



Newsletter



OIC RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE

Visits of Heads of State and Government to IRCICA:

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President of the Republic of Turkey

H.E. Mr. Awn Shawkat Al-Khasawneh,
Prime Minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

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- IRCICA's activities during the Fourth Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilisations (Doha, Qatar, 2011)
- International symposium on The Image of the Muslim World in Evliya Çelebi's Seyahatname
- IRCICA's Album of historical photographs of Bursa launched under the chairmanship of the Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey H.E. Mr. Bülent Arınç
- Forthcoming:
 - * Fourth Annual Seminar of the Al-Ouds/Jerusalem 2015 Program
 - * International congress on «China and the Muslim World: Cultural Encounters» to be organized jointly with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, in Beijing
 - * Tehran International Conference and Exhibition on Arts and Handicrafts
 - * Second International Symposium on "Islamic Civilisation in Central Asia" to be held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Distinguished visitors, meetings, cooperation

Book survey

Newsletter



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In this issue

2

Visits of Heads of State and Government to IRCICA:
H.E. Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey
(16 September 2011);

H.E. Mr. Awn Shawkat Al-Khasawneh,
Prime Minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
(16 December 2011)

5

Activities

- IRCICA's activities during the Fourth Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilisations (Doha, Qatar, 11-13 December 2011)
- International symposium on The Image of the Muslim World in Evliya Çelebi's Seyahatname
- IRCICA's Album of historical photographs of Bursa launched under the chairmanship of the Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey H.E. Mr. Bülent Arınç
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 - * Tehran International Conference and Exhibition on Arts and Handicrafts
 - * Second International Symposium on "Islamic Civilisation in Central Asia" to be held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

10

Distinguished visitors, meetings, cooperation

17

Book survey

19

New publications

EDITORIAL

During 2011 our Centre devoted some of its activities to the subject of travel literature. This came in parallel to a trend that has been growing recently in academic milieus as concerns with inter-faith and inter-cultural issues: it consists of a renewed interest and development of new perspectives in the study of travel literature. The latter, though since long a subject matter of studies in letters as well in history, now receives added attention as a body of first-hand sources on the history of international relations. As themes related to mutual understanding, interactions and dialogue between peoples of different faiths and cultures acquired widening dimensions within the study of international relations past and present, written accounts of travels made into different cultural territories at different epochs gained increasing importance not only as narratives and descriptions of places, peoples and events but also as reflections and records of travelers' observations and evaluations reflecting their background culture's, time's and/or personal conceptions and convictions. In this regard the new research interest aims to explore the "reciprocal glances" or "crossing views" of travelers from different cultures into each other's worlds which it does through comparisons of travel books as to their respective approaches to the "Other". Over the centuries travelers from the east and the west circulated in lands and among communities similar to and different from their own with various motives ranging from ambassadorial missions or commerce to learning or satisfaction of curiosity. Travels took place across continents and across civilizations from earliest history onwards producing large numbers of travel books in manuscript and printed forms recording encounters between peoples of different faiths and cultures; between the Muslim world and China or India, the Arab world and the Turkic world or Russia, Europe and North Africa or the Ottoman Empire, depending on the era. Besides world-renown explorers such as Ibn Battuta and Marco Polo, a number of others from all parts of the world who are practically unknown to laymen have left travel books of great significance; one of them is the 17th-century Ottoman traveler Evliya Çelebi, to whom increasing attention has been devoted since recently from within and outside specialist circles. UNESCO's declaring Evliya Çelebi as "Man of the Year" in 2011 to mark the 400th anniversary of his birth is both an indication and a contribution in this sense. IRCICA for its part has devoted two scholarly events to travel literature in general and Evliya Çelebi in particular both of which took place in December as the present issue was in preparation. The first event was a session which ISESCO and IRCICA organised jointly within the framework of the Fourth Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilisations held

in Doha, Qatar on 11-13 December. Comparative studies were presented on four major travelers and their travel books. The session underscored the importance of travel literature and its role in promoting intercultural exchanges and dialogue. The second event was a congress organized by IRCICA and Al Albeit University, Amman, Jordan focusing on Evliya Çelebi and his travel book with regard to its coverage and descriptions of various parts of the Muslim world. Our studies and activities on travel literature will continue in 2012.

Visits by heads of state, heads and members of government and delegates from the OIC Member States to IRCICA are always a source of honour and encouragement for the Centre. In September, we were most honoured to receive on our premises H.E. Abdullah Gül, President of Turkey. It was a renewed expression of the support and attention accorded to IRCICA by its host country Turkey and at the same time, of the personal interest of H.E. the President in the Centre's fields of activity. Most recently, in December, IRCICA was most honoured to receive at its headquarters H.E. Mr. Awn Shawkat Al-Khasawneh, Prime Minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. It was an excellent occasion for us to give first-hand information to the Prime Minister on our activities and their results and also to review the cooperation between Jordanian cultural institutions and our Centre. We are highlighting in this issue these and also other important visits, by Ministers and scholarly personalities from the Member States whom we were honoured to receive on our premises during the period since September.

Several publications by IRCICA that were in preparation during 2011 have appeared in the course of the last few months; we are presenting them in this issue. Last but not the least, we are announcing the congress on "China and the Muslim World: Cultural Encounters" that is in preparation with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences to be held in June 2012, the second congress on "Islamic Civilisation in Central Asia" to be held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, and the conference and exhibition on arts and handicrafts to take place in Tehran, Iran. Meanwhile, the results of the Second Muscat International Festival on Arts and Crafts (after the first one held in January-February 2011) to take place on 3-23 February 2012 will be outlined in the next issue.

The present issue covering the period of September-December 2011 appears in January 2012. On this occasion I wish all our readers a happy and prosperous New Year.

Dr. Halit Eren

Visits of Heads of State and Government to IRCICA

H.E. Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey, visited IRCICA

The President of the Republic of Turkey H.E. Abdullah Gül visited IRCICA on 16 September 2011. The President received information on the activities, the present status of the different long-term programs such as the studies on the history of the copies and translations of the Holy Quran, the architectural program relating to the study and preservation of the Islamic heritage in Al-Quds, and the series of conferences dealing with the history and the living cultural heritage of Islamic civilization being organized in different regions of the world. Director General Dr. Halit Eren guided the President to the library at Silahhane Building, which is one of the largest structures of the Yıldız Palace complex and was allocated by the Turkish Government to IRCICA library in 2007. Here, President Gül was briefed on the modernization and expansion projects which were carried out in the library in recent years and the main collections rendered available to researchers. When he

saw samples from the collections of historical maps, President Gül described map-making as an important technique that draws from various sciences and recalled that earlier the same morning he had attended the opening of the new academic year at Istanbul Technical University, which was founded in 1773 as an institution concerned with map-making. Dr. Eren also briefed the President on the digital library that the Centre developed under the name “Farabi” and where some authentic sources on history and culture such as the Ottoman Salnames (yearbooks) and the publications of IRCICA are loaded. After receiving information on these and other activities President Gül referred to another documentary collection maintained by IRCICA namely the archive of historical photographs. He recalled his state visit to Japan in 2008 which was accompanied by an exhibition and an album prepared by IRCICA containing photographs of Japanese cities and major events in Japanese-



The President saw samples of old maps from the Centre's collections

Turkish relations selected from the Yıldız Palace albums dating from the period of Sultan Abdulhamid II. After the library President Gül also saw some other departments of the Centre at Çit Qasr, which houses some of the Centre's collections of incunabula and rare books.

At the end of his visit President Gül signed the Visitors Book of the Centre: "I am very pleased to visit IRCICA which makes great contributions to studies on Islamic history, culture and art and which we are proud to be the host country. On this occasion I congratulate the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren for his praiseworthy works and wish him continual success." He received the plaque of gratitude which was presented by Dr. Eren for the patronage, support and assistance graciously extended to the Centre.



President Gül saw a copy of the Mushaf (Quran copy) of Qatar printed by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of Qatar with technical contributions by IRCICA



The album of the photograph exhibition on Japanese-Ottoman relations which was organized by IRCICA on the occasion of President Gül's visit to Japan in 2008

The Prime Minister of Jordan H.E. Mr. Awn Shawkat Al-Khasawneh at IRCICA

IRCICA was honoured to receive H.E. Mr. Awn Shawkat Al-Khasawneh, Prime Minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, on its premises on Friday, 16 December 2011. IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren briefed the Prime Minister on the Centre's activities in general and its cooperation with the Government and the cultural institutions of Jordan in particular. Dr. Eren said that the most recent example of projects resulting from this cooperation was the conference on the Ottoman Traveler Evliya Çelebi which was going to start in Amman in two days time, on 18 December, for which Al-Albeit University and IRCICA had collaborated. The Prime Minister was then guided to the Centre's library, where he received information on the library's holdings and IRCICA's own publications. Dr. Eren briefed Prime Minister Al-Khasawneh on the main collections and their classification systems in the library, including the collections of translations of the Holy Quran in world's languages, the collections of calligraphic works which consist principally of the works submitted to the competitions organized by the Centre, the rare books and early printed books, and the holdings of the archives including the collections of historical photographs. The Prime Minister also saw samples of the Centre's publications resulting from its various programs and projects.



The Prime Minister of Jordan H.E. Mr. Al-Khasawneh was briefed by Dr. Eren on the activities. Here, an early 20th-century photograph of Yıldız Palace



The Prime Minister was briefed by Dr. Eren on the album of historical photographs of Al-Quds

Prime Minister Al-Khasawneh signed the Visitors Book of the Centre: "It is my great pleasure to write these words to express my admiration of the great achievements made by the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture in Istanbul in many fields, i.e. revival of the history and civilization of the Islamic Ummah. I would also like to express my thanks to those working in the Centre for their distinction, high capacity and determination to fulfill their duties."

ACTIVITIES

IRCICA's activities during the Fourth Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilisations

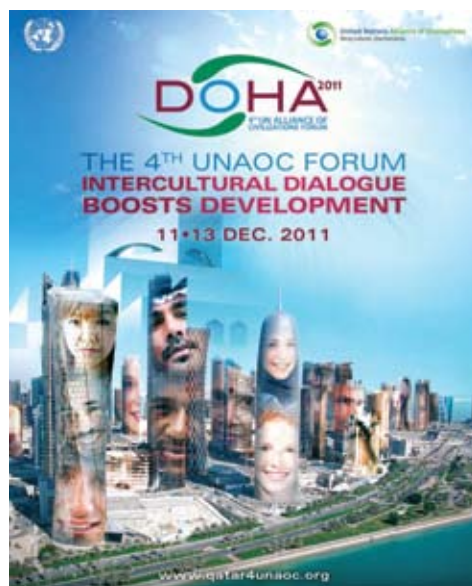
(Doha, Qatar, 11-13 December 2011)

The Alliance of Civilizations was established in 2005 by the Governments of Spain and Turkey under the auspices of the United Nations. It aims to improve understanding and cooperative relations among nations and peoples across cultures and religions and to help counter the forces that fuel polarization and extremism. The UNAOC's preceding forums were held in Madrid, January 2008; Istanbul, April 2009, and Rio de Janeiro, 2010. The Fourth Forum, held in Doha, Qatar, confirmed the global scope of the Alliance of Civilizations and provided new and existing partners a platform to collaborate with each other on substantive projects in the field of intercultural relations.

The Doha Forum was organized at the initiative of H.H. Sheikha Moza bint Nasser, member of the High Level Group of the UNAOC, from 11-13 December 2011. More than 2,500 attendees met in Doha, including Heads of State, Ministers of Foreign Affairs, NGOs, representatives of civil society, young leaders, foundations, media, academia and corporate sector. The Forum revolved around three key themes:

- How does cultural diversity impact development? – the missing link
- Promoting trust and tolerance to advance development goals
- New strategies for intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation

The Forum tackled the issue of the missing link between culture and development and the notion of cultural diversity with the necessary tools that must be established to make the cultural factor a key element in development policies. At the closing of the Forum, the UNAOC High Representative Jorge Sampaio stated that "From this Forum emerged a positive narrative about diversity." Among the many highlights of the Forum period, there were key events such as the Youth Event, where diverse group of 400 young leaders met to debate key aspects of cross-cultural and inter-religious understanding, BMW Awards, a new kind of partnership between the private sector and the UN system that aims to select highly innovative projects that promote exchange and cross-culture understanding, and make a vital contribution to safety and peace in societies around the world. (<http://www.qatar4unaoc.org>)



IRCICA is a member of the Group of Friends of the UNAOC. Prior to the Doha Forum, the Centre actively participated in the Fourth Annual Focal Points Meeting of the UNAOC which was held in Lisbon, Portugal on 2 November 2011, as well as the Lisbon Forum co-organized by the UNAOC and the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe on 3-4 November 2011. During the Focal Points Meeting a presentation was made by



IRCICA's presentation on the 17th-century Ottoman traveler Evliya Çelebi

IRCICA on the innovative projects it conducts in the field of heritage preservation, involving workshops, training programs and architectural schools attended by professors and students from various cultural backgrounds to jointly work in the study and conservation of Islamic urban and written heritage and thus learn about each other's cultures through joint work.

During the Doha Forum, IRCICA co-organized and also actively participated with presentations in the following sessions, both on 12 December 2011:

1. Breakout session organized jointly by UNAOC, Council of Europe, IRCICA and Euroclio on the theme of "Conflict transformation: dealing with the past to prepare a better future; the role of teaching history". The session focused on the relationship between education, history, memory and identity, in particular, in post-conflict situations. The pivotal role that history education can play in providing people with the tools to increase cross-community relations, bridge divides and ultimately promote trust and reconciliation was underlined. The session was moderated by Mr. Fanie du Toit, Institute for Justice and Reconciliation, South Africa. The speakers at the session were: the Minister of Culture and Tourism of Azerbaijan Mr. Abulfaz Garayev, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Palestine Mr. Riad Malki, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia-Herzegovina Mr. Sven Alkalaj, the Minister for Brussels Region of Belgium Mr. Cristos Doukeridis, writers, faculty members from Europe, South America and the Muslim world. Among the speakers were IRCICA Director

General Dr. Halit Eren and Mr. Jean-Pierre Titz, the Head of the History Education Division of the Council of Europe, who spoke of their respective activities and of the joint projects they are conducting in the field of history education with the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe as the third co-partner. Dr. Eren for his part made an overview of the role of history teaching in improving intercultural relations based on IRCICA's experience in its various international projects.

2. Lab session organized jointly by ISESCO and IRCICA on the theme of "Travel/Rihla Literature and its Role in Intercultural Dialogue". Two studies were contributed by IRCICA to this scholarly session, on the travelogues of Evliya Çelebi (17th century Ottoman) and Ibn Fadlan (10th century Abbasid) with respect to their outlooks to cultures different than their own and the significance of these references for present and future intercultural relations. Thus the presentations at the session were:

- Dr. Halit Eren: "Evliya Çelebi's glimpse at cultures"

- Mr. Mohammed Nait-Abbah: "Reflections on Ibn Battuta's travels and encounters"

- Prof. Ramazan Şeşen's paper (read by Prof. Amir Pasic, IRCICA): "An early contact of the Arab world with northern Asia: Ibn Fadlan's travelogue"

- Dr. Mohamedou Mohameden: "Travels to/from the desert: cross-views".



Breakout session on "Conflict transformation: the role of teaching history"

International symposium on The Image of the Muslim World in Evliya Çelebi's *Seyahatname*

Under the high patronage of H.H. Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad, an international symposium has been organized jointly by IRCICA, the Centre for Islamic World Research, and the History Department of Al Albeit University, on the occasion of the 400th anniversary of the birth of the 17th century Ottoman traveler Evliya Çelebi. The symposium, held on 18-20 December 2011, revolved around the theme of The Image of the Muslim World in Evliya Çelebi's *Seyahatname* (travel book). Evliya Çelebi traveled in the Islamic world and other regions for forty years. His travel book is important as a reference on the landscape and the peoples over a large area extending from Vienna in the West to Central Asia and Arabia in the east. The objectives of the symposium were:

- Introducing Evliya Çelebi and the *Seyahatname*
- Introducing the translations in various languages and scholars who are working on this subject
- The importance of Evliya Çelebi in increasing awareness between Muslims
- The major features in the Islamic world during the Ottoman Period as set forth in Evliya Çelebi's *Seyahatname*
- Encouraging *Seyahatname*'s complete translation into Arabic

The opening ceremony heard welcoming speeches from Al Albeit University delivered by: Dr. Anwar Khalidi, History Department; Dr. Musa bin Khaled, Centre for Islamic World Research; and Prof. Muhamed Arnaut (on behalf of the organizing committee) and the addresses of Dr. Halit Eren, IRCICA Director General, Prof. Nabil Shawaqfeh, President of Al Albeit University, and H.E. Dr. Haifa Abu Ghazaleh, Minister of Tourism and Antiquities of Jordan who spoke on behalf of H.H. Prince Ghazi bin Muhammad.

The sessions were held on Al Albeit University campus in Mafraq on the first day and in Amman on the second day. Topics addressed by the participants ranged from overall assessments on the *Seyahatname* with respect to areas and subjects it includes, its outlook to the "Other" and comparisons with other major travelers, to its language aspects, its description of monuments and architecture and its focuses on the traveler's visits to different regions. The 36 papers of the symposium will be published as a book.



Dr. Eren addressed the opening ceremony



Above: one of the sessions; below: the audience at the opening

In the context of cooperation with the Ministry of Culture of Tatarstan:

Conference on the Tatar scholar Abdullah Tukay

A one-day conference was organized at IRCICA jointly with the Ministry of Culture of Tatarstan Republic (Russian Federation) on 18 November 2011 to commemorate the illustrious Tatar scholar and poet Abdullah Tukay (1886-1913) on the 125th anniversary of his birth. Tukay has an important place in Tatar intellectual and cultural legacy. In his short life he wrote a large number of works which were collected in a complete four-volume edition printed in Tokyo in Arabic script on the 20th year of his death. Tukay is renowned and appreciated not only in Tatarstan but also among Tatars abroad which is due, among others, to his dealing with various subjects of public concern, his poems' voicing people's causes and problems in a style and a language that are easily understandable. These characteristics of the poet were examined in depth in the seven papers that were presented at this conference by specialists from Tatarstan and Turkey. The papers focused, among others, on: Tukay's writings and poetry with respect to references to the Holy Quran, Tukay's outlook and approach to other countries and peoples, elements of Tatar culture and folklore in Tukay's works. The conference was attended by a large audience comprising faculty and researchers working on Tatar culture and literature and an interested public.

A high-level opening ceremony marked the conference where the Minister of Culture of Tatarstan H.E. Mr. Ayrat Sibagatullin and the Deputy Chair of the State Council of Tatarstan Republic Mrs. Rimma Ratnikova delivered addresses. The address of Mr. Duyssen Kaseinov, Secretary General of TURKSOY (International Organization of Turkic Culture), was read by the Deputy Secretary General Mr. Firat Purtaş. In his welcoming address, IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren recapitulated the cooperation that has been going on between the Government and the cultural and academic institutions of Tatarstan on one hand and IRCICA on the other for more than a decade now. He recalled the four congresses on "Islamic Civilization in Volga-Ural" which were held in Kazan, Tatarstan in 2001 and 2005 and in Ufa, Bashkortostan in 2008 and 2010. He also recalled the comprehensive book titled *Tatar History and Civilization*, first on this subject in the English language, which was prepared by Tatar scholars and published by IRCICA. He referred to the Cooperation Agreement that was signed between the Ministry of Culture of Tatarstan and IRCICA in February 2007, stating that the conference on Tukay, who is a spiritual and intellectual symbol of the Tatar culture, is one of the outcomes of this cooperation. The papers presented at the conference will be published in the form of a book.

Beyond this conference's context, Tatar culture and literature were devoted relatively more attention than usual during 2011 by other pertinent cultural institutions as well due to TURKSOY's having proclaimed the year 2011 as "Abdullah Tukay Year".



Top, R.: Deputy Chair of the State Council of Tatarstan H.E. Mrs. Rimma Ratnikova; top, L.: the Minister of Culture of Tatarstan; below, speakers at the sessions

International Symposium on Seljukid Culture and History: "Science and Thought in the Seljukid Period"

IRCICA was one of the co-organizers of the International Symposium on Seljukid Culture and History: "Science and Thought in the Seljukid Period" which took place under the patronage of the President of Turkey H.E. Abdullah Gül on 19-21 October 2011 in Konya, Turkey – one of the political capitals and the cultural and architectural capital of the Seljukids. The co-organizers were the Municipality of Selçuklu (Konya), Selçuk University (Konya), the Turkish Cooperation and Development Agency TİKA and the Union of Historical Cities (Turkey). The symposium consisted of 28 sessions with 54 participants from Algeria, Bangladesh, Azerbaijan, Egypt, France, Georgia, India, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Morocco, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, USA, Uzbekistan and Yemen and 63 from Turkey. Presentations on developments achieved particularly in positive sciences in the Seljukid period including medicine, mathematics, astronomy, and in architecture highlighted a number of features of the period's sciences and philosophy which are reflected in studies on the Seljukid history of sciences and archaeology focusing on the heritage of the period. The participants made recommendations towards promoting studies on the period by such measures as encouraging post-graduate studies and research, establishing networks of specialists of the Seljukid period on Internet, renewing the symposium once every three years, setting up chairs for Seljukid studies in universities of the world, among others.



Training program on the restoration of manuscripts coordinated for archive and conservation staff from Iraq

A training program on the restoration of old manuscripts has been organized at Süleymaniye Library in Istanbul for archive and conservation staff from library and archive institutions in various cities of Iraq on 26-28 October 2011. The program was coordinated by IRCICA, sponsored by the UNESCO Office for Iraq, Amman, and implemented by Süleymaniye Library with teachers from among the Library's experts: Pınar Çakar, Ayşegül Belet, Merve Er, Özlem Gökçe Kocabay, Hatice Karagöz Ergüven, Ebru Çerezci Yılmaz, Sündüs Çamcı Dizkırıcı, Hakan Şentepe, Gazi Sönmez, Gülseren Tankuş. The nine trainees received certificates.

The program started with a meeting at IRCICA. Then the courses were given at Süleymaniye Library with practical demonstrations, for three full days, on the following topics: The history of paper and theoretical information about the chemical deterioration of paper; Treatment of the book in the chemistry laboratory before restoration; Theoretical information about restoration and conservation, and introduction of the materials and restoration techniques; Introduction of the classical binding, its restoration and conservation; Digitalization and archiving of manuscripts and rare printed books.

Forthcoming:

Fourth Annual Seminar of the "Al-Quds/Jerusalem 2015" Program to take place in January 2012

The 2012 Annual Seminar of the long-term program entitled "Al-Quds/Jerusalem 2015" will take place at IRCICA on 27-28 January 2012. Following the opening session to be addressed by H.E. Dr. Mahmoud Al Habbash, Minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs, State of Palestine, the program will comprise two panels on the Urban Heritage of Jerusalem in which faculty members from the OIC Member States and Europe will participate as speakers.

Last year's Annual Seminar - 2011 was held on 27-30 January 2011. Architecture faculties and experts from universities in

the Member States (including Al-Quds and Birzeit Universities, Palestine), Europe and USA had participated in the seminar. In between the annual seminars, activities are conducted in the form of international lectures, study missions, workshops, publication of reports and studies.



International congress on «China and the Muslim World: Cultural Encounters» to be organized jointly with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, in Beijing

The Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) through its centre IRCICA and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) are jointly organizing a congress on “China and the Muslim World: Cultural Encounters” to be held in Beijing on 28-30 June 2012.

The concept adopted for the congress was proposed by IRCICA around the following considerations: China and the Muslim world, two major civilizations with distinct collective identities, have each for their part played active roles in the progressive history of world civilization. Governance of life and social administration, the sciences, arts and techniques and economic activities acquired peculiar characters in their realms under the influence of their respective mainstream faiths and philosophies. Meanwhile over history these two worlds cultivated communications and interactions with each other via varying channels of cultural exchanges and trade of commodities and know-how. Furthermore, for about ten centuries from the spread of Islam until the period of European expansion, the Muslim world and China were leaders of global commercial and economic activity. May the global future as well bring bright prospects to both.

Studies about the Chinese civilization and the Islamic civilization respectively have in a similar way generally approached these worlds with categorical, compartmental and for their largest part “orientalist” and “West-centered” perspectives. However the evolution of studies on history of civilizations, history of culture, science and technology in recent decades, together with significant advances achieved in authentic research within each of the OIC countries and China about their own history and civilization, altogether brought increasing evidence of the wealth of resources and knowledge that waits to be discovered within the proposed common framework of “China and the Muslim World: Cultural Encounters”. The theme promises to open multifold avenues for research on the history of each of these two civilizations, the relations having taken place between them, their relations with the rest of the world, and for exploring vectors of cooperation between them in facing the global challenges at present and in future.

Specialists of the subject have been invited from the OIC Member States, universities in other countries and China itself with a view to provide as comprehensive coverage as possible of the below themes:

I. Historical processes in relations between China and the Muslim world

A. International relations

1. Early contacts

[7th-10th centuries, the Omayyad and Abbasid periods and the Tang Dynasty respectively, contacts through the trade routes]

2. Long-standing coexistence

[10th-17th centuries, the periods of the Abbasids, Fatimids, Ayyubids, Ottomans and the Song (960-1279), Yuan (1279-1368) and Ming (1368-1644) Dynasties respectively]

3. China and the Muslim world in the period of European expansion

[relations between the Ottoman Empire and China during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), relations with the Republic of China (1911-1923)]

B. Cultural interactions

1. Philosophy and science

[specific topics, case studies]

2. Art and architecture

[specific topics, case studies]

3. Language and literature

[specific topics, case studies]

II. Relations between modern China and the Muslim world

1. 20th century developments and processes

[Relations between the OIC Countries on one hand and the Republic of China on the other]

2. China and the Muslim world in global context

[Present state and future prospects of cooperation between the OIC Countries and China, particularly in meeting global challenges of the 21st century]

III. Historiography, the state of studies

[Islamic studies in China, Chinese studies in the Muslim world, state, needs and prospects]

Tehran International Conference on the Features, Characteristics and Cultural and Economic Contributions of Arts and Handicrafts, and Exhibition of Publications

The Organisation for Culture and Islamic Relations, Ministry of Culture, Islamic Republic of Iran, and IRCICA will jointly organize the “Tehran International Conference on the Features, Characteristics and Cultural and Economic Contribution

of Arts and Handicrafts accompanied by an Exhibition of Albums, Catalogues and Books Published in the Field of Arts and Handicrafts”. The event will take place in Tehran on 16-20 September 2012.

The conference aims among others, to explore the means that can provide for an optimal use of this sector of activity in the cultural and tourism areas and that can generate benefits for the tourism sector when it is linked with arts, heritage and handicrafts, the latter to be studied in its actual state and its development perspectives. The conference will also underline the need to preserve the authenticity of these traditional skills and to promote them by available means. Participants in the conference will include professionals and experts working in the field, institutions dealing with the development of handicrafts, all from within and outside the Muslim world. The conference program will include an exhibition of albums, catalogues, books, documentary films, posters, photographs and brochures produced in the fields of arts and handicrafts. In this regard, each participating country will be invited to display its publications.

The conference topics are arranged as follows: the social, economic and tourism aspects; the marketing of the arts and handicrafts products; the heritage aspect and efforts to preserve the authenticity and traditions; civilizational dialogue and mutual influences; education, training, the role of the government and efforts of the private sector; the media and creating awareness on the importance of the sector and its constructive contribution to society.

Fourty experts and specialists of the field will be invited to present papers on the above-cited themes of the conference. Furthermore, experts from each of the Member States (57 experts) will describe the present situation of their respective arts and handicrafts sectors. Twenty representatives and experts

from international organizations active in this field will also be attending.

This event comes under IRCICA's long term program entitled the "Craft Development Program" which gives emphasis to traditional handicrafts in the OIC Member States and tries to contribute to the revival, preservation and development of the handicrafts. Within the framework of this program IRCICA previously organized the following events, jointly with the governments and the institutions of the host countries: international seminar on "Crafts: prospects for development", Rabat, 1991; the First International Festival of Artisans-at-Work, Islamabad, 1994; Pakistan, with the participation of 2000 artisans from various countries, accompanied by a Craft Awards for Islamic Artisans and a seminar on "Creativity in Traditional Islamic Arts", the international seminars on "Traditional Crafts in Islamic Architecture", Cairo, 1995, "Arabesque in Traditional Crafts of OIC Countries", Damascus, 1997, "Traditional Carpets and Kilims in the Muslim World", Tunis, 1999; the international congress on "Islamic Arts and Crafts", Isfahan, 2002; the First International Congress on Tourism and Traditional Crafts, jointly with the Supreme Commission for Tourism of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Riyadh, 2006, comprising exhibitions of artisans and a Creativity in Crafts Award; the congress on "Employment of Traditional Handicrafts in Architectural Projects: Economic Characteristics, Specificities, and Contributions", Tunis, 2008; the International Doha Festival on Arts, Heritage and Excellence, 2010, and the Muscat International Festival for Arts, Heritage and Creativity, 2011. The Centre publishes the proceedings of these events and activities in the form of books.

Second International Symposium on "Islamic Civilisation in Central Asia" to be held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

The Second International Symposium on "Islamic Civilisation in Central Asia" will be organized jointly with Kyrgyzstan-Turkey Manas University, on 9-11 October 2012, in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. IRCICA's first congress on this theme was held in Astana, Kazakhstan, in 2007 and its proceedings were published in 2010 in two volumes.

The symposium will focus on "Islamic Civilisation in Central Asia" with an interdisciplinary and comparative approach. It will examine the history of Islamic civilisation in Central Asia under its diverse aspects, including developments in the intellectual, scientific, literary, artistic and other cultural fields, its interactions with other civilisations in and around the region, the main stages and trends of the development of Islamic culture and civilisation in the region, the formation and present state of the Islamic cultural heritage in terms of the material culture (written, architectural and other tangible assets) and the spiritual culture (beliefs, oral traditions, performing arts and other intangible expressions of culture). The symposium is expected to highlight the role of Islamic civilisation in the history and culture

of the region. It will be an opportunity for the presentation of new studies, assessment of the state of scholarly research and publication in this field, and discussion on the problems and prospects of studies on Islamic civilisation in Central Asia and the neighbouring regions as a field of academic research.

The symposium shall cover the following subjects:

- Islamic culture in Central Asia: a living heritage
- History and philosophical aspects of Islamic culture in Central Asia
- Interactions of Islamic culture with local cultures in Central Asia
- Islamic arts in Central Asia
- Diversity of cultures in Central Asia: specific and common features, integrating tendencies
- Development of natural and applied sciences in the context of Islamic civilisation in Central Asia

Working languages of the symposium will be Kyrgyz, Turkish, English, and Russian. The deadline to send the abstracts (250 words max.) is 30 March 2012.

IRCICA's Album of historical photographs of Bursa launched under the chairmanship of the Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey H.E. Mr. Bülent Arınç

On 23 November 2011 a book launching was organized in the city of Bursa for the major publication by IRCICA entitled *Bursa in Photographs of the Period of Sultan Abdulhamid II*. The book launching took place on the occasion of the Regional and Local Media Training Seminar which was conducted jointly by the High Council for Radio and Television, the General Directorate for Press and Publications and the Governorate of Bursa. H.E. Mr. Bülent Arınç, Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey, addressed the audience qualifying the publication as a comprehensive reference on Bursa highlighting its history, its districts, its mosques, its mausoleums, its streets and its people and thanked IRCICA for this album of historical documentary value reflecting a specific period of this beautiful city. As to IRCICA Director General Dr. Eren, he briefed the audience on the contents of the album which reflect a recent segment of the millennial history of Bursa but still reach us from a past as distant as one century. He said that its contents show the importance that was accorded to Bursa by the Ottoman State which was not only for the city's having hitherto served as its capital but also its economic and architectural features and its spiritual legacy as a land where rest numerous rulers, philosophers, religious scholars, artists and craftsmen who all contributed



to its cultural heritage. He recalled earlier publications in the same series by which IRCICA rendered historical photographs from the Yıldız Palace Albums accessible to all those interested namely those on Al-Quds/Jerusalem, Afghanistan, Egypt, Japan, Yemen, and the cities of Istanbul and Erzurum. Dr. Eren presented copies of the album to Mr. Bülent Arınç and to businessman Mr. Zafer Topaloğlu, who sponsored the printing of the album. Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Arınç presented Mr. Zafer Topaloğlu a plaque of appreciation and the honorary citizenship of Bursa.



Above: Dr. Eren spoke of IRCICA's photograph archives and the album's contents; left: a plaque of appreciation was presented by Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Bülent Arınç to Mr. Zafer Topaloğlu, sponsor of the printing

Exhibition

“Native Americans: Memory of an Ottoman Connection” at IRCICA

An interesting photograph exhibition was opened at IRCICA on 24 October 2011 titled “Native Americans: Memory of an Ottoman Connection”. The exhibition was organized in cooperation with the Turkish Coalition of America, with the support of the Istanbul Handicrafts Center.

The background of this event is noteworthy: an encounter, 120 years ago which left a lasting connection between Native Americans on one hand and the Ottoman Empire on the other. A collection of more than 200 photographs, which were part of Smithsonian Institute’s holdings, were brought to Istanbul in 1886 by Dr. Hoffmann on behalf of the Institute and offered to the Ottoman Sultan Abdulhamid II in Yıldız Palace. In the early period of the Turkish Republic these photographs, together with the entire Yıldız Photograph Albums dating from the Sultan’s reign, were transferred to Istanbul University Library. In the 1980s IRCICA made reproductions of the whole collection and classified its components. Thus the copies of these photographs returned, in a sense, to their original location in Yıldız Palace.

From among the collection presented by Smithsonian Institute to Sultan Abdulhamid II, fifty were selected for display at the exhibition depicting scenes of Native Americans’ life, society and occupations, ranging from pictures of Indian chiefs to soldiers, families to students, all of high documentary value. The majority of the photographs were taken by photographers Charles Milton Bell, Alexander Gardner, Joel Emmons Whitney, William Henry Jackson and John K. Hillers.

At the opening of the exhibition, Dr. Halit Eren pointed to the importance of this exhibition with respect to the shared memory it recalls and thanked Mr. G. Lincoln McCurdy, President of the Turkish Coalition of America (TCA) and Mr. İbrahim Yılmaz, Director of the Istanbul Handicrafts Center.



R.-L.: Two guests from the USA; Dr. Eren, Mr. McCurdy, President of the Turkish Coalition of America, Mr. Yılmaz, Director of the Istanbul Handicrafts Center



The exhibition was visited with interest.

Distinguished guests, meetings, cooperation

Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey Mr. Bülent Arınç visited IRCICA

On 30 November IRCICA was honoured to receive on its premises Mr. Bülent Arınç, Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey. Mr. Arınç and his delegation were received by Director General Dr. Halit Eren at the entrance gate of Yıldız Palace. Dr. Eren first hosted them in his Office at the Directorate General where talks were exchanged on the Centre's activities and cultural subjects in general. Then Dr. Eren guided Mr. Arınç to the Library of IRCICA at the Silahhane (Armoury) Building of Yıldız Palace and briefed him on the Centre's publications showing samples, on one hand, and the characteristics of the library's collections, qualitatively and in numbers, on the other.

Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Bülent Arınç showed a keen interest in and expressed his appreciation of the activities and the publications of the Centre. He recorded his impressions in the Centre's Visitors Book: "I know that the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture fulfills very important tasks since many years. Under the direction of Mr. Halit Eren this institution enjoys international esteem, has the exact status of a research centre, and the books it publishes are very important. I congratulate Mr. Halit Eren and his colleagues and wish them the highest success."

One week before (23 November) Mr. Arınç had addressed the book launching of IRCICA's publication titled *Bursa in Photographs of the Period of Sultan Abdulhamid II* for which a ceremony was held in Bursa itself.



Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Arınç received information on the publications

The visit of H.E. Mr. Rashid Ahmed bin Fahad, Minister of Environment and Water of the United Arab Emirates

H.E. Mr. Rashid Ahmed bin Fahad, Minister of Environment and Water of the United Arab Emirates, visited IRCICA on 7 October 2011. The Minister and the accompanying delegation received information from Director General Dr. Halit Eren about the Centre's departments and their activities. They were guided to the library building, where Dr. Eren showed the Minister samples of the library's various book collections and the Centre's own publications.

At the end of his visit, the Minister signed the Visitors Book: "I was pleased and honoured to visit this excellent Centre which carries the responsibility of preserving the history and identity of our great Islamic civilization. I appreciate the great and distinguished efforts made by those working here. I also appreciate the contributions and the support of all parties, institutions and states of this edifice. Our history is our identity."



The Minister was briefed by Dr. Eren on IRCICA's various publications

H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Salman, Chairman of the Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at IRCICA

It was an honour for IRCICA to receive on its premises H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Salman, Chairman of the Saudi Commission for Tourism and Antiquities and President of Al-Thurath Foundation, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 9 September 2011. Prince Sultan bin Salman was accompanied by heads of department and other officials from the Commission. Talks were held reviewing the cooperation ongoing between the institutions chaired by Prince Sultan bin Salman on one hand and IRCICA on the other. This cooperation covers fields relating to tourism and heritage preservation and includes activities such as the Summer School on Urban Heritage which was organized in June-July 2011 (see Newsletter nr. 85, May-Aug. 2011). IRCICA Director General



Prince Sultan bin Salman examined the Centre's publications with interest

Dr. Halit Eren briefed H.R.H. the Prince on recent developments with regard to the Centre's activities in other fields as well; he guided him to some of the departments where IRCICA's researchers briefed the distinguished guests on the

different projects and publications with an emphasis on subjects concerning urban studies, heritage preservation, archives and documentation, cultural tourism and its management.



H.R.H. Prince Sultan bin Salman received information from Prof. Amir Pasic, Head of the Department of Architecture and Heritage Preservation, about the status of the Prince Sultan bin Salman Islamic Architectural Heritage Database

H.E. Mr. Mamadou Saliou Jalo Pires, Minister of External Relations, Republic of Guinea-Bissau visited IRCICA

IRCICA was honoured to receive H.E. Mr. Mamadou Saliou Jalo Pires, Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau at its headquarters on 15 December 2011. The Minister, accompanied by a delegation of officials from the Ministry, was received by Director General Dr. Halit Eren first at the Directorate General where talks were held on international cultural developments in general and the Centre's activities in particular. The Minister affirmed his country's interest in IRCICA's activities. Then Dr. Eren guided the Minister to some of the research departments and the library, where he saw samples of the publications of the Centre as well as samples of the library's book collections and received information on the modernization and expansion projects carried out in the library. At the end of his visit the Minister recorded his impressions in the Visitors' Book, expressing his thanks for the hospitality shown and that it had been "a highly impressive experience to get acquainted with the city of Istanbul, which houses treasures of Islamic history"



A welcoming meeting with IRCICA officials and exchange of talks were held in the conference hall at Çit Qasr

Visit of Dr. Imad Bedreddin Abu Ghazi, Minister of Culture of Egypt

On 12 November 2011, the Minister of Culture of Egypt Dr. Imad Bedreddin Abu Ghazi visited IRCICA and met with Dr. Eren. The Minister was already acquainted with IRCICA's activities through earlier encounters at conferences and other academic events with the Centre's officials, but this visit was an occasion to give him first-hand information on the outcomes of the activities. Dr. Eren guided the Minister to the library and other departments of the Centre. Following are the Minister's impressions recorded in the Visitors Book: "In this first visit of mine to the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA, Istanbul), it gives me the honour to write these few words to express my utmost appreciation for this Centre and the colleagues working here for the great efforts made in introducing the Islamic arts and culture created by the civilizations of the Muslim world over more than fourteen centuries. Your commendable efforts contribute to the preservation of a substantial human heritage and present it to the whole world in a manner worthy of what this heritage holds as noble and refined values. Your Centre is one of the most important specialized research centres in this field on a world level. It is my pleasure to see that cooperation had started between your Centre and the Ministry of Culture of Egypt for many years, crowning our joint efforts in the field of culture and scholarly research."



The Minister visited the Centre's departments together with OIC Secretary General Prof. İhsanoğlu and IRCICA Director General Dr. Eren

Sheikh Juma al-Majid, Founding President of Juma al-Majid Center for Culture and Heritage, Dubai, visited IRCICA

Sheikh Juma al-Majid, Founding President of Juma al-Majid Center for Culture and Heritage, Dubai, and Chair of several other cultural, charitable and business establishments in Dubai, visited IRCICA on 13 October 2011. Working relationships and cooperation between IRCICA and Juma al-Majid Center for Culture and Heritage has been continuing for many years. Precedently a delegation from Juma al-Majid Center had visited IRCICA in December 2008 whereby fields covered in this cooperation were revised and discussed. During this visit by Sheikh Juma al-Majid, talks were exchanged with Director General Dr. Halit Eren on activities conducted and recent methods and techniques introduced in the areas of common interest for IRCICA and Juma al-Majid Center for Culture and Heritage such as library development and services, restoration of historical manuscripts and conservation of the written heritage in general. Sheikh Juma al-Majid recorded his impressions, as follows, in the Visitors Book: "On this day I visited IRCICA Library; I observed the development achieved and the efforts made over what I saw in my previous visits, and your prints of the Quran and technical innovations that are unprecedented. I also saw your special interest in the holy Al-Quds in your publications on the Islamic endowments of Jerusalem and your other publications, which have no precedent. ..."



The guests saw samples of the publications

Grand Mufti (Reis-ul-Ulema) of Bosnia and Herzegovina Dr. Mustafa Cerić visited IRCICA

Dr. Mustafa Cerić, the Grand Mufti (Reis-ul-Ulema) of Bosnia and Herzegovina, from Sarajevo, visited IRCICA on 6 October 2011, together with a group of religious officials. During the talks with Director General Dr. Eren, the two parties recalled the many occasions where Dr. Cerić and IRCICA officials had met and/or collaborated in the past, in the context of scholarly conferences or commemorative events related to the history and



culture of Bosnia and Herzegovina including those organized by IRCICA. The Grand Mufti recorded his impressions in the Visitors Book, as follows: “It is a great day where I am visiting this noble place of learning and knowledge. We pray to Allah that this institution and its officials continue to set a good example for all.”



Souvenir photo with the delegation from Bosnia and Herzegovina

Visit of a delegation from the Islamic Fiqh Academy of India

A delegation from the Islamic Fiqh Academy of India headed by Deputy Chairman (Maulana) Mr. Badr Hassan Qasmi visited IRCICA on 17 October 2011. The Academy members were in Istanbul on the occasion of a symposium organized by the Islamic Research Centre (ISAM). At IRCICA the guests received information on the Centre’s objectives and activities. IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren showed them samples of the Centre’s publications, especially those resulting from IRCICA’s researches in Quranic studies and its bibliographic research on copies and translations of the Holy Quran. At the end of the visit, Mr. Qasmi signed the Visitors Book of the Centre: “... We witnessed the great work achieved by the Centre under the leadership of its illustrious Director General H.E. Dr. Halit Eren whom we found to be a man with an ambitious vision and planning for the future that are consistent with the requirements of time. The Centre’s work on the Holy Quran alone is sufficient to make it a great Centre. It produced a work comparing the Mushaf of uthman (PBUH) and the copy of Ali bin Abi Talib (PBUH) with other copies existing in Turkey, Yemen and Egypt. ... The achievements of the Centre are totally consistent with the requirements of time whether this be in the field of convening symposia on Islamic civilization or in the field of publishing documentary books. ...”



Dr. Eren briefed the delegation on the bibliographical compilations

Visit of Dr. Ahmed Khaled Babakr, Secretary General of the Islamic Fiqh Academy, Jeddah

The Secretary General of the Jeddah-based Islamic Fiqh Academy Dr. Ahmed Khaled Babakr visited IRCICA on 2 December. Dr. Babakr's meeting with Dr. Halit Eren represented a constructive exchange of views and an affirmation of the mutual support and cooperation between the two subsidiaries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation namely IRCICA and Islamic Fiqh Academy. Dr. Eren briefed Dr. Babakr on the different departments of the Centre and their activities. Signing the Visitors Book, Dr. Babakr recorded his impressions on IRCICA: "I am very pleased to visit the 'IRCICA Centre', which is a giant institution in the fields of scholarly studies and revival of heritage ... I was in the company of the scholar Dr. Halit Eren, Director of the Centre where he took me to the different departments of the Centre where I was acquainted with their work and saw various books and volumes around tens of thousands. It would be very beneficial if all these be taken on CDs and distributed to all Muslim countries. ..."



H.E. Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC) visited IRCICA

IRCICA Director General Dr. Eren received H.E. Prof. Mahmud Erol Kılıç, Secretary General of the Tehran-based Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States (PUIC), on 5 January 2012, as this *Newsletter* was being put to press. This was the second visit of Prof. Kılıç to IRCICA, his first visit on 11 May 2010 having resulted in the signing of a Cooperation Agreement between PUIC and IRCICA. The two organizations have subjects of common interest and converging objectives. IRCICA is a research institution that conducts activities of publishing and documentation, aims to promote cultural cooperation between the Member States and with other countries and coordinates international projects highlighting the role and share of Islamic civilization and Muslim cultures in universal civilization in historical and present perspectives; as to the Parliamentary Union of the OIC Member States, it aims, among others, at introducing and disseminating the noble principles of Islam, with emphasis on the different aspects of its civilization; providing a framework for comprehensive and fruitful cooperation and coordination among parliaments of OIC members in international fora and organizations; promoting meeting and dialogue among parliaments of OIC members and their deputies, exchanging parliamentary experience, discussing economic, cultural, social and political issues of interest to the OIC members, strengthening contacts, cooperation and coordination with other parliamentary, governmental and non governmental organizations, with the aim of advancing common objectives; fostering coordination among peoples of the world in order to respect and defend human rights and humanitarian principles and establishment of peace. According to the cooperation agreement, "IRCICA and PUIC shall regularly cooperate with each other in all areas where their objectives and mandates are common and/or complementary, in particular, to undertake activities aimed at highlighting the Islamic civilization under all its aspects – the history of its development and expansion; its present heritage,

threats facing this heritage, and means of preservation; promoting international cooperation, coordination and dialogue by means of cultural events and activities; presenting, and deepening the understanding of the products of Islamic civilization that are reflected in the cultural life and living heritage of peoples around the world as evidences of the shared aspects of all civilizations; and, channeling the products of these activities towards contributing to the Islamic causes of the OIC Member States." This second visit was an occasion whereby Prof. Kılıç and Dr. Eren exchanged information on their organizations' activities and recent developments in this regard.



A cooperation agreement was signed between PUIC and IRCICA 2010

BOOK SURVEY

- Aziz Nazmi Şakir-Taş, **Adrianopol'den Edirne'ye: Edirne ve Civarında Osmanlı Kültür ve Bilim Muhitinin Oluşumu (XIV.-XVI. Yüzyıl)** (from Adrianopolis to Edirne, the formation of Ottoman cultural and scientific milieu in Edirne and its surroundings (XIVth-XVIth centuries), Bosphorus University Publication, Istanbul, 2009, 326 pp. (in Turkish)

The city of Edirne and its surroundings have had an important share in the formation phase of Ottoman culture. This book aims to pay tribute to this contribution by an in-depth analysis of its inherent processes. Sources that throw light on the background of Ottoman cultural and particularly scientific development which reached a peak in the 16th century are scarce. The author, Dr. Şakir-Taş is in the opinion that the factors which prompted this development are not confined to those carried by the previous couple of centuries' preparatory stages. What are the indicators of a new cultural structure emerging in Edirne and its surroundings that was not there before? To explore these, the author looks back into the history of the city from the Byzantine period till the 16th century. He examines the notes that many travelers and classical Ottoman historians recorded about the region uncovering evidence of daily life and local culture in the city. In Byzantine times the city of Edirne was confined to Kaleiçi, i.e. the area that is within the city walls. For centuries it had served military functions mainly and therefore had left practically no cultural legacy. This until it came under the rule of a then half-century old Ottoman state, which centered the expansion of its culture on "Adrianopolis" from where this culture spread beyond the city walls. While making this observation the author does not ignore the influence of Seljukid and Byzantine cultures which was transmitted under Ottoman identity to the city as it was transformed from Adrianopolis to Edirne. Even after the introduction of Ottoman culture in its realm, Edirne's representing this culture was for a long time due to its hosting, nurturing and exporting scientists, artists and craftspeople more than its having become part of Ottoman culture physically and geographically. For this reason Edirne as the Ottoman capital was not representing purely a culture of its own but a symbiosis of contributions and influences reaching from the Anatolian cities of Bursa, Iznik, Konya, Kastamonu, Merzifon, Amasya, Halep, Shiraz etc. to Thrace. The author adds to this that Edirne incorporates influences from not only Anatolia but also Iran, Syria and Egypt (from the back cover of the book). In this extensive book he covered multiple aspects of the city's culture and heritage including its architecture, its social fabric and traditions, etc. the outcome of which provides interesting case studies for specialists from diverse fields. The author has succeeded in depicting the history, the cultural dynamics, exchanges and mutual influences with other urban centers, and evolutionary phases of the city's cultural role in a harmonious methodology throughout, mirroring accurately the beginning and subsequent development of the Ottomans' contacts with European cultures starting from their settlement

in Edirne. Part of the processes that made the Ottoman Empire one of the most powerful states of the world in the 16th century actually took place in Edirne. Therefore a study of culture and arts, social life and economy in Edirne at the time can give important evidence as to the vectors of the Empire's expansion period. Selimiye Mosque in Edirne, one of the masterpieces of Mimar Sinan, is one the symbols of the expansion and the power that are observable in the transformation of the city from Adrianopolis to Edirne.

- **İstanbul Kadı Sicilleri** (Kadı registers of Istanbul), **Turkish Religious Foundation Islamic Studies Center (İSAM)**, Istanbul, 2008- (31st-40th volumes in print)

The Ottoman *kadı* (judge in Islamic law) registers constitute an important body of documents on political, legal, social, economic and cultural history of the Ottoman State. Besides the minutes of court cases and the verdicts issued by courts they contain deeds of foundations, documents on all kinds of legal transactions - commercial disputes, bails, sales, rentals, donations, marriage, divorce, death, even construction and restoration of public buildings, and copies of firmans and government decrees. The number of Ottoman court records having reached our day exceeds 30 thousand out of which about 10 thousand belong to Istanbul and are preserved in the archives of the Istanbul Mufti's Office. Turkish Religious Foundation Islamic Studies Center (İSAM) has completed an extensive study on fourty of the latter rendering them available to interested researchers in a series of volumes. The first volume was published in 2008. Of the 30 volumes published until now, 10 are related to the court of Üsküdar. The following volumes contain the registers of the courts of Eyüp, Hasköy, the Rumeli Kazasker's Court, the Istanbul Court, the Bab (Porte) Court. Ten ore volumes are to appear. The long term project leading to this publication is directed by Prof. Dr. M. Akif Aydın, President of İSAM, and supervised by a scholarly board; the editor is Dr. Coşkun Yılmaz. Its outcome will be the editions in Latin alphabet of about 40000 court registers. Each volume begins with concise information on the register it contains followed by a list of the subjects of the documents, the Latin transcriptions of the texts and finally, the facsimile edition of the original register. A commendable feature, among others, of the publication is the index of words that is provided in a CD to facilitate researchers' task. It is also noteworthy that after publication of the first 15 volumes, a book written by M. Akif Aydın titled *Kadı Sicillerinde İstanbul: XVI. ve XVII. Yüzyıl* (Istanbul in the *kadı* registers. 16th and 17th century) was published by İSAM in 2010. The book gives information on İSAM's project on the *kadı* registers, the Ottoman legal and court system in general, and examines some examples of specific registers previously published concerning cases of decrees, evidence and judgments. It is an instructive source which acquaints the reader with the Ottoman legal and judiciary system through examples of cases. (Book presentation by Hümeysra Zerdecı)

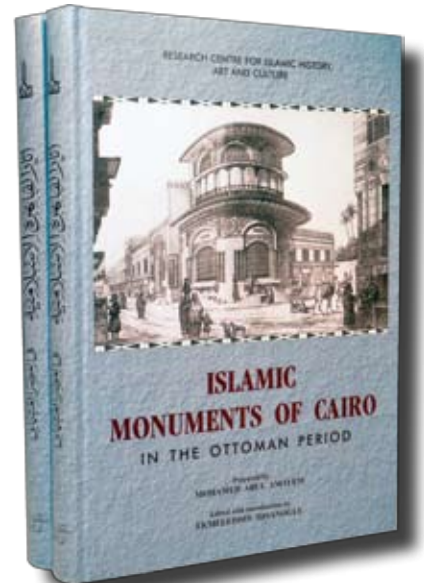


Islamic Monuments of Cairo in the Ottoman Period

prepared by Mohamed Abul Amayem, edited with introduction by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu,
Vol. II: Public fountains, schools and watering places, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2011, 1028pp.
(in Arabic)

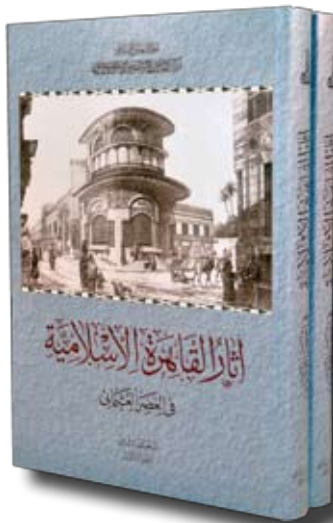
This is the second volume of the series *Islamic Monuments of Cairo in the Ottoman Period*, after the first one published in 2003 which was devoted to mosques, medreses, *tekkes* and *zawiyas* (religious lodges). The second volume consists of two parts and focuses on another type of structures that was widespread in Egypt during the Ottoman period, namely public fountains, elementary schools, and watering places for animals (*abreuvoirs*). The book covers 474 structures dating from the period from the beginning of 16th to 20th century AD. For each structure the reader will find a detailed description, indication of its place supplemented with detailed maps, its owner/affiliation, evolution of its state past and present, and restorations. The fountain (*sabil*) which was part of humanitarian public works was often accompanied by an elementary school (*kuttab*). This whole structure could be attached to a large building: a mosque, a khan, etc. or it could be independent. As to watering places, which were located in streets underneath buildings, they were in the same way, public works to provide water for animals. Water was carried from the Nile to fill the underground reservoirs. Besides, water was drawn for use from

wells. The contents of the book's section on these watering places and their wells indicate how largely widespread these were around Cairo. It describes the extant ones and records those having disappeared. The author, Mr. Mohamed Abul Amayem is an eminent specialist of the history of architecture in Cairo, formerly associated



with the Egyptian Antiquities Organization and then the Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale (IFAO), Cairo, and presently with IRCICA to prepare this series of volumes on Islamic Monuments in Cairo under the editorial supervision of Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu. Abul Amayem has for long years devoted himself to the study of old monuments, including Pharaonic, Coptic, Islamic monuments, observing their state, damages and restorations on them.

This book will be highly useful for all those interested in the urban structures and architecture, especially history of Ottoman architecture in Cairo, where across centuries Ottoman monuments have been more numerous than those from other periods, and will help researchers discover the features of underground structures (cisterns) and monuments on surface of the city.



Proceedings of the First International Congress on Islamic Archaeology: Istanbul, 8-10 April 2005

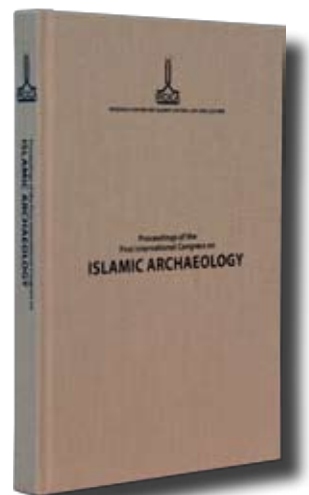
Islamic Archaeology Series 1, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2011, 248pp.

IRCICA has the pleasure to present a book that has special significance for its theme and objectives: it focuses on the archaeology of the Islamic period and the Islamic geography and aims to promote studies in this area. These were the governing objectives that had led IRCICA to organize the First International Congress on Islamic Archaeology. The congress was held on the Centre's premises in Yıldız Palace, Istanbul, with the participation of around one hundred archaeologists and specialists from related fields such as art history and architecture from around the world. The Prime Minister of Turkey H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan had accorded his patronage to this event, which underscored the latter's importance as a founding attempt to emphasize "Islamic Archaeology" as a distinct period and subject within the discipline. After this first congress held in 2005, the Second International Congress on Islamic Archaeology has been organized in Islamabad, Pakistan on 21-23 January 2011, jointly with the National Institute for Historical and Cultural Research (NIHCR) of Pakistan, under the patronage of the Prime Minister of Pakistan H.E. Mr. Syed Yousuf Raza Gilani. Next to appear after the present book resulting from the first congress is a collection of the papers of the second congress.

In this book the preface by Dr. Halit Eren recapitulates some features of the congress such as the main focuses of the papers contributed and the participants' recommendations. It recalls the two exhibitions which accompanied the congress: one of them was on Seljukid archaeological finds, contributed by the Municipality of Konya; the other was contributed by

the Turkish-Islamic Art Museum (Istanbul) with displays of its collections. The preface is followed by the texts of the addresses delivered at the opening ceremony which can be considered as references on how attention to and treatment of the theme through this congress had developed and materialized. The addresses were given by Prime Minister Erdoğan (read by the Minister of

State Prof. Beşir Atalay), the Secretary General of the OIC H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Dr. Saad Abdulaziz al-Rashed, Deputy Minister for Antiquities and Museums, Ministry of Education, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Chairman of IRCICA Governing Board, and Dr. Halit Eren, IRCICA Director General. The presentations at the congress are grouped in two parts, titled "On-Site Research and Excavations" and "Research, perspectives in Islamic archaeology". The papers deal with the state and the results of research and excavations on Islamic archaeology in different countries and regions or communicate the outcomes of studies on particular archaeological sites dating from different periods of the Islamic era. At the end of the book is an outline of the participants' recommendations.



Proceedings of the Fourth International Symposium on Islamic Civilization in the Volga-Ural Region: Ufa, 21-22 October 2010

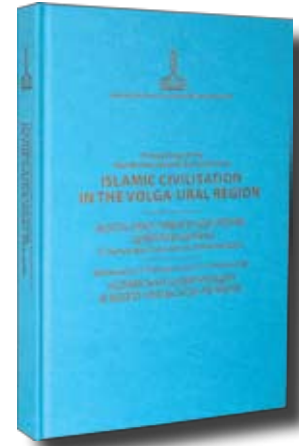
edited by Halit Eren, Sources and Studies on History of Islamic Civilization Series 25, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2011, 496 pp.

The fourth symposium on the theme "Islamic Civilisation in Volga-Ural Region" was held in Ufa, the capital city of Bashkortostan, in October 2010. The previous ones had taken place in Kazan, Tatarstan in 2001 and 2005 respectively and Ufa in 2008. Their proceedings were published earlier; thus with the addition of the present volume, a valuable body of articles in four volumes is now available on multiple historical, cultural and civilizational aspects of Volga-Ural region.

The experience of multi-faith coexistence in the Russian Federation and the deep-rooted Islamic culture and heritage

that is living in some of its regions, among them Volga-Ural region, constitute a noteworthy dimension in the study of Islamic civilization in its regional achievements. Islam in Volga-Ural region is eleven centuries old; historical records starting with the travelogue of Ibn Fadlan in the tenth century provide evidence of inter-faith contacts developed from then on. IRCICA has been promoting the study of the sources and research on this history, and throwing light on the historical evidence at the background of the cultural relations that have been growing between the Muslim world on one hand and

Russia with its Muslim communities on the other. To this aim IRCICA instituted among others this series of symposiums, which it organized in cooperation with the governments and academic institutions of countries in the region. These activities were encouraged by the Presidents of the host countries according to their patronage to the symposiums and their governments' supportive and constructive partnerships. Thus the fourth congress was organized jointly by the Ministry of Education and Sciences of the Russian Federation, the Government of Bashkortostan, and Bashkir State University. H.E. President Rustem Zakievitch Khamitov, President of Bashkortostan Republic, gave his patronage to the event and participated in the opening ceremony. In addition to the working sessions on different topics and as part of the symposium, a separate conference with 20 presentations was dedicated to the eminent Bashkir scholar Ahmed Zeki Validi on his 120th birth anniversary. The papers of the symposium are published in this book in their original languages of presentation: there are 71 papers in Russian, 6 in English and 4 in Bashkir.



Cumulative Index of the History of Ottoman Scientific Literature

prepared by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Ramazan Şeşen, M. Serdar Bekar, Gülcan Gündüz, Veysel Bulut; editor: Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu; preface: Halit Eren, Series of Studies and Sources on History of Science; No. 17, History of Ottoman Literature of Science Series; No. 9, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2011; xvi, 980 pp.

IRCICA's History of Ottoman Scientific Literature series is now complete with the General Index of the History of Ottoman Scientific Literature. This last volume contains the indexes of authors and works mentioned in the earlier 17 volumes of bio-bibliographies which were devoted to the scientific literature published in various branches of sciences throughout the Ottoman period and all over the Ottoman geography. The index is an indispensable tool for utilization of the volumes. The latter were published over the period from 1997 to 2011, as the outcome of a research project that lasted twenty-five years. The project was implemented under the editorship and supervision of Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, by the Department of Bibliographies and Manuscripts of IRCICA.

The index is composed of three parts; the names of authors/translators are in the first part (pp. 3-106); the names of the books in the Latin alphabet are in the second part (pp. 107-560); and the names of the books in the Arabic script are in the third part (pp. 561-980). The authors are mentioned by their entry names as given in the different volumes of the series. After the name of each author one finds the abbreviation of the title of the volume and page number he is mentioned in. An author who wrote books in more than one field of science may be referred to in more than one volume. Some books relating to more than one branch of science are necessarily referred to more than once.

The volumes of the series were on: astronomy literature (OALT, 2 volumes, 1997); mathematical literature (OMLT, 2 volumes, 1999), geography literature (OCLT, 2 volumes, 2000), literature



of musical sciences (OMULT, 2003), literature of military arts and weaponry (OASLT, 2 volumes, 2004), literature of natural and applied sciences (OTTBLT, 2 volumes, 2006), literature of medical sciences (4 volumes, OTIBLT, 2008), literature of astrology and on classification of sciences and supplements to the earlier volumes (OASTLT, SUPPLEMENT I and SUPPLEMENT II, 2 volumes, 2011).

In his elaborate Introduction to the last two volumes before the Index, the Editor Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu concludes the series with the following words: "The first comprehensive bio-bibliography of Ottoman Science, which we describe as 'The science produced during the period and in the geographical

area over which the Ottoman State dominated', thus acquires its due place in world academic literature as expected. I am pleased that the project introduced in my Preface to the first volume published in 1997 continued uninterruptedly since then within the framework drawn and with the methodology described there, thus recording and bringing to light a six hundred-year portion of the scientific activity conducted within the Islamic civilization."

Since the beginning of the series, a number of scholars and book reviewers in the field of history of science have pointed to the contribution of this bio-bibliographic compendium to knowledge and studies on the scientific activity that was realized during the Ottoman period. IRCICA's research and publications in this field will continue.

Proceedings of the International Conference: Islamic Civilization in Central Asia: Astana, 4-7 September 2007

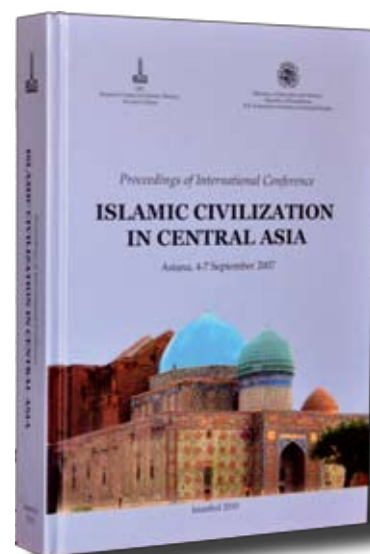
editors: Halit Eren, Meruert Abuseitova, Ashirbek Muminov, Ayna Askeroğlu, 2 volumes, Sources and Studies on History of Islamic Civilization Series 20, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2010; xxiv, 402; xxxiv, 427 pp.

Research and publications on the Islamic cultural history of the vast Central Asian region have been progressing outside of it as well as within. This is observed in the context of various social sciences but most notably in language studies, history of science, history of art and urban studies. Central Asia is one of the regions where Islam spread the earliest, from mid-seventh century onwards, and interacted productively with the local cultures. In consequence the region is marked by a multi-faith structure which produced intellectuals, philosophers and artists of varied cultural backgrounds. Within this framework, the Islamic culture that flourished here gave birth to eminent theologians and jurists, philosophers, astronomers and mathematicians. Some of the leading centers of civilization developed in Central Asian cities. Urbanism, scholarly and scientific activity in the region endowed its countries and peoples with a distinct cultural heritage that is reflected in the written works and the built structures. At the same time interactions took place with the neighbouring Arabic, Persian, Chinese and Russian cultures and civilizations. These and

other multifarious aspects of Central Asian Islamic cultural history were addressed by the participants in the conference on Islamic Civilization in Central Asia which was held in Astana, Kazakhstan in September 2007. The conference was organized jointly by IRCICA on one hand and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education

and the Institute of Oriental Studies of Kazakhstan on the other. The President of Kazakhstan H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev extended his patronage to the event; in his message to the participants which was read at the opening ceremony, President Nazarbayev stated "It is known that

no social entity can understand itself without understanding other nations. Genuine tolerance stems from this background and it is a basis for interfaith dialogue." The conference as a whole was indeed a contribution to intercultural and interfaith understanding and dialogue since it increased the knowledge and references about the Islamic civilization in the region in its interactive dynamics with other cultures. The present book in two volumes records this contribution for the benefit of the world of learning. The first volume contains 31 papers presented in English and the second, 38 papers in either Russian or Kazakh. The message of President Nazarbayev, the address of OIC Secretary General Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, the welcoming remarks by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan Mr. Marat Tazhin, and the address of IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren are given in the first volume and in Russian in the second volume.



Al-Mushaf Al-Sharif attributed to Ali b. Abi Talib (The copy of Sana'a)

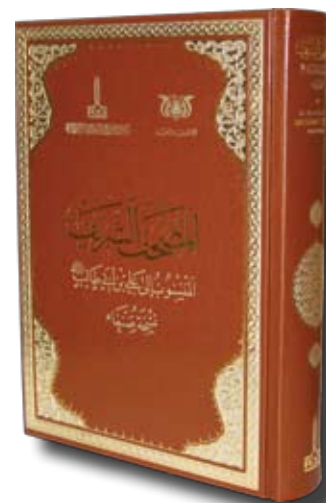
prepared for publication by Tayyar Altıkulaç, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2011

This is a facsimile edition of the copy (Mushaf) of the Holy Quran which is attributed to the time of Ali b. Abi Talib and located in Sana'a, Yemen. It comes out as a third publication in IRCICA's series of editions of oldest copies of the Quran. Earlier IRCICA had published editions, accompanied by descriptive and comparative studies, of two Quran copies that are attributed to the time of Othman b. Affan namely the copies of Topkapı, Istanbul and al-Mashhad al-Husayni, Cairo. The other copies attributed to the same period are in the following cities: Istanbul (the Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts, edition published by ISAM, Istanbul, 2008); London; Paris; St. Petersburg, and Tashkent. There are other editions of Quran copies that IRCICA published outside this series. One of them is the copy dated 582 H/1186 and known as the Fazıl Pasha (Sherifović) Mushaf, which is located in Gazi Husrevbegova Library, Sarajevo. Another edition, supervised by IRCICA, is the reprint of the Mushaf of Kazan dated 1803 which is known to be the first copy printed in the Muslim world; it was reprinted in cooperation with Kazan Municipality in the year 2005 corresponding to the millennium of Kazan city. By publishing these editions, with studies in the case of the former ones, IRCICA aims to contribute in preserving them and making them known and accessible to all.

The Sana'a copy is located at the Grand Mosque of Sana'a. The elaborate Introduction to the edition is a study by Dr. Tayyar Altıkulaç, specialist of the history of copies of the Quran and ex-Head of Religious Affairs in Turkey. The study is a concise history of the dissemination of the Holy Quran

through its copies and of the developments relating to script, orthography, punctuation, locations, etc. of the copies. It examines, describes and analyses the characteristics of the Sana'a copy as to script, orthography, binding, etc. It also describes the other copies attributed to the period of Othman b. Affan as well as the copy printed by the King Fahd Complex for the Printing of the Holy Quran, Medina, which is known to be in conformity with the orthography of the time of Othman b. Affan.

IRCICA planned to publish this edition during the 2010-2011 period which, at the suggestion of IRCICA, was designated by the 2010 meeting of the OIC's Council of Foreign Ministers as the "1400th Year of the Revelation of the Holy Quran". The Council had invited all OIC member countries and Muslims' associations and institutions world-wide to commemorate this anniversary of the beginning of the revelation with cultural and scholarly activities that would contribute in diffusing a correct and deeper understanding of the Holy Quran. IRCICA for its part is honoured to have been able to record this publication among its activities related to the said Year.



Proceedings of the International Conference on Egypt during the Ottoman Era: 26-30 November 2007, Cairo

Sources and Studies on History of Islamic Civilization Series 19, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2010, 325+139 pp. (Arabic, English, Turkish, French)

A total of 24 papers are collected in this volume resulting from the conference that was organized by IRCICA and the Supreme Council of Culture of the Arab Republic of Egypt. They address a wide spectrum of subjects pertaining to the history of Egypt during the Ottoman period including administration, institutions, economy, law, science and technology, cities and architecture. They are published in their language of presentation: mainly in English or Arabic with a few in Turkish and French. As indicated by Dr. Halit Eren in the Preface of the book, the conference represented an important attempt at understanding the history of Egypt during the Ottoman era. It also presented a road map to researchers about the subjects that should be dealt with in studies. It was noted with pleasure that in recent years studies dealing with that period were increasingly based on objective evidence from archival documents and that those communicated in this congress also reflected this trend. Furthermore the congress was an opportunity for historians of different countries to get acquainted with each other, share their findings, and underline the fact that objectivity also requires unbiased interpretations, for which historians should refrain from unscientific, one-sided, ideological or rigid views in approaching the evidence. The book includes a number of topics such as society structure, legal reform, the institution of the kadi, waqfs (foundations), the libraries, and folk traditions that can be of interest to the general reader as well as the researcher.



الدولة العربية في الوثائق العثمانية

Osmanlı Belgelerinde Arap Vilayetleri. Hicrî X-Miladî XVI. yüzyılın ortaları

(The Arab provinces in Ottoman documents. Mid-Xth century H-XVIth century AD), Vol. 2, prepared by Fazıl Bayat, preface by Halit Eren, Muslim Countries in the Light of Ottoman Archive Documents Series no. 3, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2011, xx+384+xix pp., images of the documents in CD

(in Arabic, introductory parts in Arabic and Turkish)

The Ottoman official documents, preserved at the Department of Ottoman Archives in Istanbul attached to the Turkish Prime Ministry, are invaluable sources for studies on the history of the countries which were once part of the Ottoman Empire. To render these references accessible to researchers, the Centre collects archive documents relating to the Arab provinces as to all aspects of their situation and their relations with the State and on administrative history, rural development, public works, public health, education, science and scholarship, press and publications, etc., and publishes their Arabic translations in volumes ordered according to the periods with their contents arranged thematically. The first volume, containing Arabic translations of documents from Muhimme registers of the first half of 16th century, was published in 2011. This second volume contains the selected re-prints, type-set texts in Ottoman, and Arabic

translations of
107 Ottoman
documents

pertaining to Arab countries. The documents were obtained from Muhimme registers and various other collections from the Department of Ottoman Archives and the Library of Topkapı Palace Museum some of which were collected and studied by Dr. Fazıl Bayat (IRCICA) since years ago. The documents reproduced, transliterated and translated in this volume are classified under the subject headings of "General Situation", "Administrative Affairs", "Waqfs and Religious Affairs", "Emirs of Makkah al-Mukarramah and Pilgrimage", "Legal Affairs", "Economic Affairs", "Tribes and Bedouin Emirates", "Military Operations, Provision of Security and Order", "Miscellaneous Subjects". The series will continue; the third volume is in preparation.

