged version of this memorandum signed in 2005. Dr. Eren referred to UNESCO's Resolution 33 C/5 Para. 05120 which was passed by the 33rd Session of the General Conference on 7 September 2005, foreseeing UNESCO's contribution for the establishment of a Training and Restoration Unit of Old Manuscripts at Süleymaniye Library in Istanbul as a project to be implemented in cooperation with UNESCO, IRCICA and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Turkey. Implementation of the project was activated following the memorandum of understanding which was signed on 29 November 2006 between the Government of Turkey, UNESCO and IRCICA. This project aims to enlarge the existing unit in the Süleymaniye Library and endow it with equipment suiting the modern standards. Conservation, preservation and restoration services and training facilities of specialists in these fields will be provided to the OIC member countries and archivists from other countries, especially from those where collections of Islamic manuscripts are found. The Director General also informed the conference participants on the Data Bank of the sites



Dr. Nazih Marouf read the address of IRCICA Director General

and monuments of the Muslim world to be operated at IRCICA and the related decision of the Fifth Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (Baku, 2006); the program of architectural studies and workshops titled "Jerusalem 2015" which is organised jointly with the University of al-Quds and brings together architects, restoration and conservation specialists from around the world in collaborative studies on the architectural heritage of al-Quds, its preservation, and development of the urban environment of the city.

Pointing out another aspect of the activities of cooperation, Dr. Eren recalled that as IRCICA is assigned to be the Focal Point of Cooperation for Arts, Crafts and Promotion of Heritage within the UN-OIC cooperation system, it will continue to cooperate and consult with UNESCO in the field of crafts development, in organising seminars, congresses and exhibitions, arranging exchanges of craft specialists and artisans. Among the joint activities already accomplished within this framework, he recalled the Seminar on "Arabesque in the Traditional Crafts of Islamic Countries" which was organised in Damascus in cooperation with UNESCO and the Ministry of Culture of Syria and the Seminar on "Creativity in Traditional Islamic Crafts" organised in Islamabad in cooperation with UNESCO and Lok Virsa, Ministry of Culture of Pakistan.

During the period of the UNESCO General Conference, Dr. Marouf representing IRCICA met with the representatives of the Member States of UNESCO and IRCICA. He also met with Mrs. Françoise Rivière, Assistant Director General for Culture, Mr. Ahmed Sayyad, Assistant Director General for External Relations, and the Director Generals of various departments and divisions of UNESCO.

History congress to mark the centenary of the 1908 Constitution of the Ottoman State

27 October 2007v

IRCICA is organising an international congress on "The Second Constitutional Period/Meşrutiyet on its Centenary", to be held in Istanbul on 7- 10 May 2008. The proclamation of the Constitution for the second time in 1908, after 1876, was one of the turning points in the history of the Ottoman State and marked the beginning of the dynamic processes that shaped the geo- political picture of the Middle East and the Balkans today. In this congress, the Second Constitutional

Period and its consequences will be analysed from interdisciplinary perspectives, taking into consideration the historical background and conditions leading to the second constitutional period, the accompanying intellectual, public opinion, literary, etc. developments, and its repercussions – its immediate and continuing impacts observed in the Muslim world and in the countries with which the Ottoman State held relations. The ensuing administrative and

political transformations will be highlighted, the results of the ideological and intellectual dynamics involved will be evaluated. The main themes are:

I » Dynamics leading to the proclamation of the Constitution in 1908

1. Formation of the idea of the Constitution in the Muslim world (ideational currents in the Ottoman Empire, Iran and other regions)
2. Ideational currents and political movements (e.g. Ottomanism, Islamism, Westernism, Turkism; New Ottomans, Young Turks, centralization/decentralization)
3. Attempts at reform and renewal

II » The Constitution and its impact

1. The Young Turks movement and proclamation of the Constitution

2. The impact of the proclamation of the Constitution
 - a. on Ottoman State and society
 - b. in the Balkans
 - c. in the Middle East
 - d. in Central Asia
 - e. in North Africa

III » Ideological and political developments in the aftermath World War I

1. Movements of nationalism and independence (in the Muslim world, Turkistan, India, etc.)
2. The ascendancy of ideologies in the Muslim world (e.g. Socialism, Liberalism, Nationalism)
3. Democratisation processes and political parties
4. Legal developments, rights and liberties

Prince Faisal bin Fahd Award for the Preservation of Islamic Architectural Heritage: the competition continues

IRCICA launched a periodical award entitled the "Prince Faisal bin Fahd Award for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage". The first competition in the series is devoted to Architectural Heritage and titled the "Prince Faisal bin Fahd Award for the Preservation of Islamic Architectural Heritage". The competition aims at supporting the revival of Islamic heritage - preservation of monuments and giving them vital functions, either historical or modern. Subsequent competitions will be devoted to other themes concerning the preservation of Islamic cultural heritage.

The competition program is dedicated to the memory of the late Prince Faisal bin Fahd bin Abdulaziz al-Saud, who was the Chairman of the International Commission for the Preservation of Islamic Cultural Heritage (ICPICH), a subsidiary of the OIC which operated from 1983 until 2000 with IRCICA as its Executive Secretariat. The Commission was merged with IRCICA in 2000 following the demise of its Chairman and its activities were integrated into the work plans of IRCICA. IRCICA organised the present competition at the request of the Islamic Summit and Foreign Ministers Conferences asking that IRCICA dedicates a special activity to the memory of Prince Faisal bin Fahd in recognition of his remarkable services to the preservation of cultural heritage. The project was approved by the Member States of the OIC at the 32nd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Sana'a, Yemen Republic, June 2005). The competition was launched as of 2006.

The competition is open to projects completed during in the last five years and representing an outstanding contribution to the preservation of Islamic cultural heritage. Governmental and non-governmental organizations and individuals are invited to apply to the competition. Three equal awards will be presented to the best projects. An exhibition of the participating projects will be organized. The presentations

should be in English, French or Arabic. As of December 2007 projects have already been nominated from sixteen countries; the application documents for eight projects have already been completed. The submission of the documents for the competition will be finalized by 30 July 2008 and on-line work of the Jury will be held during September-October 2008. The competition procedures are detailed below:

Project eligibility

The Award seeks out the broadest possible range of preservation interventions: restoration and social efforts are considered, as are contemporary design projects in corporation with historic sites and those demonstrating the use of appropriate technologies. Although no fixed criteria are imposed as to the type, nature, location, or cost of projects to be considered for the Award, eligible projects must be designed for or used by Muslim communities, in part or in whole, wherever they are located.

Application

Applications are the means for a first enrollment of projects. The identities of the applicants and the names of the projects will be kept strictly confidential. The first application is done by completing and returning the enclosed form to IRCICA or by filling-in the on-line form provided on IRCICA's website <http://ircica.org>.

Documentation

The owners/architects of projects enrolled will receive an Award documentation package which describes the standardized presentation requirements. In addition to submitting photographs, slides, and architectural drawings, architects are asked to complete a questionnaire pertaining to use, cost, environmental and climatic factors, construction materials, building schedule, and, more importantly, design concepts and each project's significance within its own context.

The seven-member international jury of the competition is composed of:

1. Professor Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General, OIC (Honorary President of the Jury)
2. Dr. Halit Eren, Director General, IRCICA (Chairman)
3. Professor Dr. Saad A. al-Rashid
4. Professor Dr. Zeynep Ahunbay
5. Professor Dr. Gulzar Haider
6. Professor Dr. Attilio Petruccioli
7. Professor Dr. Saleh Lamei Mostafa

A total of \$ 30.000 US will be awarded as three equal prizes to completed projects, for excellence in preservation of Islamic architectural heritage. Since the success of a winning project may be the product of efforts by diverse individuals, groups,

and organizations, the Jury will consider, if necessary and applicable, apportioning prizes among the contributors - architects, other design and construction professionals, craftsmen, clients, and institutions - whom it considers most responsible for the success of each project.

The competition calendar is as follows:

Submission of documentation	30 July 2008
On line work of the Jury	September-October 2008
Jury's final meeting	December 2008
Award announcement ceremony	January 2009

One of the main avenues by which traditional handicrafts found varieties of expressions and applications and penetrated the lives of peoples in the past and the present, is architecture.

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International congress on "Employment of Traditional Handicrafts in Architectural Projects: Characteristics, Advantages and Economic contributions", in Tunis

2- 7 June 2008

The Handicraft National Agency of Tunis, attached to the Ministry of Trade and Traditional Industries, and the Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), in cooperation with the Tunisian Ministry of Culture and Heritage Preservation, will organise the international congress on "Employment of Traditional Handicrafts in Architectural Projects: Characteristics, Advantages and Economic Contributions", to be held in Tunis, on 2- 7 June 2008. The Congress activities will include exhibitions of traditional handicrafts, masterpieces from the Islamic world; artisans-at-work exhibitions, and the possibility to appoint two distinguished artisans reflecting the best of the country in the field of traditional industries employed in the architectural projects and in home furnishings. Other activities of the congress will be as follows: An exhibition of traditional industries products which can be used in the architectural projects of the Member States; Exhibitions of artisans-at-work; Exhibition of albums, catalogs and books published on the subject of traditional industries, which are being used or could be incorporated into architectural installations in the Member States.

The Congress will deal with aspects relating to tourism, culture and heritage, and study the methods that ensure a good use of traditional handicrafts sector in architectural projects, the benefits that can be obtained through the revival and development of this sector, the preservation of its traditional originality, and the ways of promoting and making it known through the available channels. The themes will cover all aspects of the traditional industries as

applied in architecture in the various Member States, the various schools and the multiple types of designs used, raw materials, applied techniques, their current situation, and the mutual influences with Western enterprises.

The congress will draw participants from the OIC member countries, international and regional organisations concerned, experts of the traditional industries in architectural projects, architects, designers, internal decor specialists, traditional manufacturers, etc. It seeks to provide an opportunity for them to meet, exchange views and experiences on the means of making best use of the sector and establish a permanent and practical policy to revive it. The Congress aims to issue recommendations on the following subjects: Increasing the level of employing the traditional industries products in the architectural and renovation projects in order to stimulate the sectors of tourism, culture and heritage, by promoting acquaintance with the esthetic aspect of the traditional-industry products in the Member States and the characteristics of creativity and innovation in this field; seeking the fields in which the economic role of the traditional industries would be activated; discussing the means to create jobs; creating a data- base on the current situation of the traditional industries sector and employing it in the Member States' architectural projects, through the research papers to be presented; Establishing a specialized library of all the publications issued in this field; activating competition and creativity among young artisans, in order to encourage innovations and provide incentives for the production of authentic and renewed products; crowning

the research papers with an academic document to meet the needs of concerned institutions in the Member States, and publishing the “ proceedings book”; developing a strategy of international cooperation towards developing the traditional industries and using them in architectural projects. Specifically, the congress will deal with the following traditional industries: 1. Decoration and miniatures; 2. Gypsum and sculpture; 3. Ceramics and porcelain; 4. Wood crafts; 5. Metal crafts; 6. Furniture and internal decoration; 7. Weaving and embroidery; 8. The relationship between traditional industries and architecture; 9. The traditional

architecture and the available skills and patterns; 10. The situation of the traditional industries in urban planning projects; 11. Employment of traditional industries in architecture; 12. Coordination between the designer, architect, and the traditional manufacturer. These themes will be dealt with under their various aspects: social, economic, tourism, marketing, heritage preservation, originality; cultural dialogue and mutual influences; education; training; the role of the government and private sector efforts; media and raising awareness on the importance of the sector and its constructive contributions to society.

Music Festival and Tourism Film Festival for OIC Member States to take place in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan September 2008

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan and IRCICA are planning to organise two festivals: the International Music Festival for OIC Member States and the International Tourism Film Festival for OIC Member States. The events will take place in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan in September 2008.

The International Music Festival aims to involve the 57 member countries of the OIC to be represented through their traditional music ensembles. The program will be conducted in stages, by selecting one representative country from each region of the Muslim world at each stage until all countries are represented. For a week's time at each stage, the music ensembles will perform concerts at various venues in the city of Baku. The concerts will be accompanied by exhibitions. An Exhibition of Traditional Musical Instruments of the Member States and an exhibition of CDs and Cassettes of the Traditional Music will be part of the event.

The Festival will provide the opportunity for the public to learn more about the different aspects of traditional music in various OIC countries and for musical groups to know each other and exchange experiences. Its objectives are:

- Activating the cultural and tourism sectors by the medium of traditional music;
- Raising awareness of the importance of traditional music as part of cultural heritage;
- Developing an updated database of the existing recordings of traditional music in OIC countries;
- Evaluating the present state of traditional music in the Islamic world.

The International Tourism Film Festival is planned as an innovative event which is expected to contribute in boosting touristic activity in OIC countries. The idea of the film festival involves in part the prospect of inviting the Member States to nominate two types of films: one brief film of one and a half minutes and a documentary film of 20 minutes.

During the one-week Festival, a jury of film experts will meet to evaluate these films and honour the best three in each of the two categories. The participating films will be shown to the public in various cinema halls in Baku.

Furthermore, the Festival will include a Panel of film experts in the field of tourism. The Member States will be invited to nominate experts and concerned professionals to discuss the present state and future prospects of film making in this specific area. The Panel will also be opened to the private sector. For a period of two days, experts will try to define a strategy for developing film making in the field of tourism that would meet today's needs in the OIC countries. The Panel will provide an opportunity for hearing about the experiences of some countries which were capable of attracting more tourists through such promotion.

The Festival objectives are:

- Encouraging the Member States to produce the best films for tourism development;
- Raising awareness of the importance of touristic films;
- Developing an updated database of the presently available tourism films of OIC countries;
- Organising competitive programs for film makers, to encourage creativity and innovation;
- Evaluating the present state of film making in the field of tourism in the Muslim world and drawing future guidelines;
- Publishing the proceedings of the Panel to serve as a reference for specialists working in this field.

Art Exhibitions

»»»» Exhibition by the Japanese calligrapher Mr. Fuad Kouichi Honda 16-30 November 2007

Professor Fouad Kouichi Honda is honorary member of National Calligraphers' Association in Egypt and President of Arabic Calligraphy Association of Japan. As a keen student of Islamic calligraphy, he participated in the second international calligraphy competition organised by IRCICA in 1990 and awarded an encouragement prize. Mr. Honda was also awarded an incentive prize in the third international calligraphy competition organized by IRCICA in 1993. He received his ijaza (diploma in Islamic calligraphy) from Calligrapher Hasan Çelebi in the year 2000. Professor Honda participated in various exhibitions held in Japan as well as other countries such as in Egypt, Iran, Kuwait, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. He also participated in the "Ijaza Exhibition" and "Word into Art Exhibition" held in 2005 and 2006 respectively, in British Museum, London. His interest in this art was not only limited to producing calligraphic compositions. He has always been eager to make this unique art known in Japan by his publications. He is the translator of the Japanese edition of IRCICA's publication titled *The Art of Calligraphy in Islamic Heritage*. This work appeared in Japanese in Tokyo, in 1996. His work titled *The Cosmos of Arabic Calligraphy: The Works of Fuad Kouichi Honda* appeared in Japanese, English, and Arabic. Professor Honda expresses his feelings about calligraphy by the following words: "Arabic calligraphy is no longer the mere act of handwriting, but has become, like poetry, the means by which I express myself and my feelings. When I inscribe a line, I have the feeling that I



Dr. Hiro Nao Matsutani, Consul General of Japan in Istanbul attended the opening

am writing more than just a verse. I feel beauty surrounding me and an embodiment of my invisible internal world." Professor Honda states that he has always thought of the strokes of Arabic calligraphy as living beings not only because of their shapes, but also because of their process of reproduction. After one stroke comes to its end, another one is born and follows- just like our life is handed over to the next by means of reproduction. The calligraphic composition is an independent mass, which, according

to Professor Honda, begins to move, as if it has a life of its own. This is just like numerous cells coming together and systematically composing a life-form.

The majority of the artist's works are inspired by nature and the cosmos as implied by their names. A total of twenty works were exhibited; some titles of his calligraphic works, which are all compositions of selected Quranic verses, are: The Clouds of Mercy (Surah ar-Rahman, 1-29); Light upon Light [Surah an-Nur (The Light), 35]; The Green Cosmos [Surah al-Baqarah, 255 (Ayah al Kursi)]; Nebula of Letters [Surah Ghafir (The Forgiver), 57-67]; The Spiral Nebula [Surah an-Naml (The Ant), 65-75]; Nebula of Letters Surah an-Nur (The Light), 35-46; The Clouds of the Night (Surah ar-Rum, 48-50); The Blue Mandala [Surah al-Hadid (The Iron), 1-6]; The Rose-Coloured Horizon (Surah at-Tariq and Surah al-A'la); and others. The ijaza (diploma of calligraphy) given to him by Mr. Hasan Çelebi in 2000 was also displayed in the exhibition.

»»»» "The Glorious Voyage of Silk and Gold": Exhibition of illuminated calligraphy 19-31 October 2007

This exhibition consisted of illuminated calligraphy plates and works of Turkish embroidery by contemporary artists who were trained at the 'İlim Yayma Cemiyeti' (the Society to Spread Knowledge), a society that was founded in 1951 in Istanbul. For centuries illuminated calligraphy has been used to decorate books, covers, manuscripts, imperial edicts and monograms, and particularly copies of the Quran with gold and various colors. The embroidery work is meticulously done on fine silk fabrics with gold and silver metallic threads. This exhibition was comprised of works by the following artists: Mukaddes Can, Zehra Çekin, Sema Çevik, Zehra Durmuş, Fatma Mete, and Hafize Özkaya.

»»»» "The Journey in Time": Miniature Exhibition by Harika Yazıcı and her students 2-12 November 2007

The artists Duygu Otçu, Güliz Akgiray, Çiğdem Kabadayı, Süreyya Şenel, and Fatoş Borbor, all students of Harika Yazıcı, displayed their works inspired by Islamic miniatures and gravures. The artists aim to revive and reinterpret traditional arts with new techniques and sometimes with a post-modern approach. Their paintings gave the visitors glimpses of life in Istanbul in the past.

Cultural Events

»»» Interregional Forum on the Protection of Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore organised in Sana'a, Yemen by WIPO and ISESCO 4-6 November 2007

Sana'a, the capital city of Yemen Republic, hosted this Forum organised by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO), on 4-6 November 2007. The countries represented at the meeting were: Albania, Egypt, Indonesia, Jamaica, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Sudan, Syria, Tunis, Turkey, and Uzbekistan. The following organisations were represented: IRCICA, OIC Islamic Centre for the Development of Trade; League of Arab States; Patent Office of the Cooperation Council for the States of the Gulf (GCCPO); the Arab Society for Intellectual Property (ASIP), Jordan; National Indigenous Knowledge Systems Office, South Africa; African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO), Zimbabwe; Peruvian Society for Environmental Law (SPDA), Peru; Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, India; Center for Arab and Mediterranean Music, Tunis, and Cairo University. After a review of the various regional experiences, expert presentations and discussions on the program topics, four working groups were created which drew specific recommendations on the following aspects of the main theme: Policy Development; Legislation; Capacity-building; Documentation. On policy development, the Forum invited the countries to develop efficient national strategies enabling the realisation of economic value for Traditional Knowledge holders and offering opportunities for the economic exploitation of this knowledge. The Forum also recommended the collection, documentation and classification of data on traditional knowledge and establishment of data bases, enhancement of cooperation and exchange of expertise among countries; assistance in the realisation of a Pilot Project in this field for subsequent

wider deployment; and, working towards the establishment, in each country, of public associations to deal with cultural heritage which would complement the work of government authorities in this field. A preliminary outcome of these preparations would be presented to the relevant Ministries of Member States for their comments on the Draft Law prior to its submission in its final form for adoption by the competent Council of Ministers of the League of Arab States. It was underlined that this work should take into consideration the national and regional specificities as well as specific needs and requirements and the need to integrate them into a single unified legal framework. The need to build on the experiences of other regional groups (Africa, Asian and Latin America) having taken measures in this area was also underlined. Relating to capacity building, the objective is to provide qualified staff and efficient institutions to collect, document and classify information on traditional knowledge and establishment of empirical databases to record this information. The Forum specified that this will involve action by national authorities concerned, towards increasing awareness of holders of traditional knowledge and encouraging them to present their assets for better preservation and subsequent economic exploitation, as well as towards urging research institutions to engage in studies on traditional knowledge. Besides, WIPO, ISESCO and other relevant organisations will provide "trainer-trainee" programs in the field of collection and documentation, provide expertise and technological assistance, including documentation systems, and follow up the results of fact-finding mission undertaken by WIPO in certain Arab countries.

»»» Festival of Arabic Calligraphy and Islamic Decorative Art held in Algiers 6-30 December 2007

Algiers as the Arab Cultural Capital 2007 hosted the First International Festival of Arabic Calligraphy and Islamic Decorative Art. The Festival took place under the patronage of H.E. President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, President of Algeria, during the period from 6 to 30 December 2008, in the magnificent "Rais' Palace" building. The Festival comprised an exhibition of nearly two hundred calligraphies. Workshops and demonstrations of calligraphic writing, illumination, marbled paper making were organized. These were presented by experts of these arts from eleven countries (Egypt, Irak, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey) in addition to those who came from various parts of Algeria itself. Another

major event was a Palestinian Cultural Week coinciding with the Festival period. Meanwhile, lectures were held at the National Library relating to the art of calligraphy, its history and various styles. The Festival activities provided excellent opportunities for artists from various countries to meet each other and learn about each others' works.

IRCICA participated in the Festival by coordinating lectures by six eminent experts of calligraphy from Turkey. The Centre also took the opportunity to present the awards and certificates of the Algerian calligraphers who won prizes in the Seventh Calligraphy Competition which was finalised in April 2007.

Book Survey

»»»» A selection of books received by IRCICA Library

Catalogues of manuscripts

- **Opisanie Pykopisey na Persidskom Yazike Nauchnoy Biblioteki Imeni N.I. Lobachevskogo Kazanskogo Gosudarstvennogo Universiteta** (Catalogue of manuscripts in the Persian language at the National Scientific Library of Kazan State University), compiled by A.A. Arslanova, edited by M.A. Usmanov, Islamic Manuscripts from the Russian Federation, Moscow-Kazan, 2005, 526 p.

This catalogue was printed in Russia with the contributions of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the millennium of the city of Kazan and bicentennial anniversary of Kazan State University. It is the first book in the series on the Persian manuscripts located at the National Library named after mathematician N. I. Lobachevsky. It contains information on Persian manuscripts dating from the 13th century until the end of the 19th century. The manuscripts in the catalogue are classified according to their subjects such as hagiography, anthology of poets, chemistry, history, astronomy, mathematics, algebra, calendar-making, life of Prophet Mohammed, history of the Shiites, medicine, Sufism, Qur'anic commentary, Islamic jurisprudence, the science of *hadith* (sayings of the Prophet), legends about the prophets, interpretation of dreams, etc. It has an index and colour photographs of some manuscripts. The catalogue is of particular interest to scholars engaged in oriental studies and Persian studies. The National Library of Kazan State University is one of the largest and oldest libraries in Russia. It was established in 1804 at the same time as Kazan State University. The library counts about five million books, journals, various printed materials and documents. In library stocks are kept ancient manuscripts (the most ancient of them belongs to the ninth century) and also the rarest editions - incunabula, first printed books, lifetime editions of classics of literature. The rich collection contains manuscripts in Russian, west European languages, Arabic, Persian, Tatar language and other eastern languages (most of them of the Turkic languages group). The collection of manuscripts expanded with the manuscripts of Sh. Mardjani Mosque, private donations and purchases of rare books. At present, the library has more than 13 thousand manuscripts. The first 1.500 manuscripts were donated by individuals such as Galim djan Barudi, Shikhab al-Din Mardjani, Ahmad Khadi Maksudi, Kurban Ali Burnaev, Salah al-Din b. Ishak and others. The well-known Russian mathematician N. I. Lobachevsky served as director of the Library during 1825-1835. In this period, the library was moved to a separate

building and opened to the public. At the same time, exchange programs of the library began and the cataloging system was established. The scientific library of Kazan State University is a leading reference center for the libraries of the institutes of higher education of the Volga-Ural region.

- **Sobraniye Vostochnikh Rukopisei Akademii Nauk Uzbekskoi SSR** (Collection of Oriental Manuscripts of the Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic Academy of Sciences), Edited by A.A. Semenov, Publication of the Academy of Sciences, Tashkent, 1952-1987.

This catalogue in eleven volumes published over the years 1952-1987 records the Islamic manuscripts that are located at the Oriental Institute of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan. The manuscripts are in Arabic, Persian, Tajik and Turkish languages. They belong to a period of one thousand years of Muslim culture. The oldest manuscript dated 344/955 is in Arabic. The majority of the manuscripts are unique copies. Among them are correspondence of the ruler of Khiva Khanate, the collection of Sharif Djan Makhtum, the last qadi of Bukhara, and the collection of the eminent orientalist V.L. Vyatkin. The manuscripts are on the various subjects: exegeses and commentaries of the Quran, Islamic jurisprudence, Islamic history, geography, pharmacology, and music. There are also manuscripts autographed by illustrious Muslim scholars such as Tabari, Zamakhshari, Buhari, Navai, Mardjani, Mahmud of Kashgar, Samarqandi. This unique collection of manuscripts preserved in the Oriental Institute was included in UNESCO's "Memory of the World" Program which was launched in 1992 for the preservation of the valuable archive holdings and library collections all over the world.

- **Arabic Geographic Manuscripts at the Bodleian Library, Oxford University**, Classified and commented by Prof. Abdullah Y. al-Ghunaim, Oxford: OCIS 2006, 6+405 pp.

Bodleian Library, one of the most well-known of the forty libraries of Oxford University, is also one of the oldest and richest of the world for its collections of Arabic and Oriental manuscripts. This book consists of an index of the manuscripts, with descriptions on each manuscript, their comparisons with other copies existing around the world, and a record of how they were brought from their original locations to the Bodleian Library. The classification

of the manuscripts according to their subjects which also composes the book's sections is as follows: Regional Geography and Books on Countries, Physical Geography, Gazetteers, Voyagers Books, Topography Books, Navigation and Seafaring, Cosmography.

History, historiography

- Gábor Ágoston, **Guns for the Sultan: Military Power and the Weapons Industry in the Ottoman Empire**, Cambridge University Press, 2005, xvi + 277 p.

This book primarily aims to understand the Ottoman weapons industry, the systems and modalities by which the sultans obtained their armaments. The major part of its contents focuses on the Ottoman armaments industry in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. This was a period characterised by siege warfare rather than by pitched battles in the Ottomans' confrontations with their adversaries. The supply of artillery and gunpowder was a significant element of success in these sieges.

The author, Professor Ágoston from Georgetown University's Department of History, has based the study on extensive research in the Turkish archives. He aims to explain the early success of the Ottoman Empire against Europe and its later failure in the military field. By a comparative approach, the author challenges some Eurocentric and orientalist views and provides new insights on the subject. He also demonstrates that the Ottomans were self-sufficient in weapons production well into the eighteenth century.

As noted by the author, the Turkish Archives have rich materials on the important sectors of early modern war industry such as Ottoman gun casting, saltpeter and gunpowder manufacturing. However, there is still a dearth of studies in this field. The work by Salim Aydüz on the Imperial Cannon Foundry and Cannon Casting Technology appeared recently (Ankara, 2006). The present book fills this gap and stimulates questions for further research.

- **The Cambridge History of Turkey, Vol. 3: The Later Ottoman Empire, 1603-1839**, Edited by Suraiya N. Faroqi, Cambridge University Press, 2006, xx+ 619 p.

This third volume in the series titled *The Cambridge History of Turkey* is a comprehensive history of the later Ottoman period written by scholars from all around the world. The series comprises the following four volumes: Volume 1: *Byzantium-Turkey, 1071-1453*; volume 2: *The Ottoman Empire as a World Power, 1453-1603*; Volume 3: *The Later Ottoman Empire, 1603-1839*; Volume 4: *Turkey in the Modern World*. The contributors to Volume 3 are Suraiya Faroqi, Wolf Hütteroth, Christoph K. Neumann, Carter Findley, Virginia Aksan, Linda Darling, Dina Khoury, Fikret Adanır, Bruce Masters, Madeline Zilfi, Minna Rozen, Edhem Eldem, Cem

Behar, Tülay Artan, Hatice Aynur. The book covers the period from the death of Mehmed III in 1603 to the proclamation of the Tanzimat, the administrative reconstruction of the Ottoman State, in 1839. This period was marked by relative stability when the trade between the empire and Europe flourished, and, except for wartime, merchants and pilgrims traveled in relative security. However, tensions still existed between the ruling elite in Istanbul and their subjects in the provinces. This is one of the central themes in the volume.

Other chapters focus on social, religious and political groups, women, trade, rural life; music, art and architecture, literature. The history emphasizes the political, cultural and artistic accomplishments of the Ottomans in the post-classical period. It thus challenges traditional notions that the eighteenth century was a period of stagnation. It is an indispensable reference for researchers in Ottoman history.

- Jan Knappert, **Swahili Culture, Studies in Swahili Language and Literature**, New York: Edwin Melen Press, 2005, Book One, vol. 5a, Book Two, vol. 5b

This excellent book presents a comprehensive study of the culture of the Swahili, the people who live along the coast of East Africa between Marika in the North and Mozambique in the south. This culture also spread to the islands along the Somali Coast. Swahili is the first language of the coastal population of East African Muslims who constitute the majority using Swahili as their literary and religious medium. People of the Northern Mozambique coast have their own language, but they use Swahili in Arabic script for the literary representation of their Islamic culture. The majority of the Muslim people of the East African interior use Swahili as a second language.

The book is both instructive and pleasant reading on myriad aspects of Swahili life including the geography, history and peoples, economic life, agriculture, arts and crafts, society, marriage and family law, religions, Swahili language, literature and scripts, prose, poetry, dance, songs, music and instruments, some diseases and remedies in Swahili culture, the relation between religion and healing in Africa, the calendar and Islamic festivities, an overview of Swahili astronomy and cosmology. Altogether, a rich language, a rich culture, many components of which such as music, painting and architecture are disappearing under the influence of modern technology and communications. The author, the well-known linguist Jan Knappert (1927-2005), was an authority on Swahili language and culture. His series of publications on the subject constitute an axis of research and literature in this field. In addition, he translated many literary works from Swahili. Knappert taught in Leuven and London, as well as several African universities. He contributed, together with Arthur Irvine, the Chapter 6 on African Languages in the UNESCO Publication *The Different Aspects of Islamic Culture*, Vol. 5 on Culture and Learning in Islam (2003), a volume published under the chief editorship of Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu.

IRCICA Publications

■ **Catalogue of Winners' Plates in the Seventh International Calligraphy Competition in the name of Hashim Mohammad Al-Baghdadi (1335-1393 h/1917-1973 AD), IRCICA, Istanbul, 2007**

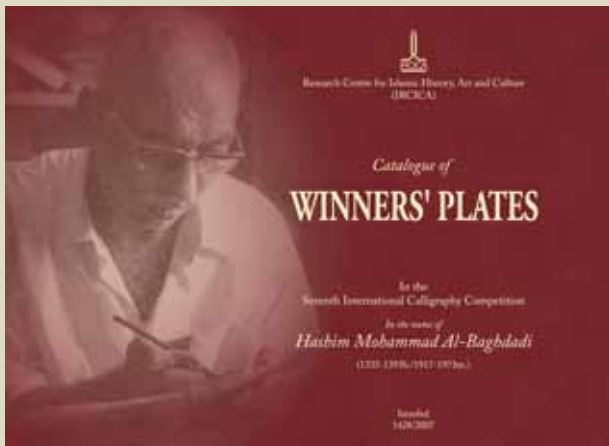
This catalogue contains the reproductions of the 94 award-winning calligraphic works of the Seventh International Calligraphy Competition which was organised by IRCICA and finalized in April 2007. Following IRCICA's tradition of dedicating each triennial competition to a master of classical calligraphy, the seventh competition was named after the Iraqi calligrapher Hashim Mohammad Al-Baghdadi (1335-1393 h/1917-1973 AD). 916 calligraphers from 38 countries participated in this competition,

with 1616 entries in fourteen different styles of writing, namely jaly thuluth, thuluth, naskh, jaly taliq, nastaliq, jaly diwani, diwani, kufi, muhaqqaq, reyhani, ijaza, riqa, maghribi and hurda taliq. 21 awards and 74 mentions were distributed for the 94 calligraphies presented in the catalogue. In addition, 42 participants were given incentive prizes by decision of the Jury. Thus in total, 119 calligraphers from 25 countries received prizes.

In addition to the reproductions of the calligraphies, the catalogue also includes the names and addresses of the winners and a list of those who received incentive prizes which are published in order to encourage communications among the calligraphers.



سَبَّحَ لِلَّهِ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ لَهُ مَا تَسْمُونَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ وَإِلَيْهِ يَرْجِعُ الْأَمْوَالُ
عَلَىٰ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدِيرٌ هُوَ الْوَلِيُّ وَالْآخِرُ وَالظَّاهِرُ وَالْبَاطِنُ وَهُوَ بِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ عَلِيمٌ هُوَ الَّذِي خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ
وَالْأَرْضَ فِي سِتَّةِ أَيَّامٍ يُرِيدُ أَنْ يَسْتَوِيَ عَلَى الْعَرْشِ عِشْرِينَ لَيْلَةً فِي الْأَرْضِ وَمَا يُخْرِجُ مِنْهَا وَمَا يُنَزِّلُ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ
وَمَا يَرْجِعُ فِيهَا وَهُوَ مَعَكُمْ أَيْنَ مَا كُنْتُمْ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ بَصِيرٌ لَهُ مَا تَسْمُونَ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ وَإِلَيْهِ يَرْجِعُ الْأَمْوَالُ
يُرِيدُ أَنْ يَسْتَوِيَ عَلَى الْعَرْشِ عِشْرِينَ لَيْلَةً فِي الْأَرْضِ وَمَا يُخْرِجُ مِنْهَا وَمَا يُنَزِّلُ مِنَ السَّمَاءِ



IRCICA Publications

From top: Mention in Kufi, by Salah M. Abdel Khalek, Egypt;
Mention in Ijaza, by Yaqub I. Suleiman, Jordan;
2nd Award in Jaly Thuluth, by Munib Obradovic, Bosnia and Herzegovina.



تقویم و وقایع

(Ottoman Administration in The Sudan in the Light of Archival Documents), Prepared by Uğurhan Demirbaş et al., Introduction by Halit Eren and Yusuf Sarımay, translated by Salih Sadawi, IRCICA, 2007, xxxvi+447 p.+ 144 documents and maps (in Arabic)

This collection of the Ottoman archive documents was prepared for publication by archivists at the Department of the Ottoman Archives, Turkish Prime Ministry's General Directorate of the Ottoman Archives, namely Uğurhan Demirbaş, Ali Osman Çınar, Mücahit Demirel, Seher Dilber, Recep Karacakaya, Nuran Koltuk, Ümmihani Ünemlioğlu, Kemal Gurulkan, Yusuf İhsan Genç. Its contents were translated into Arabic and published by IRCICA.

The documents reproduced in this book in their translation from Ottoman Turkish into Arabic are official decrees and registers of the Ottoman State concerning the parts of its territory which are included in modern-day Sudan. For example, a major part of the province of Habeş (Abyssinia) is within The Sudan today; therefore, archive registers concerning this important region are included in the book. The aim of this publication is to render these first-hand sources on the history of The Sudan accessible to readers in Arabic. The book is in two parts. The first part has an Introduction and a section titled "Sudan under Ottoman rule".

The Introduction gives brief information on the documents: Mühimmes (the series of registers for the imperial council), tapu tahrir defters (population and cadastral registers), name-i hümayuns (autographed orders of the Sultan), ruûs, vakfiye and nişan defters, fermans (firmans), hatt-ı hümayuns (imperial decrees), muahedenâmes (treaties), maps. There are also chronicles and memoirs. The documents reproduced in the first part deal mainly with state administration, the Indian Campaign of the Ottomans which took place with the purpose of protecting the rights of the Muslims in South Asia and on the shores of the Indian Ocean against the attacks of the Spanish and the Portuguese. Following this campaign, the Ottomans organized another campaign in middle Nile in order to protect the rights of the Muslims in this area and to secure their boundaries in Africa. Thus, the Ottomans established a sanjak and a short period afterwards an eyalet in part of present-day Sudan. It was called the province of Habeş.

The period from 1555 until the beginning of the 17th century marks the establishment and development stages of this province. A joint Egyptian and British administration was established in The Sudan on January 19, 1899, following the agreement signed between these two states. This agreement marked the end of the Ottoman sovereignty in the Sudan. The second part contains the transcriptions and facsimile reproductions of some important documents. The original Turkish edition will be published by the Department of Ottoman Archives of the Turkish Prime Ministry's General Directorate of State Archives.

Takvim-i Vekayi, the Official Gazette of the Ottoman Empire (published from 1831 to 1923), on DVD/CD

Takvim-i Vekayi, the Official Gazette of the Ottoman Empire, was published from 1831 to 1923. IRCICA made its reproductions available in the form of 11 DVDs and one CD. It is a valuable source of information for researchers in history whose subjects of interest relate to the second half of the 19th century. The gazette was issued with intervals, over three periods: 1 November 1831–8-9 April 1880, 2139 numbers; 26 March 1891-14 May 1892, 283 numbers; 28 September 1908 – 4 November 1922, 4608 numbers. Thus 7030 numbers were published in total. The gazette not only announced the decisions of the State, but was also a medium of information on actual facts and events. One finds in it official news concerning the State, military news, and also internal news, external news, orders and decisions of the Sultan; laws, regulations, declarations; budgetary and financial news; graduations, medals; economic and health news; scientific news; commercial and industrial news; strange events; public notices. It is an important first-hand source on the history of many countries which were part of or maintained relations with the Ottoman State.

It was published in Turkish and sometimes also in the following languages, although for short periods and irregularly: Arabic, Persian, Greek, Armenian and French. Takvim-i Vekayi is an indispensable source for researchers interested in the late periods of Ottoman history.

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تقویم و وقایع

جدید چاپ بادشاہی چیت مکان سلطان محمد خان نازی حضرت بزرگ عبد سلطنتیہ (تقریباً واقع) نامیہ تالیف یورشل اولان جبرہ و سببہ قبل مدت زبنت سار عالم مطبوعات اولش ایکس سکراری بعض عوارض ومواسمہ اوغراچدی شمدیہ قدر متروک و مدغل قاض اولغینی عالمہ چاب و بستان ایم مر و شرکت هارونی آنا غا مزاد و فراوان و آستان بند ایران فیض مرقوقی الی اغرا فورا نام فورا بشکان صدق نشان بیروسون ولی نعت چیتیز بادشاہی سلطانیک آکادمه و شینا و دوقان آکادمه حضرت بزرگ سلطنت حال ملک و ملک بدیا شیر اخلا اولان جوس هارون مینت عون شاعاقلاری روز فیروزندیرو آن بان جلوه نامی سامه حصول اولقده برتاک بوجه مائر برکیزده جهان میندا غرا لیکه خشیه مسان و سببہ اولی اوزده چدهارون حضرت علائقنا هر بزرگ ارجیلانی ایما منسد عالیه تهریم و قلیک یکیدن احداث و اغراض حتمه اراده موحت ماده چناب ملککاری شیرفرز سوح و سدور اولش و متطوق امر و فرمان مائل خزان ولی نعت اعظمتک نامی انشاؤنه عالمه تدابیر مقصیه و لوازم طیبیه استکمال و انتحضار و چناب لرم اراجیکه اعلامه نشان دولت اید مدت ایچون بلقی و احسان بیرومضی اولغینی وجود بیود مقدسیت نمود بادشاہتک تیز بر معه ملای شیود ایلیکینه صادقه لشف و اسند ایمان اولان اشیر بوم چلیک فیوضات لیبنا یسمن استاده ایچون برهی نسنه ملک تیکا و تبرکا بوکون نثریه ایتار اولمشدور .

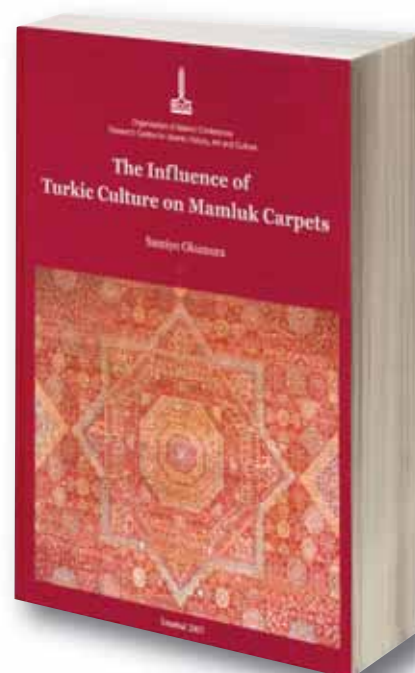
- Ahmet Kavas, **L'Enseignement islamique en Afrique francophone: Les Médersas de la République du Mali** (Islamic education in French-speaking Africa: the Medersas of the Republic of Mali), IRCICA, Istanbul, 2003, vii+424 p; ill. (in French)



As early as the 14th century Mali, a great empire of the time, assumed a major role in introducing Islamic education in Africa. Timbuctu flourished in that period as an international centre where students from all corners of the continent were trained in Quranic sciences and the Arabic language. Other cities flourished around it, building a network of centres of learning which left an immense intellectual and written heritage. Later, the 18th and 19th centuries saw successive movements of revival in Islamic education. From the end of 19th century onwards, under the French administration, different types of schools were established: the secular public schools, the Islamic schools or medersas, and the Christian schools. Following the foundation of the Republic of Mali, the modern medersa system assumed a key role in Islamic education. This comprehensive book on the developments of the 20th century resulted from the author's doctorate thesis at the University of Paris-7-Denis Diderot, conducted under the advice of Prof. Jean-Louis Triaud. The research is based on in-depth studies in the archives of Mali and Paris. It covers the processes starting with the evolution of modern Islamic education in French-speaking Africa, especially the Quranic school of the colonial period which already existed before and continued to exist after this period, and deals in great detail with the present state of the medersas and Islamic education, with ample data on their activities, their curricula, their teachers and their students, and their cultural and social influences. The information provided on the medersas is not limited to those of Mali; those of Algeria, Senegal, Mauritania, and the attempts to establish a medersa in Guinea are examined as well. The chapters on the history of development and the present status of the medersas of Mali as a modernised Islamic institution make of this book an essential reference in its field.

- Sumiyo Okumura, **The Influence of Turkic Culture on Mamluk Carpets**, Islamic Art Series No. 11, IRCICA, 2007, 277 p., ill.

Carpets and rugs represent an important branch of the traditional arts and handicrafts of the Muslim world. They are studied by IRCICA in its programs relating to arts, handicrafts and history of arts. Within the framework of IRCICA's Craft Development Program, "Carpets and kilims" constitute one of the main categories of the awards for handicrafts of the Muslim world. Furthermore, IRCICA devoted one of its scholarly meetings to this theme exclusively: an international symposium was organized under the title "Traditional carpets and kilims in the Muslim world" jointly with the Ministry of Tourism, Leisure and Handicrafts of Tunisia, in 1999, and its papers were published by IRCICA as a book. The theme is also covered within the framework of the congresses IRCICA organises on arts and the history of arts, with respect to the diverse artistic, aesthetical and functional characteristics carpets acquired in different periods, at different places. As part of this history, the carpets used by the nomadic Turks in Central Asia were, beyond their functional usage, an art which they carried with them in their journey to different lands where they ruled from the tenth and eleventh centuries onwards. They influenced the Mamluk carpets, which constitute the theme of this book. The latter were renowned and most valued until the sixteenth century. This book by Dr. Sumiyo Okumura, a historian of art from Japan, is published by IRCICA. It is an extensive study of Mamluk carpets, their unique features and their evolution, with due regard to cross-cultural influences observable in this process. The author's technical analysis of twenty pieces out of to seventy-seven Mamluk carpets she included in the catalogue section of the book will be highly useful for researchers in the field. The study comes in an amply illustrated beautiful edition.



- **Sultan II. Abdülhamid Arşivi İstanbul Fotoğrafları/ Photographs of Istanbul from the Archives of Sultan Abdülhamid II**, published by the Greater Municipality of İstanbul Kültür A.Ş. and IRCICA, March 2007, 679 p.



This album has been prepared and published by the Municipality of Greater İstanbul, through its cultural institution “Kültür AŞ”, and IRCICA. It contains 576 photographs of İstanbul taken at the end of the 19th-beginning of the 20th century and showing districts, buildings, scenes of social life and economic activity.

These photographs were selected from the Yıldız Photograph Albums, which comprise a total of around 35000 photographs taken all over the Ottoman empire at the time. Their reproductions were made, classified and annotated by IRCICA. The album is supplemented with an introduction on the history of photography, information on the photographers having worked in various parts of the Ottoman empire and photograph studios, and an index arranged according to the photographers. The book has forewords by: Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of Turkey, the Secretary General of the OIC Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, the Mayor of İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality Arch. Dr. Kadir Topbaş, and IRCICA Director General Halit Eren. The photographs are grouped by their subject, under the following headings: landscapes, palaces (mansions, waterside residences, residences, pavilions), mosques, tombs, fountains (public fountains, cisterns, aqueducts), monuments, barracks (police stations), hospitals, schools, public buildings, museums, ceremonies and processions, foreign officials, factories, social life, city walls, sports, the 1894 earthquake.

- **History of Natural and Applied Science Literature during the Ottoman Period**, prepared by E. İhsanoğlu, R. Şeşen, S. Bekar, G. Gündüz, V. Bulut, Editor: E. İhsanoğlu, Series of Studies and Sources on History of Science No. 13, History of Ottoman Literature of Science Series No. 6, 2 vols., IRCICA, İstanbul, 2006, CXLVIII+1562 pp.

This sixth book in the series titled *History of Ottoman Literature of Science* gives bibliographic information on the scientific works – books, treatises, articles, reports, legal documents, etc. - that were produced in the fields of natural and applied sciences during the Ottoman period (1299-1923) over the geographical area covered by the Ottoman state, together with biographical information on their authors. The branches of science covered in the book are: physics, chemistry, meteorology, botanic, zoology, geology, engineering, agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry, construction, gastronomy, precious stones. A total of 3354 works are recorded. The authors of 2407 of them are known, while the authors of 926 works recorded are unknown. A considerable part of all works recorded are translations. Following the establishment of European-style educational institutions in the Ottoman state during the 18th and 19th centuries, introducing the teaching of modern mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, zoology, botanic and technical subjects in higher education, a reform started and gained momentum with the translation of numerous works from European languages into Turkish and Arabic. From the 1880s onwards innovations made in Europe were followed closely by scientists of the Muslim world, especially in the fields of medicine, agriculture, veterinary science, forestry. The previous volumes in this series were on the scientific literature in astronomy, mathematics, geography, music, military arts and science. The next publication will cover the literature in medicine, dentistry and pharmacology.



New Publication by IRCICA

Al-Mushaf Al-Sharif Attributed to ‘Uthman bin ‘Affan

(The copy at the Topkapı Palace Museum)

Prepared for publication by Dr. Tayyar Altıkulaç,

Preface by Prof. Dr. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Istanbul 1428 / 2007, Critical editions series; no. 2
(Introduction in Turkish, English and Arabic)



This book contains the critical edition of an original copy of the Holy Quran attributed to the time of Caliph Othman: this is the copy known as the “Othman (R.A.) Mushaf [Quran copy]” located in the Topkapı Palace Museum. The study on this particular copy and its preparation for publication have been done by a leading scholar in Quranic studies, ex-President of Religious Affairs in Turkey, presently Deputy in the Turkish Parliament, Dr. Tayyar Altıkulaç. Earlier, IRCICA had published two other historical copies of the Quran. One was the copy known as Fazıl Pasha Mushaf, written in the name of the Seljukid Sultan Tugrul Bey in 582/1186 and kept in Gazi Hüsrev Bey Library in Sarajevo, which was published by IRCICA in a facsimile edition. The second one was the first Quran copy to be printed in the Islamic world which was printed in Kazan, Tatarstan, in 1803; the copy was reprinted in Istanbul in 2005 at the initiative of the Municipality of Kazan, on the occasion of the millennium of Kazan City, following a technical revision by IRCICA in preparation for printing. The “Othman (R.A.) Mushaf” also known as the “Topkapı Mushaf” and kept at nr. H.S. 44/32 in the Museum, is one of the oldest manuscripts of the Holy Quran

that reached to the present day. Dr. Altıkulaç has done a meticulous comparative study and technical analysis of the copy; the Introduction explains the method followed and the findings obtained. Dr. Altıkulaç further enriches this instructive text with information on the history of Quran copies and recitation of the Quran. With only two pages (23 verses) lacking, “Topkapı Mushaf” is the closest to the complete text of the Quran. As indicated in detail and with examples in the text of Dr. Altıkulaç, certain parts of the manuscript had become unreadable due to the effects of time. With patient and careful research, Dr. Altıkulaç was able to decipher these parts using certain criteria and signs and to reconstitute the original copy.

The funding for the printing of this book was provided by H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan bin Mohamed al-Qassimi, Member of the Supreme Council of the U.A.E. and Ruler of Sharjah. Publication of Dr. Tayyar Altıkulaç’s work represents at the same time the concretisation of a goal which was formulated by Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu in the early 1980s, to print an edition of the “Topkapı Mushaf”, given the value and importance of this copy.

