



Newsletter



OIC RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE

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Digital Library for the Muslim World sponsored by
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Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Emir of Dubai

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Joint project by IRCICA, the Council of Europe and its North-South Centre
in cooperation with the Alliance of Civilisations, and
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The Eighth International Calligraphy Competition begins

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“Baku – capital of Islamic culture 2009”

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Albanian edition of the History of the Ottoman State,
Society and Civilisation launched in Tirana;
book on the history of the Sudan according to Ottoman archive
documents, in Khartoum

Congress on “The Maghreb and the Western Mediterranean during the
Ottoman Period” to be held in Rabat

Conference on “Architectural Heritage in Islamic Civilisation”
to be held in Riyadh

Book Survey

Newsletter



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Editorial

This issue includes the highlights of a landmark event in the history of IRCICA which we hosted recently: H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of Turkey, honoured IRCICA by inaugurating its library in its new premises allocated by the Government of Turkey. The inaugural ceremony was held on 17 May 2009. H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC was present at the opening. The building, which was allocated to the Centre in 2007, has been re-arranged and refurbished and a Digital Library section is established with the generous sponsorship of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Emir of Dubai. His Highness was represented at the opening ceremony by Mr. Abd al-Rahman M. al-Uwais, Minister of Culture, Youth and Social Development of the U.A.E. Mr. Mohammed al-Murr, Vice Chairman, Culture and Arts Authority of Dubai and member of IRCICA Governing Board, and Mr. Jamal bin Houaireb Al-Muhairy, Cultural Advisor at the Executive Office, Dubai Government, were also present.

IRCICA Library was set up in the early 1980s, soon after the Centre's establishment. Over the following decades, the library's collections grew continuously while acquiring greater specificity in IRCICA's fields of activity. Lastly, an Expansion and Development Project of IRCICA Library was undertaken during 2007-May 2009 after Silahane Building was allocated to the Centre. It improved efficiency in the library with the help of the now larger space and technological availabilities.

In order to announce the opening of the library the soonest possible, we have extended the time coverage of this first issue of 2009 until the end of May, instead of covering up to the end of April as usual. In the present issue we also give news on the activities conducted during the Second Summit of the UN Alliance of Civilisations which was held Istanbul in April. Prior to the Summit we organised, jointly with the Council of Europe

and its North-South Centre, a think-tank meeting of historians. Recommendations of this meeting were incorporated in the project proposal that the Council of Europe, the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe and IRCICA jointly submitted to the Summit. Our article on this event outlines the project proposal.

Presently we are preparing to organise a history congress on the theme "Al-Quds during the Ottoman Era" to be held under the patronage of H.E. Dr. Naji Al-Otri, Prime Minister of the Syrian Arab Republic, on 22-25 June 2009. This will be the second history congress to be organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture of Syria after the one on "Bilad al-Sham during the Ottoman Era" (Damascus, 2005). On this occasion we are also preparing an exhibition which will include historical photographs of Al-Quds during the late Ottoman period selected from our collections, and reproductions of Ottoman archive documents relating to Al-Quds. We shall report on this congress in our next issue.

Baku, the capital city of Azerbaijan, is the "Capital of Islamic Culture 2009". A wide range of cultural activities are taking place on this occasion. IRCICA participates as co-organiser and coordinator in some events, particularly those relating to architectural and urban heritage. As this issue goes to press, we are coordinating, on 27-29 May, an international conference on "Historical cities and modern architecture in Islamic countries" placed within the same program. Relating to the activities of our Department of Architectural Heritage I would also like to mention that a comprehensive report has been published, outlining the work conducted during 2008 within the framework of our long-term program "Al-Quds/Jerusalem 2015". It also contains the papers contributed by experts from around the world to the workshops and seminars organised within the framework of this program. The report can be requested from IRCICA.

Dr. Halit Eren

H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, inaugurated IRCICA Library in its new premises

**Digital Library for the Muslim World sponsored by
H.H. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid al-Maktoum, Vice President
and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Emir of Dubai,
established at IRCICA**

The Prime Minister of Turkey H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan inaugurated the library of IRCICA in its new premises at Silahhane Building, Yıldız Palace, at a ceremony held on 17 May 2009 in the central Palace courtyard. The ceremony marked the opening, within the same building, of the Digital Library for the Muslim World sponsored by H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Emir of Dubai. His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum was represented by the Minister of Culture, Youth and Social Development of the United Arab Emirates Mr. Abd al-Rahman M. al-Uwais. Mr. Mohammed al-Murr, Vice Chairman, Culture and Arts Authority of Dubai and member of IRCICA Governing Board, and Mr. Jamal bin Houaireb Al-Muhairy, Cultural Advisor at the Executive Office, Dubai Government, participated in the opening.

H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference was present at the ceremony. The Ambassadors and Consul Generals of OIC Member States in Turkey were present.

H.E. Mr. Muammer Güler, Governor of Istanbul and H.E. Dr. Kadir Topbaş, Metropolitan Mayor of Istanbul, were present. Accompanying the Prime Minister of Turkey, Mr. Egemen Bağış, Minister of State of Turkey for EU Affairs and Chief Negotiator, and Mr. Beşir Atalay, Minister of Interior of Turkey, attended the ceremony.

Faculty members from various universities, and the heads of libraries in Istanbul, participated in the event.

IRCICA library is a repository of references on subjects relating to history, culture, arts, languages, and social sciences in general, with special focus on the Muslim world. Since 1983, the library's collections were preserved and put to service in the Çit Qasr building within the Yıldız Palace complex. The collections were steadily enlarged and diversified over the years. In recent years, need arose for more space to accommodate the growing collections and facilitate access to library services.

Silahhane (Armoury) Building, one of the largest buildings of Yıldız Palace complex, was allocated to IRCICA by the Government of the Republic of Turkey in 2007.



A large-scale Expansion and Development Project of IRCICA Library was undertaken in this building during 2007-May 2009.

The re-arrangement and furnishing of the building and establishment of a digital section within the library was made possible with the generous sponsorship extended by H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Emir of Dubai.

On completion of these projects the library was opened for use in its new premises by H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, on 17 May 2009.

IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren said in his welcoming address that the historical Yıldız Palace was opening a new window towards the Muslim world that day: its Silahhane Building, filled with treasures of knowledge in fulfillment of its new function assigned under the patronage of His Excellency Prime Minister Erdoğan, was being opened by the Prime Minister and put to the service of culture and learning. A major development concretised in the now spacious premises was the re-arrangement of the library's sections and establishment of a pioneering project: the Digital Library for the Muslim World, which were rendered possible thanks to the generous contribution of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Emir of Dubai. Thus these premises symbolising common histories of peoples of the Muslim world were now going to house modern projects serving the knowledge and information needs of the age. That was also a most memorable day in the history of IRCICA. Dr. Eren gave information on the new methods and arrangements put to effect in the library, including the Radio Frequency Identification System - RFID

which was being put to use for the first time in the libraries of Turkey and its region. Dr. Eren expressed his deep gratitude to Prime Minister Erdoğan and the Turkish Government, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in particular, for the allocation of Silahhane Building to IRCICA's library. He conveyed his profound gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum for his generous sponsorship of the library's refurbishing and setting up of the digital sector. Dr. Eren recalled with gratitude that IRCICA library had originally been established at the foresighted initiative of His Excellency Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC, soon after the establishment of the Centre in 1980, and developed constantly under his direction and through his personal efforts. He also expressed his gratitude to Prof. İhsanoğlu for the continuous support and encouragement given to IRCICA.

The Governor of Istanbul H.E. Mr. Muammer Güler addressed the audience. He said the library of IRCICA is a monument which houses works that throw light on the past and guide knowledge towards the future. Yıldız Palace had served the Ottoman Empire starting from the 17th century and then the Republic of Turkey through its various functions, and that in our time its buildings were being rendered operational after restoration. Mr. Güler pointed to the irreplaceable role of the library as the only source for learning, teaching and reflection, and congratulated IRCICA which always acts in full conscience of this fact.

The Minister of Culture, Youth and Social Development of the United Arab Emirates Mr. Abd al-Rahman M. al-Uwais, representing H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the U.A.E. and Emir of Dubai, conveyed the greetings of His Highness on this occasion which marks the beginning of an important



cultural project put at the service of research in the field of world civilisation in general and Islamic civilisation in particular. He said that the United Arab Emirates gives importance to supporting cultural projects and the idea of helping the establishment of the digital library at IRCICA, in this historical monument located in Istanbul, where East and West meet, came in this context, as a manifestation of the cooperation of the Government of the United Arab Emirates with the OIC on one hand, and the brotherly Republic of Turkey, host country of IRCICA, on the other. The Minister also alluded to the multiple visits he had made to IRCICA through which he became acquainted with its work aiming at activating Islamic arts and culture and training young generations in these fields. Mr. Uwais expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister of Turkey for his patronage and presiding of this ceremony which were clear messages expressing the interest accorded by the Prime Minister and the Government of Turkey to culture and cultural heritage.

Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC, delivered an address in which he recalled the first visit of Prime Minister Erdoğan to IRCICA in 1994 during his functions as the Metropolitan Mayor of Istanbul and remembered with gratitude that since then and in all his functions Mr. Erdoğan had given his continuous support to the Centre and that again, Silahane Building was put to the Centre's use under his patronage. The Secretary General said that this development was a turning point in IRCICA's almost 30-year history and expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey. Prof. İhsanoğlu conveyed his gratitude to H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the U.A.E. and Emir of Dubai, for the

support extended towards realisation of the reinstallation project. He said that His Highness had made his country and Dubai a center of development and that the ten-billion dollars fund earmarked for science and culture was a monument of the universal mission His Highness undertook. The Secretary General praised the efforts of IRCICA which for almost thirty years had been contributing to peace among civilisations by highlighting the products of Islamic culture and civilisation, their contributions to world science and culture and Islam's principles of intercultural tolerance, and by helping researchers. These accomplishments would not have been possible without deep commitment on the part of IRCICA, and the development of the library was another such accomplishment; in this regard he congratulated the Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren and his colleagues.

H.E. Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of Turkey, expressed his wish that the new library building will open new horizons for everybody. He said that following the allocation of the building to IRCICA preparations had been made rapidly. The Prime Minister said "Certainly, the place is very important, we are in Yıldız Palace, one of the most distinguished architectural monuments of Istanbul; I believe by allocating this splendid building to IRCICA and its valuable library of international scale, we have rendered it even more valuable and linked the past to the future." Prime Minister Erdoğan expressed his great happiness, in particular, that with the allocation of this building a contribution is made to this Centre. "A treasure of knowledge rarely equaled in the world and a historical heritage are being preserved in this library; academicians, researchers and students from many countries of the world come here to use these works. But moreover, this Centre carries significance and importance



much larger than this; this Centre and its library manifest concretely the importance that was given to knowledge, science, and the book over a vast geography; we are the heirs of a civilisation which is based on reading.” The Prime Minister said that scientists and artists of this civilisation considered knowledge a rare commodity and sought it all their lives. Those who traveled from Andalusia to Damascus under all hardships to find one book of which they only heard the name, those who devoted a whole life to research in order to have access to a treatise, to obtain an article, made this civilisation one of devotion and one of learning. The Eastern contribution to world civilisation is so important that it can never be unnoticed. The scholarly institutions and libraries established in the past in Baghdad, Isphahan, Spain, Cordoba, Beirut, Damascus and Istanbul have no equals. The library of IRCICA is a tangible representative of those achievements. The Prime Minister expressed his sincere wish that all those who have the possibility of visiting this library, these historical premises, and people from all institutions of learning of Istanbul, do so. He conveyed his gratitude to H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum for his valuable contributions to the digital library, a pioneering initiative in the Muslim world. He expressed his thanks to



The distinguished guests received information on the collections of the library

Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of OIC, for ensuring the Centre’s development since the beginning; to Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, and his colleagues who contributed in this development.

As a souvenir of the event, H.E. Prof. İhsanoğlu and Dr. Eren presented Prime Minister Erdoğan with a plaque of gratitude and the annotated album *Al-Quds/Jerusalem in historical photographs* newly published by IRCICA. A copy of the album was also presented to Minister Mr. Abd al-Rahman Uways. Then, the guests toured Silahane Building and received information on the activities of the library.



Brief information on IRCICA Library

The collection comprises, among others,

70,000 volumes of books

10,000 grey literature containing off-prints of articles, reports, brochures

1,150 microfilms and microfiches including microfilms of the Ottoman official gazette *Takvim-i Vekayi*

1,500 atlases, maps and plans

1,570 titles of periodicals, 400 of them complete sets of scholarly academic journals.

The collection's distribution among languages is, in the order of frequency, as Turkish, Arabic, English, French, German, Persian. Among them are periodicals such as the *Journal of The Royal Asiatic Society*, *Index Islamicus*, *Takvim-i Vekayi*, *Tasvir-i Efkar* and *Madjallat al-Athar*. The whole collection is in 140 languages.

The library cooperates with approximately 582 libraries and institutions specialised in fields related to its own. The Centre's publications and duplicate copies of its collection are exchanged with theirs.

The library serves visitors from all over the world in addition to the research needs of its own departments. Outside researchers who visit the library include university scholars, researchers and students, researchers from state institutions, media institutions and private companies, and interested people from all sectors of life. The average annual number of visits to the library is 3500.



Prime Minister Erdoğan received information on the Centre's publications

The Digital Library sector, a pioneering initiative in the Muslim world, is being developed with the latest electronic librarianship techniques. This sector will include the Electronic Database of textual and visual materials which will in time become accessible on global scale.

The new techniques will offer possibilities of conversion and storage of texts in digital form but also of conservation and restoration of traditional library materials by modern methods. The nucleus of this e-library is the existing library collection. With the conversion into digital form, it will be possible to acquire and provide library services over a global network of interactive connections.

The digital sector of the library will consist of mainly three parts. The first one is the Electronic Database on Islamic Civilisation. The materials to be selected from IRCICA's own library and from other sources will be scanned and stored. The foremost objective is to digitalise the existing written, printed, audio and visual materials in a readable, usable and correctible form. This will be followed by conversion of materials to be obtained from external sources. The second part will consist of the scanned and digitalised versions of IRCICA's publications numbering about 200 editions. A third portion will be the database whereby subscriptions to selected digital sources and databases will render them accessible to IRCICA library's users.



The Second Forum of the UN Alliance of Civilisations, Istanbul: Joint project by IRCICA, the Council of Europe and its North-South Centre in cooperation with the Alliance of Civilisations, and meeting of historians held at IRCICA

The second annual forum of the UN-sponsored Alliance of Civilisations (AoC) was held in Istanbul on 6-7 April 2009. The AoC initiative 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 AoC’s first forum was held in Madrid, on 15-16 January 2008.

The AoC’s action plan is based on recommendations that were put forward by a High-level Group of Experts which was formed by former UN Secretary-General Mr. Kofi Annan. In 2007, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed Mr. Jorge Sampaio, the former President of Portugal, as the High Representative for the AoC. The AoC Secretariat is in New York. The AoC activities are supported by an expanding group of over 100 countries and organisations known as the Group of Friends. Members of the Group of Friends are creating their own national plans towards achieving the AoC objectives (www.unaoc.org). During the Second Forum, national plans to advance the objectives of the AoC were announced by Albania, Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Montenegro, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Qatar and Slovenia, while Bulgaria, New Zealand, Spain, Turkey and the United Kingdom already had adopted national plans. Regional strategies were announced for East-European countries, the Euro-Mediterranean region and the Ibero-American countries.

The Istanbul forum drew a wide range of partners from governments, international and national organisations, media, community and religious leaders, civil society, youth societies – more than one thousand participants. Heads of State and Government (Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, Slovenia, Spain and Turkey) and more than fifty ministers from all over the world participated in the forum. Also present were Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC; Dr. Amr Moussa, Secretary General of the League of Arab States, and Mr. Terry Davis, Secretary-General of the Council of Europe. Hundreds of policy-makers and opinion-builders gathered around a multitude of themes of joint reflection and activity aiming to build mutual understanding, cooperation and partnerships among communities, religions and cultures. The forum also served as an opportunity to take stock of initiatives developed by the AoC and to launch practical projects in collaboration with civil society and corporate partners. Breakfast sessions and working sessions were held which established, or advanced the existing practical, concrete projects aiming to build understanding among communities and nations.

The opening ceremony heard the addresses of Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of Turkey, Mr. Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, President of the Government of Spain, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, and Mr. Jorge Sampaio, AoC’s High Representative.



Meeting of historians held at IRCICA

In his welcoming address, Prime Minister Erdoğan underlined that no country can achieve happiness if it isolates itself from the rest. He said “We have suffered enough because we ignored the problems of others ... To achieve desired outcomes and surpass problems, we have to have consistent policies. We should not leave the problems to future generations.” Prime Minister Erdoğan recalled that like all parts of the world geography, time and again over history the area where Turkey is located was the stage of conflicts, wars and distresses. “However I can say with pleasure that these lands have mostly been the venue for peace, tolerance, the culture of coexistence. Istanbul gives the clearest example of it. Istanbul is not only where Asia and Europe meet. Istanbul is not only located at the crossing point of Africa, Asia and Europe. Istanbul at the same time has its right place in the world as a city where cultures, civilisations, races, faiths and languages mix and accord with each other in the crucible of history. Designated the European Capital of Culture 2010, Istanbul continues to send messages of love and tolerance to the world still today as it did throughout history.”

Mr. Rodríguez Zapatero, the President of the Government of Spain, emphasised in his address that the AoC was based upon the best principle, the one upon which the UN had been created, that is the idea of peace, which is “the noblest one humans could ever implement”. He said that the Alliance comprises the different world views, all those religions that respect other religions and all those cultures that defend human rights. Mr. Zapatero said that the Alliance does not aim to “fulfill a political function, but to attain coexistence”, and that if things are properly done, the 21st century will be a period of peace, coexistence and tolerance. It will enhance values such as equality and fight against poverty, unlike the 20th century marked by two world wars.

In his address, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said that “All too often, the United Nations must deal with fires after they break out. Through the Alliance of Civilizations, we can stamp out the sparks before they catch.” The Secretary-General pointed out that this approach is critical “because

no amount of blue helmets, cease-fires or human rights monitors can bring lasting peace without a genuine spirit of cooperation across communities. We urgently need the alliance.” He said that the AoC is working with the UN Global Compact to foster tolerance in multicultural environments. “You are here to meet and talk. More than that, you are signing new agreements, launching new networks, funding worthy projects. This is partnership in action” he said.

Taking the stage at the opening, Mr. Jorge Sampaio said the Alliance was working to bring about concrete action. “The Alliance Forum is not only about dialogue. It is about dialogue that delivers. It is about concrete, practical projects that make a real difference to the lives of people” he said. “The world will not be able to pull out of the current global crisis through economic measures alone. For those measures to be effective in the long term, they need to be complemented by efforts to strengthen the social fabric and build trust and understanding among communities and nations.”

Some of the key outcomes of the forum were the establishment of the following new initiatives:

1. A Global Youth Movement composed of youth organisations and individuals who make the objectives of the Alliance a central part of their daily lives through concrete projects and personal commitments.
2. Dialogue Café, a highly innovative technological project aimed at creating a global collective of ordinary citizens, who will explore common interests across divides and will be encouraged to collaborate on common projects. The project, led by CISCO, will be the first example of a true global public-private partnership, involving the business sector, foundations, universities and, hopefully, local public authorities as well.
3. “Restore Trust, Rebuild Bridges”, a cluster of Euro-Mediterranean projects, led by the Alliance and the Anna Lindh Foundation, to be developed by a number of partners.



4. An initial showcasing of the Alliance Fellowship Program to facilitate meaningful exchanges of young leaders from a number of countries and establish working relationships between them.
5. Plural +, a youth film festival focused on migration themes.
6. Doing Business in a Multi-cultural World – Challenges and Opportunities, a joint report of the Alliance of Civilizations and the UN Global Compact showcasing a range of best practices and case studies for companies to use in responding to the diversity of today's business environments.
7. The launch of Mapping Media Education Policies around the world, a joint publication by the Alliance and UNESCO on media education policies.
8. A joint rapid response media framework developed with the Anna Lindh Foundation and the European Commission to serve the needs of journalists working across the Mediterranean region. This initiative will provide user-friendly access to information and expertise in the context of crises with cultural dimensions as well as a support mechanism to bring together international journalists, editors and relevant experts for media dialogue.
9. The Alliance Research Network, which was launched with 12 universities from across the world.
10. The launch of the Education about Religions and Beliefs Clearinghouse with 12 partners from around the world. (Source: www.unaoc.org)

During the forum, the OIC Secretary General Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu and the UN AoC's High Representative Mr. Jorge Sampaio signed a Memorandum of Understanding which establishes the framework and sets the targets of bilateral cooperation between the two institutions. The OIC Secretary General addressed the First Plenary Session titled "Shaping the Global Agenda in Times of Crisis - Why Does

Good Governance of Cultural Diversity Matter?", where he underlined that cultural diversity must be respected if social peace and harmony is to be present in any society. The Secretary General noted, among others, that Islam and Christianity had a lot in common, and proposed the notion of "Historic Reconciliation" between Islam and Christianity as an OIC initiative and a project for the AoC or similar forums. The other panelists of the same plenary session were the former Danish Prime Minister and newly elected NATO Secretary General Mr. Anders Fogh Rasmussen, who promised to pay close attention to religious sensitivities and to seek reconciliation with the Muslim world during the performance of his new duty. On the second day of the Forum, Prof. İhsanoğlu addressed the working session on "Islamic and Muslim contribution to European Culture, Societies and Identities" organised by the OIC General Secretariat, the British Council and Anna Lindh Foundation. During the session Prof. İhsanoğlu reviewed the landmark processes in the intellectual and scientific history of mankind which bring to evidence that Islam is one component of the European culture and identity and reiterated his proposed Historic Reconciliation between Islam and Christianity.

IRCICA activities within the framework of the Alliance of Civilizations' Second Forum

Jointly with the Council of Europe, the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, and in cooperation with Alliance of Civilizations, a Meeting of Historians was organised at IRCICA on 5 April 2009, before the opening of the AoC's forum, to discuss and contribute inputs to the concept of a pilot project that was already developed by the partners for presentation to the Alliance of Civilizations forum, at the Breakfast Session on "Intercultural Dialogue and History in the Context of Globalisation: towards a Worldwide Network of Historians and History Teachers" organised by the Council of Europe, its North-South Centre and IRCICA in the presence of the Secretary General of the OIC Prof. İhsanoğlu, on 7 April 2009.



The Meeting of Historians, which was designed as a brainstorming session, gathered twenty historians and history teachers from various countries with a view to: having a first exchange of views on the role of history and history teaching in the context of intercultural dialogue; discussing the impact of globalisation on history research and teaching and identifying some orientations for future progress and reforms; discussing and making proposals on how a dialogue between historians and history teachers could be developed at global level; discussing the possible composition, partners, methodology, orientations, etc. of a prospective network of historians and history teachers to cooperate towards collecting and producing sources and textbooks that highlight positive interactions having taken place between cultures of the world throughout history, which would complete the teaching materials composed of political histories and translate research findings on cross-cultural interactions into the actual teaching of history.

The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Gabriele Mazza, Director of Education and Languages, Council of Europe, and Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, with the participation of Mr. Denis Huber, Executive Director, North-South Centre of the Council of Europe, Mr. Jean-Pierre Titz, Head of the History Education Division, Council of Europe. The UN Alliance of Civilizations (New York) was represented by Dr. Thomas Uthup, Research Manager.

The initiative of the pilot project is mainly based on the principles defined in the “White Paper on intercultural dialogue- Living together as equals in dignity” adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and in the framework of the Alliance of Civilizations, and the outcomes of the symposium on “Globalisation and Images of the Other: challenges and new perspectives for History teaching in Europe?” which was organised by the Council of

Europe and IRCICA on 30 November - 1st December 2008 in Istanbul.

This pilot project devised within the framework of the UN Alliance of Civilizations aims at the “production of didactic materials for formal and non-formal education highlighting positive interactions over the centuries within the peoples of the Mediterranean Basin and between them and other cultures and regions of the world.” It will aim to produce materials that underscore social and cultural history including written and audio-visual supports for learners, as well as handbooks for teachers and trainers. A task force will be set up, drawing on existing networks and consortia of specialists. The initiative will benefit from the relevant experiences of IRCICA, the Council of Europe, the Union for the Mediterranean, as well as from UNESCO’s work on the *History of Humanity*, and draw from collaboration with and other interested parties. Leading agencies of the project will be IRCICA, the Council of Europe, and the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe.

The proposed project was presented to participants at the AoC forum by Mr. Gabriele Mazza, Director of Education and Culture, at the Breakfast Session on “Intercultural Dialogue and History in the Context of Globalisation: towards a Worldwide Network of Historians and History Teachers”. A question and answer session followed. During the meeting, the book titled *Cultural Contacts in Building A Universal Civilisation: Islamic Contributions*, edited by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu and published by IRCICA, was presented to the participants as an example of a source highlighting positive interactions between cultures over history which the book does through the articles it contains on the interactions between Islam and Europe in the fields of science, philosophy and fine arts.



The Eighth International Calligraphy Competition begins

IRCICA launched its Eighth International Calligraphy Competition, to be finalised in 2010. The competition is dedicated to the Syrian calligrapher Muhammad Badawi al-Dirani (1894-1967).

The Eighth International Calligraphy Competition is organised with the valuable contributions of the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage.

IRCICA has organised international calligraphy competitions once every three years since 1986 within the framework of its activity programs related to the protection and promotion of the Islamic artistic heritage. The aim of these competitions is to preserve, foster and develop the classical art of Islamic calligraphy by maintaining its original principles and traditional spirit, and to protect it from trends that emerge under foreign influences and which are not in conformity with this spirit. To symbolise this understanding, encourage young artists to emulate the examples of the great masters of calligraphy and, at the same time, to commemorate their achievements, each competition is dedicated to one of the masters of calligraphy who contributed to the history of this art over the past centuries. Thus, the following competitions were organised before the present one:

- The first, dedicated to Hamid Al-Amidi (1891-1982), in 1986
- The second, dedicated to Yaqut Al-Mustasimi (?-1298), in 1989
- The third, dedicated to Ibn Al-Bawwab (?-1022), in 1992, on the millennium of his death
- The fourth, dedicated to Sheikh Hamdullah (1429-1520), in 1997
- The fifth, dedicated to the Egyptian calligrapher Sayyid Ibrahim (1897-1994), in 2000
- The sixth, dedicated to the Iranian calligrapher Mir Imad al-Hassani (1554-1615) on the 400th year of his death
- The seventh, dedicated to the Iraqi calligrapher Hashim al-Baghdadi (1917-1973), in 2007.

The event will provide a common platform to calligraphers to exchange their knowledge and approaches and contribute to developing artistic tastes in this field.

The present competition will be conducted in the following categories of writing styles:

Jaly Thuluth, Thuluth, Naskh, Jaly Ta'liq, Ta'liq (Nasta'liq), Jaly Diwani, Diwani, Kufi, Riqa, Maghribi. The general conditions, format requirements and the texts to be written in each style are given in the Competition Booklet. This booklet, and the application form, should be requested from the Competition Secretariat established at IRCICA:

*Calligraphy Competition Secretariat, IRCICA,
P.O.B. 24, 80693 Beşiktaş, Istanbul, Turkey,*

*Tel.: (90) (212) 259 17 42, Fax: (90) (212) 258 43 65,
e-mail: calligraphy@ircica.org.*

The form should be filled and returned to the Competition Secretariat by 30 October 2009 at the latest to be able to participate in the competition.

The Competition Coordinator is Mr. Mohammed Tamimi and the Assistant Coordinator is Mr. Said Kasımoğlu.

The Jury of the competition consists of the following experts of classical Islamic calligraphy:

- Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC, Honorary Chairman;
- Dr. Halit Eren, IRCICA Director General, Chairman of the Organising Committee;
- Mr. Ahmed Ziya İbrahim, master of calligraphy, Saudi Arabia (Honorary Member);
- Mr. Hasan Çelebi, master of calligraphy, Turkey (Honorary Member) ;
- Dr. M. Uğur Derman, expert and historian of calligraphy, calligraphy advisor of IRCICA, Turkey (Honorary Member);
- Dr. Mohammed Cherifi, master of calligraphy, Algeria (Honorary Member);
- Mr. Mus'ad Khudair al-Borsaidi, master of calligraphy, Egypt;
- Mr. Ubayda Muhammed Salih al-Banki, master of calligraphy, Syria;
- Mr. Hamidi Bel'aid, master of calligraphy, Morocco;
- Dr. Abdul-Rida Bahie, master of calligraphy, Iraq;
- Mr. Jelil Resuli, master of calligraphy, Iran;
- Mr. Mehmed Özçay, master of calligraphy, Turkey;
- Mr. Davud Bektaş, master of calligraphy, Turkey.

Awards totaling US\$ 124.500.- are allocated for the Badawi al-Dirani Calligraphy Competition, to be distributed as follows:

Style	1st Award	2nd Award	3rd Award	Total
a. Jaly Thuluth	7.500	5.000	2.500	15.000
b. Thuluth	7.500	5.000	2.500	15.000
c. Naskh	7.500	5.000	2.500	15.000
d. Jaly Ta'liq	5.000	3.000	2.000	10.000
e. Ta'liq	5.000	3.000	2.000	10.000
f. Jaly Diwani	5.000	3.000	2.000	10.000
g. Diwani	3.000	2.000	1.000	6.000
h. Kufi	2.000	1.500	1.000	4.500
i. Rik'a	2.000	1.500	1.000	4.500
j. Maghribi	2.000	1.500	1.000	4.500
Total:	46.500	30.500	17.500	94.500

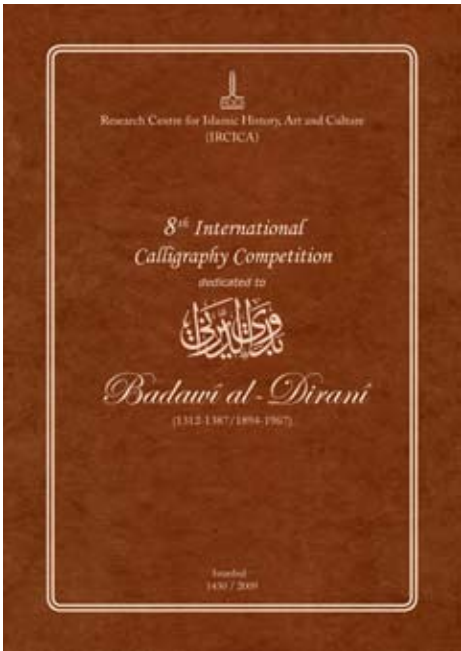
As an encouragement to the participants, the three best calligraphies to follow after the first three award-winning works in each field will receive incentive prizes of US\$ 1.000 each (10x3x1.000= US\$ 30.000). Thus, the total number of awards and incentive prizes will be 60. Among the conditions of the competition, it is specified that the Jury may judge none of the works submitted in one or more of the styles is worthy of the first prize or the incentive prizes. It is also indicated, as in all previous competitions, that all works submitted to the competition will become properties of IRCICA, regardless of whether they win a prize or not. These works will be exhibited first at the headquarters of IRCICA in Istanbul and then in various countries. They may be published or reproduced by the Centre.

The Centre will consider organising an award presentation ceremony to which the winners of the first prizes will be invited and which will be accompanied by an exhibition of their works. Certificates of appreciation will be presented to award-winning participants.

The competition is open to all artists of classical Islamic calligraphy, subject to the rules. Participation should be on individual basis. Participants may enter the competition at most in two separate categories of styles among the ten categories. Calligraphers who won or shared the first winner's prize in the past competitions can participate in the present competition.

The competition calendar is as follows:

Deadline for registration	30 October 2009
Deadline for submitting the entries to the Secretariat	28 February 2010
Jury meeting	April 2010
Announcement of the competition results	May 2010



Muhammad BADAWĪ al-DĪRANĪ

(1894-1967): a short biography

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



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

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

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

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

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

(The Centre thanks Mr. Ahmad al-Mufti for providing the biography of his late master, calligrapher Mr. Badawi al-Dirani).

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Co-organisation of events in commemoration of “Baku – capital of Islamic culture 2009”



Mr. Abdulfas Garayev,
Minister of Culture and Tourism of Azerbaijan

A wide range of activities are taking place in Baku, Azerbaijan during 2009, within the framework of the program “Baku – capital of Islamic culture 2009”. The Centre participates as co-organiser and coordinator in some of the planned events. On 15-20 March 2009, an international festival titled “Degree and profession” was organised by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan, jointly with the Azerbaijan University of Architecture and Construction, IRCICA, and Romualdo del Bianco Foundation (Florence). The festival was addressed to students and young architects, on the subject “Traditional Islamic Architecture”. During the event IRCICA also presented its own activities relating to the preservation of architectural heritage.

Within the framework of the “Baku – capital of Islamic culture 2009” program the Centre will next be involved in the organisation of an international conference on “Historical Islamic cities and modern architecture”, on 2-3 June 2009.

During the festival “Degree and profession”, Professor Dr. Amir Pašić, Head of IRCICA’s Architectural Department, and his assistant, Architect Işıl Çokuğraş, made comprehensive power-point presentations on IRCICA’s architectural programs, mainly its “Al-Quds 2015” and “Mostar 2004: -

Rehabilitation of the Old City of Mostar 1998-2004” programs and the Prince Sultan bin Salman Islamic Architectural Heritage Database. The presentations coordinated by IRCICA continued with the following: “Conservation of Istanbul and its World Heritage Assets” by Prof. Zeynep Ahunbay, Head of the Department of restoration, Faculty of Architecture, Istanbul Technical University; “Kastamonu, 19th Century Buildings and their Evaluation for Urban Conservation”, by Arch. Mine Topçubaşı; “A Caravanserai from the 16th century: Behram Pasha Han in Sivas”, by Arch. Nisa Semiz; “Eminönü Vlorë Khan Restoration Project” by Arch. H. Görkem Kurt.



Participation in the Seminar on Development of Tourism in the Muslim World, in Girne, TRNC

Representatives from Ministries, government institutions and universities of nineteen countries, and regional and international institutions, participated in this seminar held in Girne, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, on 15-17 April 2009. The seminar was opened officially by Assoc. Prof. Turgay Avcı, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the TRNC. The opening session heard the statement of Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC. The participating OIC organs and institutions were: IRCICA, the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre – SESRIC, the Islamic Development Bank – IDB, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry – ICCI, the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation – ISESCO.



Prof. Arch. Amir Pašić represented IRCICA at the meeting

Prof. Arch. Amir Pasic, Head of the Department of Architectural Heritage of IRCICA, gave a lecture during the seminar, titled “The role of the preservation of architectural heritage in the development and promotion of tourism in the OIC Member States”. Country papers were presented by Bangladesh, Guinea, Malaysia, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Tunisia, and Turkey reflecting their experiences in tourism development.

Participation in the organisation of the symposium on the “Sage Poet of the East Muhammad Iqbal” convened by Istanbul University’s Faculty of Letters

Istanbul University’s Faculty of Letters organised its second meeting in the series of Symposiums on International Oriental Languages and Literatures. The meeting, held on 21-22 April 2009, had for theme the “Sage Poet of the East Muhammad Iqbal”. IRCICA was one of the institutions contributing in the symposium together with the Municipality of Greater Istanbul, the Centre for Islamic Studies (ISAM, Istanbul), the South Asia Research Center (GASAM), and various research and publishing institutions from Istanbul. Thirty-two scholars and specialists from Germany, India, Iran, Pakistan, Turkey, UK and USA participated in the symposium, covering the views and works of Muhammad Iqbal relating to his various aspects as philosopher, poet and politician.

Allama Muhammad Iqbal (1877-1938), known as Mufakkir-i Pakistan (the thinker of Pakistan) as well as Shair-i Mashriq (the poet of the East), was a leading luminary of the process of foundation of Pakistan. His writings and series of lectures helped to shape a vision of a political and spiritual revival of Muslims across the world. He is also regarded as one of the most influential philosophers, scholars and poets of the 20th century in the Muslim world. His books and poetry are translated into many languages. Similarities are established between the thoughts and works of Iqbal on one hand and

the Turkish poet Mehmet Akif Ersoy on the other, who also have in common an attachment to the Sufi mystic and poet Maulana Jalaleddin Rumi.

Some of the papers were: “The concept of struggle and strife in Iqbal’s philosophy” (by Aurangzeb Alamgir), “Perfection of the human being [Insan-e kamil] in the works of Iqbal Lahori” (by Mehdi Muhibbetti), “Iqbal and Mulla Sadra” (by Atiya Syed), “Iqbal’s thought on Ijtihad” (by Durmuş Bulgur), “Iqbal, poet of the East – a reappraisal” (by Satya Pal Anand), “Headlines of the concept of human modeling in Muhammad Iqbal” (by Ahmet Albayrak), “Iqbal’s adaptation of Goethe’s poem ‘Mahomets Gesang’” (by Christina Oesterheld), “The tradition of patriotism in Urdu poetry with reference to Shair-i Mashriq Allama Iqbal” (by Seyeed Md. Yahya Saba), “So what should be done? [Pas chi bayaad kard?]” (by Akhtar Awan).

Muhammad Iqbal has been commemorated by IRCICA on various occasions over the years. Justice Dr. Javed Iqbal, the son of Muhamamd Iqbal, was a member of the Governing Board of IRCICA during the second term of the Board (1986-90). Justice Iqbal gave a lecture at the Centre on “The image of Turkey in the views of Iqbal” in 1987. Later, within the framework of the commemoration programs relating to

the fiftieth anniversary of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, a seminar and photograph exhibition were organised at IRCICA in November 1997 in cooperation with the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Ankara, Turkey. The paper presentations related to the history and culture of Pakistan included a lecture by Dr. Mehmet Önder on "Iqbal's attachment to Jalaeddin Rumi". Furthermore, a meeting to commemorate Muhammad Iqbal was held by IRCICA jointly with the Consulate General of Pakistan in Istanbul and the

Turkish-Pakistan Women's Friendship Association, in March 1998, on IRCICA's premises. The speakers were Prof. Hüsrev Hatemi, on Iqbal's poetry, his style, and his inspiration from Jalaeddin Rumi; Mr. Mohammed Khan Kayani, on Iqbal's conception of the "perfect person", Dr. N. A. Asrar on Iqbal's thoughts related to human personality, destiny and action, Dr. Mehmet Önder, on common features between Iqbal and Mehmet Akif Ersoy, and Prof. Mim Kemal Öke highlighting the importance and influence of Iqbal's thoughts.

Launching of IRCICA books:

Albanian edition of the History of the Ottoman State, Society and Civilisation launched in Tirana

On 30 April 2009 a book launching ceremony and a panel discussion were held in Tirana, to mark the publication of the Albanian edition of IRCICA's book *History of the Ottoman State, Society and Civilisation*, titled *Historia e shtetit, shoqërisë dhe qytetërimit osman*. The book has been translated into Albanian and prepared for publication by the Albanian Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilisation with the cooperation of the Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TİKA).

Addressing the meeting, Dr. Ramiz Zekaj, Director of the Institute, said that they gave importance to publishing an Albanian edition of this book since it has parts that belong to the history of Albania. He praised the comprehensive coverage and objectivity of the book. He said that it gives Albanian readers a real tableau of the Ottoman State in which Albanians fulfilled important functions, contributing to politics, progress and cultural advancement. He cited as examples the Köprülü dynasty of grand viziers (1656-1683); Koçi Bey, who presented reports on the situation of state and society to Ottoman Sultans Murad IV and Ibrahim calling for reforms, in 1631 and 1640 respectively; Hasan Tahsin, the first Rector of the "Darülfunun" (University) of Istanbul (opened in 1868); Şemsettin Sami, the author of the historical and geographical encyclopaedia *Kamus ul-alam*, among others. Dr. Zekaj underlined the importance

of unbiased historiography: "the historian is un-biased and un-positioned towards the actors who shape history. Every reader of this book will find this historical side in it." Dr. Ali Özgün Öztürk, Coordinator, TİKA Coordination Office in Tirana, said that this book translated from English into Albanian will be an important source of reference for Albanian historians and researchers. Bonds between Albanians and Turks have been maintained for centuries. The book will constitute a reliable source about the history of their relations. Dr. Öztürk also briefed the audience about other projects conducted by TİKA which include infrastructural and hospital development projects. TİKA was established in 1992 to contribute to development efforts of the states of Central Asia, Caucasus, the Black Sea region and the Balkans following the dissolution of the Eastern Bloc.

IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren expressed his pleasure on completion of this important project representing exemplary cultural cooperation among the Albanian Institute, TİKA and IRCICA. He gave information on the contents of the book and also briefed the audience on IRCICA's other publications in the field of history.

The book launching continued with a panel of the following guest speakers: Prof. Beqir Meta, Director of the Institute of History; Prof. Petrika Thëngjilli, specialist in pedagogy,



Dr. Halit Eren informed the audience on IRCICA's activities



Dr. Ramiz Zekaj



Dr. Ali Özgün Öztürk (TIKA representative, on the right) with Dr. Eren and Dr. Zekaj during the ceremony

from the University of Tirana; Prof. Dritan Egro, scholar in history; Prof. Nazmi Daka, specialist of language education. Then there was a general discussion.

The book *History of the Ottoman State, Society and Civilisation* was published in Turkish, English and Arabic by IRCICA, and in Russian (translated and prepared for publication at Moscow State University) and Bosnian (translated and prepared at the Oriental Institute of Sarajevo).

Book on the history of The Sudan according to Ottoman archive documents launched in Khartoum, and cooperation with the Sudanese National Records House (NRH)

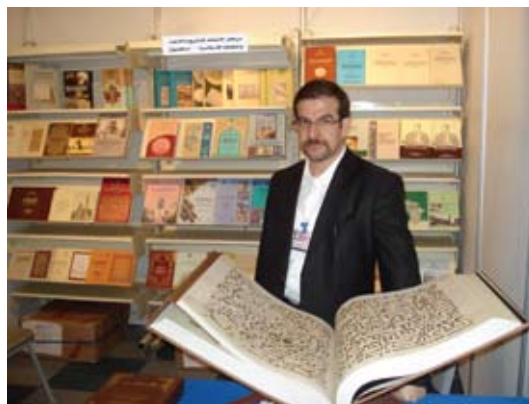
A collection of IRCICA's publications was presented to the Sudanese National Records House (NRH) among them the book entitled "Ottoman Administration in The Sudan in the Light of Archival Documents" (in Arabic) which was published by IRCICA in cooperation with the Department of Ottoman Archives affiliated to the Turkish Prime Ministry. This was in the context of the visit of a delegation comprising Dr. Yusuf Sarıнай, Director General of the State Archives, Turkey, and Dr. Elsadig Elfaqih (IRCICA), representing Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, to Khartoum during the period of 12 to 17 February 2009. A book-launching ceremony was organised for the book "Ottoman Administration in The Sudan in the Light of Archival Documents" where its importance in highlighting aspects of the history of The Sudan on the basis of original official Ottoman documents was underlined. In his message, read by Dr. Elsadig Elfaqih during the book launching, Dr. Halit Eren expressed appreciation of the growing cooperation between the Government and the cultural and academic institutions of the Sudan on one hand and IRCICA on the other and quoted with gratitude the words of H.E. President Omar Al-Bashir, President of the Republic of the Sudan, during his visit to IRCICA on 23 January 2008, where the President had described IRCICA as the holder of the "collective memory" of the Muslim world.

The visit also an occasion to discuss extensively on future cooperation engaging the Sudanese National Records House, IRCICA and the Ottoman Archives of the Turkish Prime Ministry's Directorate General of State Archives, particularly to exchange historical photographs and documents relating to The Sudan. The delegation also held a number of meetings with state officials and faculty in various universities of The Sudan. The talks centered on cooperation for the exchange and study of historical source materials. Dr. Kabachore Kuku, the Director of the National Records House, expressed his appreciation of the State Archives of Turkey's pledge to provide technical support to his country as regards electronic methods of archiving, maintenance and repair of documents, as well as technical training of the House's staff concerned.

IRCICA's participation in the Sharjah World Book Fair 2008

Sharjah World Book Fair is being held since 1982, under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammed al-Qassimi, Member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Sharjah. It is organised by the Department of Culture and Information of the Sharjah Government. The main objective of the Fair is to increase the population's reading habits and make quality books accessible at reasonable prices. This year's was the 27th edition of the fair. It took place from 29 October to 7 November 2008.

IRCICA participated in the Sharjah World Book Fair in 2008 for the first time, displaying 53 titles of publications. Most of the titles were in Arabic. Its publication which drew special interest was the facsimile edition of the Quran copy which is attributed to the time of Caliph Uthman and preserved at Topkapı Palace Museum in Istanbul; the edition was published by IRCICA in 2007 together with a technical study of the copy done by Dr. Tayyar Altıkulaç, a leading specialist of Quranic studies and former Head of Religious Affairs in Turkey, with a preface by Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu. The publication is titled *Al-Mushaf Al-Sharif Attributed to 'Uthman bin 'Affan (The Copy at the Topkapı Palace Museum)*; it was published thanks to generous support extended by H.H. Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammed al-Qassimi.



Mr. Said Kasımoğlu (IRCICA) operated the Centre's stand and informed the visitors about the publications

Congress on “The Maghreb and Western Mediterranean during the Ottoman Period” to be held in Rabat in November

IRCICA and the Royal Institute for the History of Morocco (IRRHM, Rabat), will jointly implement an International Seminar on “The Maghreb and Western Mediterranean during the Ottoman Period”, to be held in Rabat, Morocco on 12-14 November 2009.

The congress aims to promote research on the history of the Maghreb and the Western Mediterranean region during the period of the Ottoman State by exploring the existing and new directions of research and offering scholars and specialists an opportunity to present their findings and share information. The period will be covered comprehensively, to generate a forum of study and academic discussion on its various aspects. The Ottoman presence in part of the region under study had varying degrees and spheres of impacts on all of the region. Thus the theme will cover the relations between the Ottoman State and the Maghreb and Western Mediterranean region with regard to the effects of developments relating to the central state, the provinces, and the neighbouring countries, reciprocally; economic, social, cultural and educational developments, press and publications. An important aspect of the congress is that it will also address issues relating to

historiography and the state of research on the history of the region during the Ottoman period.

The congress will cover the following themes:

- I. The state of scholarship and methodological questions relating to the congress theme.
- II. Crossed glances: Ottoman, Maghrebian and European sources (historiography, chronicles, travel accounts, the press, etc.)
- III. Dimensions of the Ottoman presence in the Western Mediterranean:
 - Socio-economic aspects (trade and navigation; urban and rural life, etc.)
 - Administrative and institutional aspects
 - Cultural aspects (education, transmission of knowledge, architecture, etc.)
 - Political and relational aspects (a triangular relationship: Morocco - the Ottoman Maghreb – Europe).

Conference on “Architectural Heritage in the Muslim World” to be held in Riyadh, 2010

The Supreme Council for Tourism and Antiquities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and IRCICA have agreed to organise an international conference on Architectural Heritage in the Muslim World, to be held in Riyadh, on 21-26 March 2010. The conference will be held under the patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, H.M. King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz.

The conference objectives are, to

- study the current situation of the architectural heritage and the possibilities of using it in future;
- preserve the architectural heritage of the Muslim world in contribution to reflecting its cultural identity;
- establish a policy to revive the architectural heritage in the Member States and preserve it from external factors;
- study the possible means for integrating architectural heritage in urban development, touristic, cultural, social and economic policy in the Muslim world;
- promoting scientific research regarding the environmental, climatic and geological factors that influence architectural heritage and threaten its existence;
- establish protection of architectural heritage as one of the objectives of architectural planning in the Muslim world by initiating restoration projects, cultural activities and tourism development;

- institute incentives and awards for efforts to document, protect, restore and develop architectural heritage;
- to publicize successful experiences in the area of protecting, restoring and utilising architectural heritage;
- identify the latest techniques in the field of restoration and protection of architectural heritage;
- identify the legislation of various countries concerning the protection of architectural heritage from external factors;
- collect information, reports and recent pictures and maps about the architectural heritage in the Muslim world, through research papers to be submitted by experts;
- seek appropriate solutions to the difficulties faced in utilisation of architectural heritage in cultural, touristic and economic development;
- encourage new opportunities in the area of training and exchange of techniques as regards protecting and restoring architectural heritage;
- encourage the private sector towards greater participation in restoration and protection projects and putting architectural heritage to use;
- develop a strategy for cooperation and exchange of expertise between the Member States in the field of preservation of architectural heritage;

- publish a summary of the research papers presented at the conference for the reference of development policy makers and those working in the restoration, protection and preservation of architectural heritage;
- discuss possible measures to avoid the loss of the Muslim heritage identity in modern architectural projects.

The following themes are planned to be addressed:

General theme:

1. Architectural heritage in the Muslim world: past, present and future.

General concepts:

2. Plan of the city throughout history as seen by the Muslim architect;
3. General introduction to the different dimensions of the Islamic heritage designs;
4. The concept of architecture in urban heritage;
5. Written symbols and decorative forms in architecture;
6. The idea of peculiarity in architectural heritage;
7. The relationship between the vastness of space and architectural heritage;
8. Mutual influences in architecture between East and West.

Current situation:

9. Architectural heritage within the urban planning projects in the Member States;
10. To what extent originality can be compatible with modernization? Can architectural heritage stimulate efforts of modernization?
11. Basic steps to be taken to formulate a new understanding of the architectural heritage reflecting the most important features acquired over time?
12. Efforts to revitalize, protect and restore the architectural heritage, to preserve the cultural identity of our societies and strengthen the heritage dimension;
13. Use of architectural heritage elements in modern architecture;
14. Challenges and problems regarding the preservation of originality and quality in architectural heritage;



Ibn Tulun Mosque, Cairo

15. Cultural diversity and its impact on the development of architectural heritage in the Muslim world;

Legal aspect and protection of cultural properties:

16. Recording of architectural heritage, protection of intellectual property and establishing contacts with the concerned international organisations;
17. Necessary laws and regulations to protect architectural heritage and to preserve the special nature of the cities and heritage sites - controlling action and issuing licenses;
18. Preparation of national registers of urban heritage in the Muslim world;

Teaching:

19. Teaching methods at universities on the latest techniques for the restoration of architectural heritage;
20. Definitions, vocabulary, patterns and designs used in the Muslim world on architectural heritage – future outlook on establishing an information system for architectural heritage;
21. Programs and curricula at universities to teach principles and concepts of architectural heritage and methods of preservation in the Member States;
22. Educational programs for school children - simple programs on architectural heritage and field visits to raise awareness of the future generation on the importance of architectural heritage and the need to preserve it;

Training opportunities:

23. Training opportunities for the restoration and preservation of architectural heritage;
24. Training centers at local, regional and international levels on the techniques of restoration and preservation of architectural heritage and scientific studies;
25. Exchange of techniques and expertise in facing environmental, climatic and geological influences;
26. Environmental, climatic and geological influences on the efforts made to preserve the architectural heritage;
27. The volume of trade existing between the OIC Member States relating to techniques and experiences applied in development and preservation of architectural heritage.

Sponsorship efforts and contributions of governments and private sector:



Shah Rukn-i Alam, Multan. Pakistan

28. National policies in the field of preservation of architectural heritage;
 29. The current situation of credits allocated by governments to protect and restore architectural heritage;
 30. Successful experiences of private sector initiatives in protecting and restoring architectural heritage;
 31. Architectural heritage and its role in developing the tourism sector and stimulating cultural tourism;
- Efforts to raise awareness, information:
32. Efforts to raise public awareness and diffuse information about the importance of architectural heritage and the necessity of preserving and restoring it;
 33. Educational programs intended to raise awareness on the importance of architectural heritage in the Muslim world;
- Financial and economic aspects:
34. Aspects of the architectural heritage as regards provision of job opportunities;
 35. To make known successful experiences in the employment of architectural heritage.

Events and activities to accompany the conference are: a folklore show under the slogan of "revival and protection of architectural heritage in the Muslim world", exhibitions of artisans-at-work highlighting the use of handicrafts in architectural heritage, an exhibition of books and albums on architectural heritage in the Muslim world, exhibitions reflecting the following subjects: experiences of the Muslim world, development of cultural materials, tools and raw materials, development of methods of treatment and maintenance, documentation and studies on architectural heritage, experiences of the private sector in exploiting architectural heritage sites, activities of students on architectural heritage and its use with traditional or modern methods.

VISITS, MEETINGS

Mr. Ahmad bin Abdullah al-Mirri, Minister of Endowments and Islamic Affairs of the State of Qatar, visited IRCICA

The Centre was honoured to receive on its premises the Minister of Endowments and Islamic Affairs of the State of Qatar H.E. Mr. Ahmad bin Abdullah al-Mirri, on 27 April. The Minister had visited IRCICA earlier, in October 2002, and was therefore already acquainted with the Centre's work; thus the meeting with Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren was an occasion to

review the progress of cooperation between the Governments and educational/cultural institutions of Qatar on one hand and IRCICA on the other. The Minister also received information on recent achievements in IRCICA's activities in various

fields and visited the library at Çit Qasr. His earlier visit to IRCICA had taken place on the occasion of the final Jury meeting of the competition for calligraphing the "Mushaf (Quran copy) of Qatar" which was organised at the instruction of H.H. Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, and coordinated by IRCICA in cooperation with Qatar's Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs.



Book Survey

»»»» A selection of recent additions to IRCICA Library

Civilisation, architecture and urban culture

- **Attilio Petruccioli, *After Amnesia. Learning from the Islamic Mediterranean Urban Fabric*, ICAR** (Department of Civil Engineering and Architecture, Polytechnic University of Bari), Italy, 2007, 238 pp.

This book by Professor Attilio Petruccioli is an important contribution to understanding the built city environment. This is a task that requires far deeper deciphering than a study of the physical environment alone; behind it are the complex relationships formed between the building, the city structure, and the civilisation which altogether give a city its character. Different typological processes are involved in the analysis. Petruccioli develops a method that proceeds from single building types to urban landscape and territory which he applies to understanding the urban fabric of the Islamic Mediterranean world. Rather than moving from the territory to the city and the house, namely from global to minute, the author moves from the smallest object to larger contexts. The reconstruction of the formation of Mediterranean cities through the successive levels (from types of buildings to neighbourhoods, building tissues, and urban fabric), supported with drawings relating to various cities - Aleppo, Algiers, Damascus, Cairo, Fez, Kairawan, Mostar, Meknès, etc. takes into consideration the cultural and social processes involved in their historical development: .

The book contains four chapters: The Fourth Typology, The Building Type, The Building Tissue and The Urban Organism. The first chapter presents the issues relating to the relationship between the building, the city and the civilisation. It introduces "organism" as a typology classification after material, structure and system. In the second chapter, the author examines the building types in various Mediterranean cities. Chapter three analyses the building tissue and its place in the urban fabric. The author examines the relationship between the routes and building tissues, the courtyard tissue, the interpretation of building tissue and urban fabric. Finally, the fourth chapter deals with the urban organism of Islamic cities. It develops a method of interpreting the relationships involved in the formation of these cities which uncovers processes characteristic of Islamic cities. The book includes original drawings of plans of buildings, maps of cities, graphics of different building types and many other illustrations.

Attilio Petruccioli is an authority in architecture and urbanism in Islamic cities. He is Dean of the School of Architecture and Professor of Landscape Architecture at the Polytechnic University of Bari. He specialises on the architecture of developing countries, particularly the Islamic cities, and has published more than twenty books on this subject. He is the editor-in-chief of the Journal of the Islamic Environmental Design Research Centre.

(Book presentation by C. İrem Yaylalı, IRCICA)

- **The Turkic Speaking Peoples. 2,000 years of Art and Culture from Inner Asia to the Balkans**, Ergun Çagatay, Doğan Kuban (ed.), Prestel Publishing, Munich; Prince Klaus Fund Library, 2006, reprint 2008, 496 pp., 277 colour, 28 black-and-white illustrations, 10 maps

This is a comprehensive cultural history of Turkic speaking peoples presented in 34 articles and nearly 400 photographs. Over the last 2,000 years Turkic peoples spread from the borders of China to Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean. They founded and lived under several states and coexisted with peoples of different faiths and cultures. Despite this, Turkic peoples have maintained continuity in common culture up to our time which is evidenced most clearly in studies on Turkic languages. Language contacts form a significant part of interactions among Turkic peoples and between Turkic and other peoples, besides being an essential determinant of identity. In his Foreword, Prof. Bernt Brendemoen of the University of Oslo points to recent advances in the study of Turkic languages and language contacts, in particular the works of Lars Johanson, a contributor to the volume. He notes the original contributions the book makes with regard to approach and perspective, especially its interest in borrowings and influences between cultures. Mr. Ergun Çagatay, international journalist and award-winner photographer, wrote the Preface where he tells the story of how the idea of the book emerged and its actual preparation. Over ten years, Mr. Çagatay made extensive trips to Central Asia, traveled more than 150,000 kilometers and took 30,000 photographs. He depicts the Turkic world of Central Asia with references to history and his own observations: nomadic culture, cultural heritage, religion, the effects of the Soviet period, traditions which disappeared and persisted, and other facts relating to the people and the region. The Introduction is by Prof. Doğan Kuban, Professor of Architecture and Urban Conservation. Prof. Kuban discusses crucial issues relating to perspective and definition - among others, definition of identity, territory - in the study of Turkic history and the history of nations in general. He reviews the main stages and distinct features of Turkic cultural history. He underscores the importance of interactions between peoples in shaping this history, an aspect highlighted in the conception of the book.

The first part on Language and Identity is followed by the seven chapters of Part II on the Turco-Eurasian Symbiosis each addressing one region or stage of the symbioses of Turkic cultures with other cultures, such as the Turco-Chinese, the Turco-Central Asian-Persian, the Turco-Slavic, the Turco-Arab, and the formation of Turkish culture in Anatolia. Part III is on Religion, Part IV is on Art and Architecture, and the last part reflects the Contemporary Scene. The chapters cover all aspects of life in the Turkic world past and present, from political environment to cuisine.

- Domingo Badia, **A Spanish traveler in the Arabian Peninsula**, translated from Spanish, commented and annotated by Salih bin Mohammed Assunaidi, published by Darat al-Malik Abdul Aziz, Riyadh, 2008, 424 p. (in Arabic)

In the late 1700s and early 1800s Spain was passing through a difficult period. It had started to lose its colonies in the American continent. New balances were about to emerge among European powers while the latter were aspiring at taking over territories in North Africa and the Middle East. A Spanish adventurer in the name of Domingo Badia i Leblach attempted to serve his country by helping Spain acquire new overseas possessions. Camouflaged as a Muslim prince named Ali Bey al-Abbasi, Domingo Badia traveled in Africa and Arabia. His first destination was Morocco which the Spanish throne considered an extension of its territory. However, Badia was unsuccessful; he was unmasked. He then traveled to Arabia. After his return, his travel book was published in Paris in 1814, under the title *Voyages d'Ali Bey el Abbasi, en Afrique et en Asie, pendant les années 1803, 1804, 1805, 1806 et 1807*. The publication contained an atlas with the maps of Morocco, Northern Africa, the Red Sea, the Middle East, and smaller maps of cities drawn by Badia.

The present book contains the translation of Badia's memoirs of his travel to Arabia in 1807, by Salih bin Mohammed Assunaidi, from Spanish to Arabic, with comments and annotations. At the time, these memoirs constituted a most reliable reference for colonial circles and orientalists. The explorer was able to reach Mecca, draw the plan of the city and describe the rituals of Hajj (Muslim pilgrimage). He was able to approach ruling circles and win their trust, acquire a circle of friends convincing them he came from a noble Muslim family. His travel books are important for the rich and varied information they contain. Badia gave minute descriptions of political events, society, economy, religion, meteorology, geography, etc. Assunaidi's book begins by introducing Badia and his life story to the reader and traces the stages of his travels until the Hejaz. This is followed by an overview of the main interests of the traveler, the conditions surrounding him at each stage, his attitude and opinions in the face of some facts and events.

(Book presentation by Faisal Benaissa, IRCICA)

- **North Africa and Bilad Al-Sudan according to the work of Al-Sharif Al-Idrisi (493-560 H./1100-1165 AD) "Uns Al-Muhaj wa Rawd Al-Faraj"** (Intimacy of the souls and gardens of pleasure); edited by El Ouafi Nouhi, Publications of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Kingdom of Morocco, 2007; 494 p. (in Arabic)

Al-Idrisi – full name Abu Abdallah Muhammad Ibn Muhammad Ibn Abdallah Ibn Idriss al-Qurtubi al-Hassani, known in Europe under the name Dreses, is one of the important figures of medieval Islamic geography and cartography. His title Al-Sharif indicates his noble origins; that of Al-Qurtubi stands for his having been educated in Cordoba. He traveled along the coasts of Europe and is also said to have traveled to Asia Minor. A precise biography of Al-Idrisi is lacking. However it is well known that Roger II, the King of Sicily, invited him to his court in Palermo, where Al-Idrisi learnt and excelled in cartography: he prepared a world map engraved on silver and a descriptive geographical compendium titled "*Kitab Nuzhat al Mushtâq fi'khtirat al-afaq*" (The book of pleasant journeys into faraway lands) based on the world map.

The present book is a critical edition of part of another work by Al-Idrisi, "*Uns Al-Muhaj wa Rawd Al-Faraj*" (Intimacy of the souls and gardens of pleasure), which contains text, and maps similar to those in his above work. The critical edition resulted from Dr. El Ouafi Nouhi's doctorate thesis which focuses especially on the parts of the work concerning the regions of North Africa and Bilad Al-Sudan. El Ouafi chose to study this work taking into consideration its importance in the history of Arab and Islamic geographical literature in general and the geography heritage of the Maghreb in particular, and also, of the information it contains on an eighth climate South of the Equator. The edition has a foreword by the Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of Morocco Mr. Ahmed Toufiq. In his preface, El Ouafi underlines the significant features of Al-Idrisi's work, which aimed to establish not only itineraries but also the geographical distances, towards computing the Earth's surface. The book has an introduction and two chapters. In the introduction, he reviews the development of Islamic medieval geography, its relation with ancient geographical science, the development of cartography within the framework of Islamic geographical sciences, and the contribution of Al-Idrisi in this regard. The first chapter is devoted to the biography of the author and a survey of his works, in particular "*Uns Al-Muhaj*". In the second chapter, which contains the edition of the latter, he collated the two copies of the manuscript which are located at Süleymaniye Library in Istanbul, namely the Hekimoğlu MS. 688 and the Hasan Hüsnî MS. 1289, added indexes of place names, personal names, astronomical terms, names of rivers and other water bodies, etc. At the end of the book there is an annex which contains models of maps from Islamic cartography to serve for comparisons that would show the considerable contribution Al-Idrisi made in this field.

(Book presentation by Faisal Benaissa, IRCICA)

New Publication by IRCICA

Al-Quds Jerusalem in historical photographs

Text: Kerim Balcı, Foreword: Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Preface: Halit Eren, IRCICA,
2009, xxxi, 435 pp. (in English, Arabic and Turkish editions)



This publication resulted from a major project IRCICA devoted to the preservation of the multicultural architectural and urban heritage of Al-Quds/Jerusalem, “The” esteemed city of all the heavenly faith systems. The Centre placed the book within the framework of the 40th anniversary commemoration of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, wrote the Foreword to the album. İhsanoğlu underlines the importance of Al-Quds/Jerusalem on universal scale, as a holy city for all three

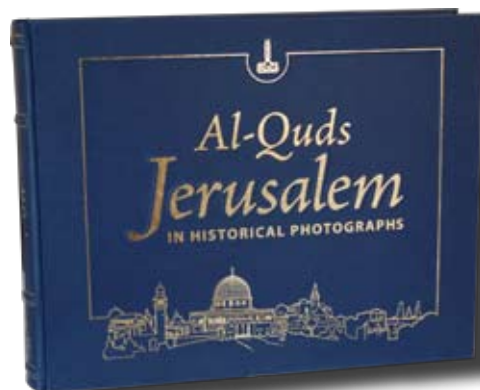
heavenly religions. For Muslims, Al-Quds is the third holy city after Makkah and Madina. Masjidi al-Aqsa (“The farthest mosque”) is Muslims’ first qibla – the direction faced when praying. Throughout its history of several millennia the city has been the cradle of various faiths and cultures. It was always coveted by the main faith communities until modern times. The Secretary General then states that resolution of the conflict over Al-Quds and Palestine which is ongoing since mid-20th century was the founding motive of the OIC in 1969 and remains its foremost cause today. The OIC reiterated on all occasions its strong belief that the problem of Al-Quds is not just an Islamic issue but enjoys a wider religious dimension. İhsanoğlu underlines in this regard that preservation of the multicultural character of the city with due respect of the populations and the shrines of each faith is no doubt an indispensable part of any acceptable solution of the problem.

In the Preface, Dr. Halit Eren explains that in its capacity as the OIC’s research centre in charge of studies on history, culture and preservation of heritage, IRCICA carries out various activity programs relating to the urban, architectural and socio-cultural heritage of Al-Quds and Palestine. Eren refers to the history of Al-Quds/Jerusalem under the rule of successive states and refers to the major restorations conducted on Al-Quds monuments during Ottoman times; the city was almost renewed during the reign of Suleyman



the Magnificent with the restorations conducted at Qubbat as-Sakhra, the construction of walls, fountains, market places and the repair of water canals. Due to its special importance, also, Al-Quds/Jerusalem was visited and described by many travelers whose accounts provide information on various aspects of the city. European travelers' books sometimes also contain engravings. Then, the region became the first place of interest of the pioneer photographers. The Ottoman Palace was among the first in the world to acquire photographs of the region. Due to the special importance Sultan Abdülhamid II gave to Al-Quds, the Yıldız photograph collection which was formed during his reign contains a large number of them. The collection also contains prints taken by Ottoman photographers.

Mr. Kerim Balci, political scientist, specialist of the history of Al-Quds, reviews the developments in Jerusalem photography in the Introduction of the book. The voluminous collection of photographs contained in the book tells the history of the city during the last quarter of the 19th and the first quarter of the 20th century through the lenses of the pioneer photographers who traveled to the Holy Lands shortly after the invention of photography techniques in the second half of the 19th century. Mr. Balci gives instructive information on the activities of the photographers. They were either religiously motivated – looking for evidence from early Christianity, amateur explorers of the East, or rich westerners investing in images of the East for a growing market demand. Due to the steady pace of development of Jerusalem photography from those early years onwards, the images reproduced in the book reflect not only the city's features that changed or remained unchanged over time but



also the progress of techniques and artistic know-how during the decades that followed the invention.

The album contains the reproductions of 405 photographs gathered from IRCICA's archive comprising the Yıldız Photograph Albums and several other collections. The sections are arranged under the following titles: Panoramic Jerusalem, Al-Aqsa Mosque, The City and Its People, Holy Sites, Jerusalem's History on Its Doors and in Its Streets, Jerusalem Streets, Professional Classes and Human Faces from Ottoman Jerusalem, Kaiser Wilhelm II visits Jerusalem, Ottoman Soldiers in Jerusalem and the Defense of the City. The book ends with special photographs on various themes and existing hand-colored versions of some of the photographs. Researchers interested in various aspects of A-Quds, from economic and social life to architecture, will benefit from having this selected archival collection at hand's reach.



New Publication by IRCICA

Osmanlı Tıbbi Bilimler Literatürü Tarihi

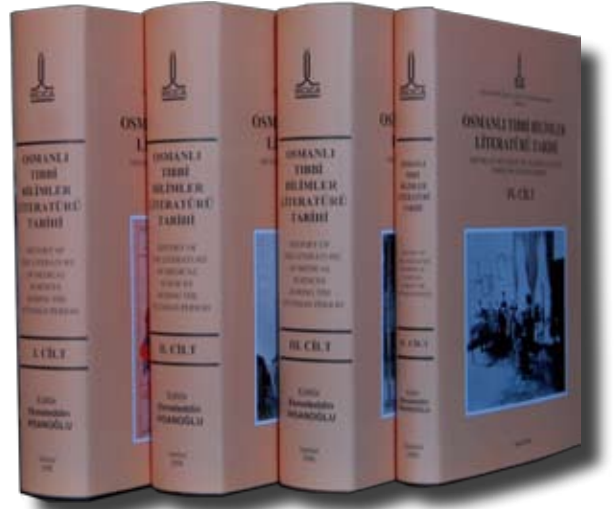
(History of the Literature of Medical Sciences during the Ottoman Period),

prepared by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Ramazan Şeşen, M. Serdar Bekar, Gülcan Gündüz, Veysel Bulut, edited by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, 4 volumes: p. CLXXXI+556, 557-1304, 1305-2036, bibliographies and indexes 2037-2380, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2009

The bio-bibliographies on the History of Ottoman Scientific Literature, a series resulting from about twenty-five years of research, of which the first two volumes appeared in 1997, now reached its fifteenth volume. The preceding eleven volumes were related to astronomy, mathematics, geography, music, military arts, and natural and applied arts, respectively.

The work begins with a Preface by Prof. İhsanoğlu that sketches the main features of the history of medical sciences starting from early Islam and with emphasis on the Ottoman period, describing the landmark developments in theory and practice and those relating to the establishment of hospitals, qualities of the physicians, and translations of medical works from other languages. The Introduction by Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu and Prof. Ramazan Şeşen is an instructive study on the history of medicine – including dentistry, pharmacological sciences and veterinary sciences, the various schools and traditions, and the medical institutions, throughout the Umayyad, Abbasid and Ottoman periods. This section evaluates the results of the research and draws statistical figures from the content of the four volumes, thus describing the characteristics of scientific activity, theory, and authorship in the above medical fields. The main body of the book lists the medical works in chronological order under the names and biographies of their authors. The last section lists the books of which the authors and/or translators are not known. The first three volumes have illustrations at the end, such as reproductions of manuscripts, drawings or photographs of hospital buildings, laboratories, etc., and the fourth volume ends with indexes of personal names, book titles, place names, names of institutions, names of copyists, names of places mentioned in colophon, book ownership registers and waqf registers.

In the Ottoman period, authorship of original treatises began in the 14th century with Jamaledaddin al-Aksarayi and Haji Pasha. Hospitals were built starting from the reign of Yıldırım Beyazıt (1389-1402). Ottoman medicine was for its greatest part directed to practice and treatment and so were Ottoman contributions to medical science. Ottoman medical scientists wrote treatises and made translations in all branches of medicine, however as it was the case in previous periods, studies on anatomy were relatively less. These, together with works in other medical sciences, gained pace in the 19th century especially with the opening of modern medical schools and later of other related institutions.



Western professors, physicians and veterinarians were invited to the Ottoman state and Ottoman graduates of the modern schools were sent to Europe for specialisation; some of them were taught by founders of modern medicine such as Pasteur, R. Koch, and Claude Bernard. From the 1880's onwards Ottoman physicians closely followed the medical progresses in Europe and America. Some of them taught and practiced in Arab countries. As in other fields of science, the improvement of health services and the quality of medical literature were remarkable in the 19th century.

The book covers 5607 treatises and articles on medicine, dentistry, pharmacology and veterinary sciences by 1430 authors. 1437 out of the total are either manuscripts or have manuscript copies. Again out of the total, 4558 are medical books, 544 on pharmacology, and 546 on veterinary sciences. 4560 are in the Turkish language, 821 in Arabic, 114 in French, 39 in Persian, 17 in Armenian, and 14 in German. 36 of them are in more than one language. There exist a large number of translations. Until the 18th century, Ottoman medicine practically followed Islamic medicine, and thus until the 17th translations were made mostly from Arabic and Persian, while after that time translations from Western languages increased. The number of translated works included in the book is 723; 262 of them were translated from French to Turkish and 106 from Arabic to Turkish.

It is estimated that this publication adds considerably to the data available on medical literature in the Muslim world.

Mushaf Al-Sharif Attributed to 'Uthman bin 'Affan (The copy at Mashhad Imam Husaini in Cairo)

prepared for publication and Introduction by Tayyar Altıkulaç,

Foreword by Halit Eren, İstanbul, 1430/2009

(Introduction in Turkish, English and Arabic)

This book contains the facsimile edition, accompanied by a scholarly study, of a copy of the Holy Quran which is located in Cairo and attributed to the time of Caliph Othman. Thus among the copies dating from that period, this one is known as the "Cairo Mushaf". It belonged to the collection of the Library of Imam Hussain in Cairo but it was later transferred to the Central Library of Islamic Manuscripts affiliated to the Ministry of Awqaf of Egypt for restoration purposes. The study of this copy, accompanying the facsimile edition, and its preparation for publication, have been done by a leading scholar in Quranic studies, ex-President of Religious Affairs in Turkey, Dr. Tayyar Altıkulaç.



This publication comes in the same line of editions the first of which was a facsimile edition of the copy attributed to the same period, that of Caliph Othman, and located in the library of Topkapı Palace Museum in Istanbul, accompanied, similarly, by a study by Dr. Tayyar Altıkulaç, published in 2007. A similar work, relating to the copy of the Quran attributed to the same period and kept at the Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum (Istanbul), by the same author, was published in 2008 by ISAM (Istanbul).

The study on the Cairo copy is a meticulous analysis of the copy comparing it to the other copies which date from the same period and are preserved in different cities of the world, namely the Topkapı copy, the Turkish and Islamic Arts Museum copy, the Tashkent copy (preserved at the Khazrati Imam Mosque in Tashkent, Uzbekistan) and the copy of the Great Mosque of Sana'a (Yemen).

IRCICA is thankful to the Abu Dhabi Authority for Culture and Heritage for the financial contribution to the printing of the book and to the Ministry of Awqaf of Egypt for facilitating the work conducted on basis of the copy.

Earlier, IRCICA had published two other historical copies of the Quran. The first one was the copy known as the "Fazıl Pasha Mushaf", written in the name of the Seljukid Sultan Tugrul Bey in the year 1186 and kept in Gazi Hüsrev Bey Library in Sarajevo, which was published by IRCICA in a facsimile edition. The second one was the reprint of the first Quran copy printed in the Muslim world, that is, the copy printed in Kazan, Tatarstan, in 1803; this 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.

