

January-April 2014, No. 93



Newsletter



OIC RESEARCH CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC HISTORY, ART AND CULTURE

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Newsletter



Research Centre for Islamic History,
Art and Culture (IRCICA)

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Editor in Chief

Halit Eren

Editorial Board

Zeynep Durukal
Fayçal Benaïssa

Address

Yıldız Sarayı, Seyir Köşkü
Barbaros Bulvarı,
Beşiktaş 34349
İstanbul, Turkey

Tel. (+90 212) 259 17 42
Fax (+90 212) 258 43 65

www.ircica.org
ircica@ircica.org

Graphic Design

Said Kasımoğlu

Printing

Ultra Grafik
info@ultramtbaa.com

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Editorial

This issue covers IRCICA's activities during the period from January to April 2014. It also includes announcements of forthcoming events. The first article outlines the proceedings of the 2014 session of IRCICA's Governing Board which was held at IRCICA's headquarters in March. The Board examined and finalized the Centre's activity reports for last year and the current year and its proposed work program for 2015 to be submitted to the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States.

The series of short term schools on "Islamic Urban Heritage. Research, Preservation, Management" that IRCICA and Al-Turath Islamic Heritage Foundation have been organizing since 2011 continued this year with a Spring School held at the end of March and focusing on the historical quarters of Riyadh, namely Ushaiger, Al-Ghat and Diriyah. One year ago, a similar Spring School had focused on the old quarters of Jeddah as a case study. These schools have drawn great interest and proven to contribute remarkably to raising consciousness and upgrading competences for the study, restoration, preservation and re-use of architectural heritage. You will find a brief report on the Riyadh school in this issue.

Also in March, we organized a symposium on "Ottoman Architectural Heritage in Bilad al-Sham", jointly with the World Islamic Sciences and Education University, Amman, and with 32 participants from 12 countries. With this symposium, the number of scholarly meetings coordinated by IRCICA until now in cooperation with the OIC Member States reached 90.

This figure does not include the festivals of art and traditional handicrafts which usually include symposiums together with other activities. Regarding the latter, particularly the events promoting traditional handicrafts, an International Exhibition on Handmade Prayer Carpets was organized at the beginning of the year jointly with Kuwait Centre for Islamic

Arts affiliated to the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of Kuwait. Another activity in this field was the International Exhibition of Artisan Innovators in the Field of Wood Engraving which was organized in February jointly by the Department of Culture of the Government of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. Furthermore, in April, a large-scale program titled "Sharjah Heritage Days: Islamic Heritage as One Tent" was conducted in cooperation with the same Department of the Government of Sharjah. The program included folkloric performances, displays of arts of cooking and of handicrafts from different parts of the Muslim world.

I am pleased to announce that at present we are preparing to hold a large-scale event relating to the art of Islamic calligraphy: the "IRCICA International Gathering on the Art of Calligraphy". This event, scheduled to take place in Istanbul on 12-15 September 2014, will in a way, crown the efforts IRCICA has made since the 1980s through countless activities aiming to revive, preserve and promote the classical Islamic art of calligraphy. It will bring together calligraphers from around the globe: prize-winners in IRCICA's calligraphy competitions, artists trained under IRCICA's umbrella, heads of calligraphers' societies, experts and collectors. The event will include symposia, panels, *ijaza* (calligraphy diploma) ceremonies, workshops, exhibitions, visits to museums, among others. We hope this Gathering will be an occasion to evaluate achievements made until now and devise new objectives if necessary. It will at the same time help to strengthen collaborative relations among calligraphers worldwide. Having become a focal point of the Muslim world for this art, we feel it our responsibility to be the liaison, to help the world community of calligraphers maintain active connections. We shall report on this event in our next issue.

With regards,

Dr. Halit Eren

IRCICA's Governing Board met on its 29th Session

Istanbul, 20-21 March 2014

IRCICA's activity reports for 2013 and 2014 and work program proposed for 2015 were recently approved by its Governing Board meeting on its 29th session at the Centre's headquarters in Yıldız Palace on 20-21 March 2014. The Board is composed of nine scholars or specialists appointed by the OIC Member States and competent in the areas of the Centre's mandate. H.E. Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani, Secretary General of the OIC was represented at the session by Dr. Abubaker Ahmed Bagader al-Amoudi, Director General, Directorate of Cultural, Social and Family Affairs at the Organization. The following Board members were present: the Chairman of the Board Dr. Abdul Aziz Abdullah Turki al-Subai (State of Qatar), Vice-Chairman Dr. Saad bin Abdul Aziz Al-Rashid (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), Mr. Mohammed Ahmed Al-Murr (United Arab Emirates), Amb. Sayyid Qassim Masry, Arab Republic of Egypt; Prof. Amadou Cissé Ndiéguène, Republic of Senegal; Prof. Dr. Mehmet İpşirli, Republic of Turkey; Prof. Dr. Meruert Abusseitova, Republic of Kazakhstan; Mr. Khalaif M.A.M. Alezainah, State of Kuwait; Dr. Halit Eren, Director General, IRCICA.

The Director General of IRCICA Dr. Halit Eren welcomed the members. First, he conveyed his congratulations to H.E. Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani on his taking the office as OIC Secretary General, as of the beginning of the year. He expressed his thanks to the former Secretary General H.E. Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu for the continuous support he extended to IRCICA's activities during his term of office. Dr. Eren noted that the past year, 2013, a year of progress for centre.

The Chairman of the Board Dr. al-Subai pointed out that the session was being held in the light of new developments, on top of them Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani's assuming the post of OIC Secretary General. He recalled the terms of Prof. İhsanoğlu first as Director General of IRCICA where he promoted the latter to the rank of a major cultural centre and then as Secretary General of the OIC. Dr. al-Subai conveyed his sincere thanks to the Republic of Turkey, host country of the Centre, for the continuous support extended to IRCICA.

In his address, Dr. Abubaker Ahmed Bagader, Representative of the Secretary General of OIC, said that "Projecting a true image of our civilization and protecting its values are priority aims in the OIC agenda. In this we aim cultural cooperation between our Member States; at the same time we aim to connect with and assist culturally the Muslim communities and minorities outside the Member States. Furthermore, with a global perspective we aim to encourage mutual understanding and dialogue with other cultures and share the common aspects and the diversities of our heritage towards building constructive dialogues with peoples worldwide. Cultural relations are essential since the bridges they cement pave ways for exchanges in other areas. ... This Centre has been a major actor in enhancing cultural cooperation and development among the OIC in our Member States and also in reaching larger audiences. It promoted public and academic interest from around the world in subjects related to culture, arts and history of the Muslim world among which we mention, in passing, the legacy of the erudition that evolved on basis

of the Holy Quran and the fundamental sources of Islam, the history of science and scholarship, the authentic arts, Islamic calligraphy, the architectural monuments and historical towns which in a glorious past illuminated all humanity as beacons of civilization...." Dr. Bagader conveyed his thanks to the Member States for the support and assistance they are extending to IRCICA



From left :Dr. Abubaker Ahmed Bagader al-Amoudi, Director General, Directorate of Cultural, Social and Family Affairs at the OIC, Dr. Abdul Aziz Abdullah Turki al-Subai (Qatar), the Chairman of the Board, Dr. Halit Eren, Director General, IRCICA

in various ways, from patronage of its activities to funding its work programs.

The Board members congratulated Mr. Iyad Ameen Madani on his taking the office as Secretary General and wished him continual success in his mission. They commended the speech of Dr. Bagader, representative of the Secretary General, and proposed that the speech be included among the Board's documents so that it may guide the members in their future work. During the working sessions the Board members observed that the Centre was experienced and open to all activities within its fields of competence. They commended the large regional diversity of the different types of activities, whereby the Centre pays attention to the study and preservation of Islamic cultural heritage, development of scholarly research and promotion of the arts and cultures with projects geared to the specificities of each region of the Muslim world. They commended the Centre's project to hold an International Gathering on Islamic Calligraphy in September 2014. It expressed satisfaction with regard to the publication of IRCICA Journal and recommended the publication of special issues of it. The Board approved the Centre's continued participation in major book fairs, recently those of Riyadh, Cairo, Sharjah and Frankfurt. They

noted the progress of publications, among them the albums of historical photographs reflecting the history and heritage of various parts of the Muslim world and most recently the album of photographs of Mecca and Medina. During the review of activities related to preservation of cultural heritage, it was observed that the short-term architectural schools being held periodically at different venues were contributing to upgrading young professionals' competences in restoration and conservation and raising public awareness on protection of heritage. The Board discussed on the role IRCICA can play with regard to cultural preservation and development in geographical regions suffering from political problems, unrest and conflicts. It expressed its appreciation of the project undertaken jointly with UNESCO and other organizations on the cultural heritage of Syria. At the request of Prof. Amadou Cissé Ndiéguène, the Board member from Senegal, the Board deliberated on international cooperative action that may be extended to support the countries concerned and help restore the monuments, historical sites and Islamic manuscripts particularly in Mali, Nigeria and Central Africa, and to intervene for the cases of Nigeria and Central Africa before the monuments and manuscripts in these two countries undergo the same fate as those of Timbuktu in Mali. Dr. Bagader, the representative of the Secretary General, recalled that the OIC closely follows the situation in Mali and gives the subject all the importance it deserves; he recommended that families possessing ancient Islamic manuscripts in Mali and other African countries try to publish them in order to contribute to preserving these heritage properties which are counted in thousands. The Board went on discussing the situation of cultural heritage in conflict zones and generally in areas outside the Muslim world. It noted with appreciation that a symposium on "History and Cultures of Muslim Peoples Around the Black Sea" is planned to take place in 2015 to cover among others the Islamic cultural heritage in Crimea and other regions in the north of the Black Sea. The Board issued several recommendations. The report and recommendations of this session of the Board will be included among the documents to be submitted to the 41st session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the OIC Member States to be held in June 2014.



Dr. Saad bin Abdul Aziz Al-Rashid (Saudi Arabia)



Mr. Mohammed A. Al-Murr (United Arab Emirates)



Amb. Sayyid Qassim Masry (Egypt)



Prof. Amadou Cissé Ndiéguène (Senegal)



Prof. Dr. Meruert Abusseitova (Kazakhstan)



Mr. Khalaif M.A.M. Alezainah (Kuwait)



Prof. Dr. Mehmet İpşirli (Turkey)

Preservation of cultural heritage:

International projects on the cultural heritage in Syria

IRCICA undertook varied programs and projects aiming to contribute to recording, revival, conservation and re-use of cultural and architectural heritage in the Muslim world. These activities of the Centre include research programs on major core areas (e.g. Al-Quds, current program) and sites of Islamic heritage (e.g. Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1994-2004 program), as well as educational and practical projects, including the short-term architectural schools on restoration and management of heritage, the Islamic Architectural Heritage Database, field missions and publications, among others.

Workshop on the Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage in Syria, IRCICA, 16-17 January 2014:

As an integral part of its activities on the preservation of heritage, IRCICA undertook projects dealing with heritage that is threatened, destroyed or damaged including the heritage properties located in zones of conflict. Within this framework, the Centre has convened a Workshop on the Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage in Syria which was held on its premises on 16-17 January 2014 with the participation of UNESCO, ICOMOS, ICCROM, and a number of universities and institutions. The participants agreed to envisage a wide and integrated approach to the post-recovery planning and implementation, by integrating the social, economic, and environmental dimensions, and focusing on local recovery and development. A series of recommendations were issued on modalities of international collaboration, how to raise awareness and sensitize the international community, among others. As an outcome of the workshop, UNESCO and IRCICA, together with their respective networks, are collaborating as partners in international projects on the subject.



The forthcoming actions shall include:

- 1- Working in coordination with UNESCO and other international organizations.
- 2- Establishing a continuously updated database for the built heritage in Syria. In this context, the numerous surveys and documentations accomplished through local and international cultural heritage projects in the pre-conflict time in Syria would be used.
- 3- Facilitating IRCICA's experience gained through its previous conservation and rehabilitation programs, especially in Bosnia & Herzegovina, both on the academic and professional scales, to produce conceptual framework for the rehabilitation of the Syrian heritage with a focus on the Old City of Aleppo. This issue will be also addressed in IRCICA's different programs relating to the cultural heritage.
- 4- Organizing training workshops for young professionals in the field of cultural heritage to build capacities and develop the human resources.
- 5- Developing restoration and reconstruction projects in the post-conflict time for significant damaged monuments in Aleppo such as the Great Umayyad Mosque, the covered bazars and the traditional courtyard houses.



“Ottoman Architectural Heritage in Bilad al-Sham” Symposium

Amman, 3-5 March 2014

A symposium on “Ottoman Architectural Heritage in Bilad al-Sham” was organized by IRCICA and the World Islamic Sciences and Education University in Amman, on 3-5 March 2014. Around 30 specialists from Denmark, Egypt, France, Italy, Iraq, Kuwait, Jordan, Lebanon, Sweden, Syria, Turkey and Yemen contributed papers and case studies to a review of the history of formation of the largely diverse cultural and architectural heritage of Bilad al-Sham region.

The symposium was held under the patronage of Mr. Nidal Katamin, Minister of Labour of Jordan whose message was read at the opening. Prof. Salah Jarrar, Vice Rector of World Islamic Sciences and Education University and IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren delivered opening addresses.

The participants’ presentations included surveys and case studies of different categories of heritage properties such as mosques, *kulliyes* (complexes), dervish lodges, public and social structures, gardens and open areas, citadels



and various functional buildings constructed on pilgrimage routes, among others, in particular regions including present-day Jordan and Syria or specific cities such as Al-Quds, Aleppo, Damascus, Homs, etc. A book to contain the papers of the symposium is in preparation.

On the sidelines of the symposium, IRCICA displayed a collection of historical photographs of monuments of Al-Quds built during the Ottoman period, compiled from its archives.



Dr. Halit Eren, IRCICA Director General, delivering his opening address



IRCICA & Al-Turath Islamic Urban Heritage Program, 2014 Spring School held in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

22-29 March 2014

The 2014 Spring School held within the framework of IRCICA & Al-Turath Islamic Urban Heritage Program focused on the historical sites of Ushaiger, Al-Ghat and Diriyah located in the central part of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The program had two main sections: lectures on preservation of historical heritage and field works relating to the case studies.

Lectures on preservation of historical heritage– This section was composed of a set of 8 lectures given by leading professors and experts in the field of history, architectural restoration and urban conservation.

Practical field work relating to the case studies – The field work included visits to the sites of Ushaiger, Al-Ghat and Diriyah and surveys, analyses, evaluation and proposals for 20 individual buildings of different characters inside the Diriyah heritage site.

The teaching program was coordinated by Professors of Architecture Prof. Osamah Al-Gohary, Secretary General, Al-Turath Foundation, Riyadh, Prof. Amir Pasic, Head of the Department of Architecture and Heritage Preservation, IRCICA. It was conducted by two guest lecturers and three local experts. 30 students attended the program, selected by the collaborating universities. Six teams were formed and assigned to work on different topics. Recommendations were issued based on examples of buildings and urban areas inside the historic core of the sites.

An important component of the final report of the program is a set of preservation guidelines for future rehabilitation work in the historical sites of Ushaiger, Al-Ghat and Diriyah.

The case studies:

Ushaiger is a small village near Shagra in Saudi Arabia, one of the oldest towns in the Najd region. It was a major stopping point for pilgrims coming from Kuwait, Iraq and Iran to perform the Hajj or the Umrah. It was originally known as A'ekel but the name was eventually changed to Ushaiger due to the town's location, bordered by a small mountain north of the village. The mountain is red in color, yet locals said it was blonde simply because red and blonde were used interchangeably in the old days. Historical Ushaiger belongs to the Tamim tribe but other tribes lived there as well. It is also homeland to many families in the Arabian Peninsula such as Al-Elsheikh (the family of Muhammad ibn Abd-al-Wahhab), Al-Thani (Rulers of the State of Qatar) and Al-Misnad. Ushaiger historical village has been restored to preserve its heritage. It has a museum.

Diriyah, also spelled Ad-Dir'iyah, Ad-Dar'iyah or Dir'aiyah) is a town in Saudi Arabia located on the northwestern outskirts of the Saudi capital, Riyadh.

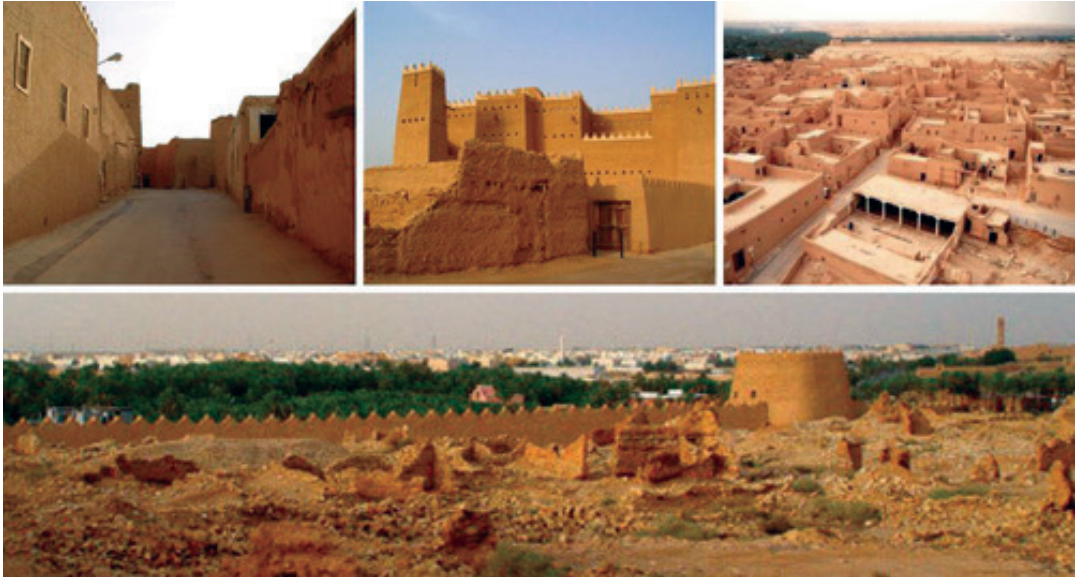
The history of the city dates back to the 15th century. Diriyah was the original home of the Saudi royal family, and served as the capital of the first Saudi dynasty from 1744 to 1818. Today, the town is the seat of the Diriyah Governorate, which also includes the villages of Uyayna, Jubayla, and Al-Ammariyyah, among others, and is part of Ar-Riyadh province. The ruins of the old city, consisting almost entirely of mud-brick structures, are divided into three districts, Ghussaibah, Al-Mulaybeed, and Turaif, set on top of hills overlooking the valley. Of the three, Turaif has the highest altitude. Part of the city wall, running along the edges of the valley and also made



Al-Ghat (Arabic: *El-Gh'at* الغاط) or Elghat is a small town in Riyadh Province, Saudi Arabia

of mud-brick, is still extant along with some short observation towers. The Turaif district in Diriyah was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2010. The modern city is built at a lower altitude at the foot of the hill on which Turaif is located. To the north of the town, inside the valley, are a number of gardens, palm groves, and small farms and estates. A dam known as Al-Ilb lies further north.

Al-Ghat or Elghat is a small town in Riyadh province, Saudi Arabia. According to the 2004 census it had 6960 inhabitants. The heritage village of Al-Ghat narrates the originality of its past and heritage of its ancestors. The Amara Palace is an architectural masterpiece with an Islamic architectural touch. The historical castle of Moghairan is another feature of the site. On the west bank of the Markh valley there is a site containing many inscriptions carved on individual pieces of rock dating back to the period between 900 BC-400 AD.



Diriyah (Arabic: الدرعية; also spelled *Ad-Dir'iyah*, *Ad-Dar'iyah* or *Dir'aiyah*) is a town in Saudi Arabia located on the north western outskirts of the Saudi capital, Riyadh.



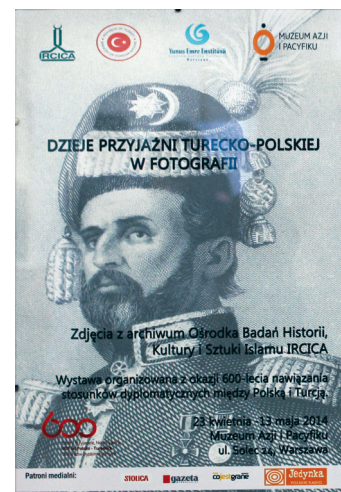
Exhibition and album of historical photographs on the 600th year of relations between Turkey and Poland

Warsaw, 23 April- 20 May 2014

An exhibition titled “Relations between Turkey and Poland in Historical Photographs” was organized by IRCICA in the Polish capital Warsaw, under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey and with the collaboration of Yunus Emre Institute’s Turkish Cultural Centre in Warsaw. The exhibition at the Asia-Pacific Museum and the accompanying album featured 60 historical photographs selected from IRCICA’s archives in commemoration of the 600th year of relations between Turkey and Poland.

The album published by IRCICA shows views shot around the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century, reflecting a later segment of Ottoman-Polish relations, the beginning of which dates back to the early 1400s. Its explanatory texts are in the English, Polish and Turkish languages.

The exhibition was on display from 23 April to 20 May 2014.



Opening of the exhibition: L-R: H.E. Mr. Yusuf Ziya Özcan, Ambassador of Turkey in Warsaw; Ms. Maryna Domurad, Secretary of the Yunus Emre Institute's Turkish Cultural Centre in Warsaw; IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren; Dr. Joanna Wasilewska, Director of the Asia-Pacific Museum; Ms. Karolina Krzywicka, Curator, Asia-Pacific Museum; Assoc. Prof. Öztürk Emiroğlu, Director of the Yunus Emre Institute's Turkish Cultural Centre in Warsaw



Forthcoming:

“IRCICA International Gathering on the Art of Calligraphy”

Istanbul, 12 -15 September 2014

IRCICA undertook programs and projects aiming to support and promote the Islamic arts, encourage their practice, preserve their established standards and exemplary works. Calligraphy, the art of beautiful writing, has a special place among Islamic arts. It assumes a role in intellectual as well as artistic life of Muslim societies as a medium of cultural expression. Taking this fact into consideration, IRCICA took initiatives and conducted activities since the 1980s to promote this art and support the artists.

Thousands of calligraphers from around the world participated in the International Calligraphy Competitions organized by IRCICA. 130 calligraphers from 30 countries received Ijaza (calligraphy diploma) on completion of training courses organized by IRCICA in accordance with the traditional master-pupil training system; some of those trainees became teachers of this art, making up the “IRCICA Generations of Calligraphers”. Through these and other activities the classical

art of Islamic calligraphy was revived and spread across continents, from Japan to the United States, from Southern Asia to South Africa, by calligraphers trained in this hearth.

To crown these activities and bring the IRCICA Generation of Calligraphers together, IRCICA planned the “International Gathering on the Art of Calligraphy” to take place in Istanbul on 12-15 September 2014. The event will aim to highlight the significance of this art in the Muslim world past and present, underline its role and place in intercultural relations, encourage its practice and preservation. It will include symposia, Ijaza ceremonies, workshops, exhibitions, visits to museums and collections, and other social activities. Masters of calligraphy, calligraphers having won the top three prizes in IRCICA's competitions, heads of calligraphic societies and other circles concerned will participate in it. Furthermore, the first step towards establishing a “Union of Calligraphers in Islamic Art” will be taken.

“Science and Technology in Islamic Civilization” symposium, in Baku 19-22 February 2015

An International Symposium on the theme “Science and Technology in Islamic Civilization” will be organized by IRCICA jointly with Khazar University (Baku, Azerbaijan). The symposium will be held in Baku on 19-22 February 2015.

Thematic framework

Civilizations are the common product of humankind's efforts in the search for progress over millennia. The Egyptian, Babylonian, Indian, Chinese, Mesopotamian, Persian, Hellenistic, Islamic and European and other civilizations have lived at different periods and under different geographical, social and economic conditions but nevertheless they influenced and opened horizons for each other, surpassed one another in some areas, but inherited from each another in succession by forming a chain with interdependent links.

During the 8th-16th centuries Muslims developed the sciences that they had transferred from other civilizations by way of translation; they also founded new sciences and laid grounds for later ones. An important role was played in this process by observance of the fundamental principles of the Holy Quran that uphold knowledge and science, religious scholars' developing methods of reflection inspired from these principles, innovations by scientists who approached their predecessors' legacy gratefully but also skeptically and

critically, and the support and encouragement of rulers and governments who did not dissociate social development from scientific development.

These scientific activities, which are termed “Islamic sciences” with regard to the periods and the regions in world history of science, were transferred to other cultures and civilizations, on top of them European centers, and thus played a role in the development of science and technology that reached our time.

Presentations at the symposium will underscore this role by contributions of Islamic sciences

The symposium aims to contribute to studies on the history of civilizations by encouraging objective research on the scientific activity carried out in the Muslim world throughout history and the achievements of scientists of this world in various sciences, thus giving the peak period of “Islamic sciences” its rightful place in the world history of science and, on a broader level, throwing light on a lesser known phase of the evolution of civilizations.

Themes: Science in Islam, Astronomy, Geography, Geometry, Physics, Optics, Medicine, Chemistry, Natural sciences, Mechanics, Architectural Technology, Navigation, War Technology.

Arts and Crafts: IRCICA's exhibition on "Pray carpets" during the Sixth International Kuwait Gathering on Islamic Arts Kuwait City

29 December-9 January 2014

Kuwait Centre for Islamic Arts of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Kuwait, and IRCICA have jointly organized the First International Exhibition in Kuwait on Handmade Pray Carpets, on 29 December 2013-9 January 2014. 12 master innovators specialized in handmade weaving of pray carpets participated in the event from 12 countries: Algeria, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Iran, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritania, Morocco, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Beit al-Sadou of the host country, Kuwait.

The artisans displayed their techniques under a traditional tent forming what could be described as a craft village. Visitors could see the techniques of natural dying, design and weaving.

The participating carpet specialists and weavers:

Ms. Safiya Safi from Algeria is specialized in weaving carpets for 15 years. She participated in many national and international exhibitions, including the Crafts Exhibition of Casablanca and the Annual Salon for Handicrafts of Algeria.

Ms. Fatima Aghamirzayeva from Azerbaijan has been weaving carpets and preparing natural dyes from a very young age.



She aims to contribute in preserving the artistic traditions of all minority groups living in the country and draw young generations' attention to this part of their heritage. She has been teaching this craft to women in her country and participating in national and international exhibitions.



The exhibition was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Fareed Emadi, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Kuwait. Were present among others Mr. Farid al-Ali, Chairman, Kuwait Islamic Arts Centre (R.) and Dr. Nezhir Maruf, Head Crafts Development Program, IRCICA (middle).



Safiya Safi - Algeria



Fatima Aghamirzayeva
- Azerbaijan



Mitra Razavi - Sirjan, Iran



Mamajan Radjapova - Uzbekistan



Zakariya Abu Sada - Egypt



Nurbyubyu Maripova - Kyrgyzstan



Taslam Ment Tahman - Mauritania

Artisan Zakariya Abu Sada from Egypt works at his father's carpet weaving workshop since 1985. He makes silk and wool carpets. He participated in many exhibitions.

Ms. Mitra Razavi from Sirjan, Iran, has been weaving carpets from an early age. She participated in many regional and international exhibitions.

Ms. Mamajan Radjapova from Uzbekistan weaves carpets since 1988. She obtained the First Prize in a competition for Karakalpak prayer carpets in 1999 and the First Prize of the "Idea Home" in Almaty, Kazakhstan in the years 2006 and 2007. She participated in many national and international exhibitions including the exhibitions in Munich, 2007 and San-Tefe, New Mexico, in 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Ms. Nurbyubyu Maripova from Kyrgyzstan, comes from Leilek, a remote part of southern, mountainous Kyrgyzstan. From the age of ten she helped her mother and grandmother in weaving carpets. Ms. Nurbyubyu heads the cooperative "Asan - Noor", which employs 16 home-based workers. Weaving carpets is a very hard work, she says, in particular, the preparation of thread is time and effort-consuming: getting 200-300 kgs of wool, washing it, drying it, combing it, spinning it manually or on the spinning wheel and only then beginning to weave.

Ms. Taslam Ment Tahman from Mauritania learnt the techniques from her mother since 2004 on and in the advanced training courses of the Mauritanian Institution for Textiles up to 2008.



Amal al Saghiouri - Morocco



Najet Salem - Tunisia



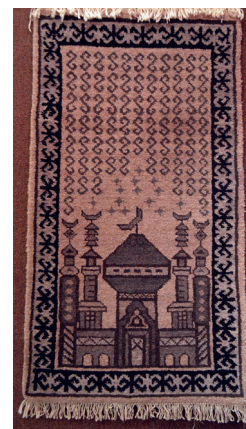
Musa Kazim Başaran - Turkey



Ajap Bayriyeva- Turkmenistan



Al Sadou House - Kuwait



Ms. Amal Saghiouri from Morocco has a long experience; she chairs the al-Azhar Cooperative for weaving and marketing carpets which has 70 members. She participated in many workshops and obtained awards during exhibitions including those of Tangiers, Casablanca and Barcelona.

Artisan and designer Nr. Najet Salem from Tunisia is the head of the Free Hands association in Gafsa city which works on training women in rural areas around Gafsa. She was one of the distinguished artisans in Tunisian "Marqum" branch during the 30th session of the Tunisian Creativity Salon for Artisanat, 2013. In 2011 she obtained a diploma in space design with a focus on interior decoration from the High Institute for Arts and Crafts in Gafsa. She participated in many national and international exhibitions, in the Marseille Exhibition and in a Tunisian Textile exhibition in Holland. She conducted training courses, including the one organized by UNIDO and ILO at the ONA Office in Gafsa which aimed to prequalify lady artisans in producing handmade textiles.

Mr. Musa Kazım Başaran from Turkey has woven over 200 carpets and rugs. Most of the designs he applies are his own. He uses all natural materials: the silk he uses comes from Brazil and the dyes come from South and Central America. He was granted with the first prize in the field of Carpets and Kilims of the Muscat International Award for Innovation and Creativity in Crafts which was distributed during the Muscat International Festival for 2011.

Ms. Ajap Bayriyeva is a famous carpet-weaver in her country, Turkmenistan. Her father, Mr. Juma Redjepov, is a rug designer who worked at the Turkmen carpet factory for more than 40 years. She has been weaving carpets since her childhood. At present she works

at the National Turkmen Carpet Museum as a specialist of Turkmen carpets and national costumes. She has a Ph.D. in Ethnology from the Institute of History, Turkmen Academy of Sciences; she is a Member of the International Association of Connoisseurs of Turkmen Carpets. She served as Head of the Department of "Turkmen hand-made carpet weaving", Turkmen National Carpet Museum, Ashgabat. She took part in the organization of three international conferences on carpets, published popular articles about Turkmen national costumes and Turkmen carpets and rugs, and participated in the Hanover International Fair. Ms. Bayriyeva has a number of publications in this field. She assembled a large collection of slides and archival pictures of Turkmen national costumes and ancient and modern Turkmen carpets and rugs.

Al-Sadou House from the host country Kuwait participated in the exhibition. This is an institution chaired by Sheikha Altaf Salem Al-Sabah. It specializes in Bedouin weaving and provides assistance for Kuwaiti artisans to advance their weaving techniques and market their products.



Mr. Farid al-Ali, Chairman, Kuwait Islamic Arts Centre, Dr. Nezhir Maruf, Head Crafts Development Program, IRCICA, with the Pray Carpets Artisans from various OIC countries

International Exhibition of Innovators in Wood Engraving

Sharjah, 16-18 February 2014

The Department of Culture of the Government of Sharjah and IRCICA jointly organized an International Exhibition of Artisan Innovators in the Field of Wood Engraving which took place in Sharjah on 16-18 February 2014. Artisans from the following countries, in addition to those from the United Arab Emirates itself, took part in the exhibition: Azerbaijan, Egypt, Mauritania, Senegal, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The artisans displayed their techniques, raw materials and final products in woodworks. It was a unique opportunity for artisans from different regions to exchange expertise and experiences concerning handmade wood products.



El Hadj Dioum - Senegal



Makhmudov Said - Tajikistan



Rachid Ait Ahsaine - Morocco



Hajimustafazada Huseyin - Azerbaijan



Faraj Mohamed Al-Sayid Al-Deeb - Egypt



Abdullah Abdurazakov - Uzbekistan

“Sharjah Heritage Days”: Islamic Heritage as One Tent including Folklore Music, Arts of Cooking and Handicrafts from different places of the Muslim World, Sharjah

6-25 April 2014

By Dr. Nazeih Marouf

In accordance with the Agreement of Cooperation signed between IRCICA and the Department of Culture of the Government of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, for organizing the Sharjah Heritage Days: Islamic Heritage as One Tent to include Folklore Music, Arts of Cooking and Handicrafts from different places of the Muslim World, Sharjah, 6-25 April, 2014;

The Department of Culture of the Government of Sharjah and IRCICA jointly organized the following activities:

1- International Exhibition for Innovators Artisans from 30 different countries in the Muslim World who came with their instruments and practiced their techniques of work in front of the visitors and the public, in which they provided a unique opportunity for the participants and the visitors to closely see images of a rich heritage from various geographical places of the world and also interact with the artisans on issues relating to their applied techniques as well as obtaining some of the artisans' innovated products. The exhibition site was arranged

as a Crafts Bazar which displayed various types of handmade products which came from different countries and allowed visitors to see innovative products in the field of Embroidery, Weaving, Costumes, Carpets, Kilims, Sadou, Pottery, Silver Works, Metal Crafts, Engraving and Ornamentation, Leather products, Ceramic, Mosaic, Textile, etc..

2- Folklore Music Performances from different Countries of the Muslim World which witnessed the participation of distinguished Folkloric Musical Groups from Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Algeria, Turkey, Daghestan, Malaysia, Yemen, Oman, Morocco, Egypt, Bahrain, Kuwait, in addition to local folklore groups from the United Arab Emirates.

3- A unique show of professionals in the field of Cooking and Sweets from Algeria, Indonesia, India, Tunisia, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates who prepared various types of their local food and sweets. The visitors found in this an opportunity to know more about the richness of cooking traditions and meals in various different countries. This indirectly in encouraging communication and cultural helped dialogue among different groups of people.



His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, accompanied by H.E. Sheikh Nahiyen Bin Mubarak Al Nahiyen, Minister of Culture, Youth and Society Development, receives information from Dr. Halit Eren, Director General, IRCICA, on the album of historical photographs of Makkah and Madina published by the Centre



Dr. Nezhir Maruf, Head, Crafts Development Program, IRCICA showing His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Ben Mohammed Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah the various stands of the Artisans from various countries of the Muslim World

IRCICA held many working sessions with the Department of Culture and Information of the Government of Sharjah from 29 January to 2 February 2014 in order to lay out the concrete steps for organizing the Sharjah Heritage Days. Sessions which were held in Sharjah and Istanbul focused on the main steps of organizing such important activities.

Dr. Halit Eren, Director General of IRCICA, took part in the inauguration of the Sharjah Heritage Days, which were inaugurated by His Highness Sheikh Dr. Sultan Ben Mohammed Al Qasimi, Member of the Supreme Council and Ruler of Sharjah, accompanied by Sheikh Sultan Ben Mohammed Ben Sultan Al Qasimi, Crown Prince and Deputy of the Ruler, Sheikh Nahiyen Ben Mubarak Al Nahiyen, Minister of Culture, Youth and Society Development, Sheikh Mohammed Ben Saud Al Qasimi, Chairman of the Central Finance, Sheikh Khalid Ben Sultan Ben Mohammed Al Qasimi, Chairman, Council of Architectural Planning, Sheikh Khalid Ben Issam Al Qassimi, Chairman, Civil Aviation Department, Sheikh Salem Ben Abdul Rehman Al Qassimi, Chairman of the Ruler Office, Sheikh Mohammed Ben Hmaid Al Qasimi, H.E. Abdul Rahman Al Uwais, Minister of Health, Mr. Raed Ben Tulaiaa, Chairman, Municipality Council of Sharjah, Mr. Abdullah Al Uwais, Chairman, Department of Culture and information, Members of the Executive Council of Sharjah Emirate, Chairmen of the Governmental Departments of Sharjah, Dr. Amru Abdul Hamid, Advisor of the Ruler of Sharjah for Advanced Education , and Mr. Abdul Aziz Al Musalam, Director of Heritage and Cultural Affairs. This is in addition to a number of representatives from Diplomatic Circles in UAE and Heads of Delegations of the participating Countries along with representatives of Media Institutions.

The Heritage Days aimed to gather innovators in the field of Folklore Music, Cooking Arts and Handmade Products from different countries of the Muslim World within special designed tents that displayed and performed

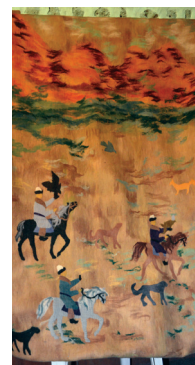
folklore music, and a variety of food and sweet products. The Festival also displayed the works and techniques applied by artisans of various geographical regions of the Muslim world as were practiced at their workshops.

IRCICA worked hard for nearly three months to contact the concerned Craft and cultural authorities in many countries providing all the necessary technical experience and advisory negotiations to ensure the selection of folklore musical groups, professionals of cooking and sweets making,

in addition to a group of the innovators in the field of handmade products. These efforts were crowned with an active and large participation in the various activities of this important event.

In addition to the participation of various folklore and musical groups, the following innovative artisans, cooks and professionals in the field of sweets making participated in the Sharjah Heritage Days:

- 1- Specialist in Carpets making, Azerbaijan.
- 2- Specialist in Jewellery and silver works, Azerbaijan.
- 3- Chief in Cooking, Indonesia.
- 4- Chief in Cooking and Sweets, MM, Indonesia.
- 5- Specialist in enamel jewelry and silver works, Iran.



- 6- Specialist in Textile and Kilims, Uganda.
- 7- Specialist in Wood Engraving, Uzbekistan.
- 8- Specialist in Carpets, Margoum and Costumes, Gafsa, Tunisia.
- 9- Specialist in Tunisian Sweets.
- 10- Specialist in Tunisian Cooking.
- 11- Specialist in Silver Works, Turkey.
- 12- Specialist in Traditional Costumes, Turkey.
- 13- Specialist in Turkish Sweets.
- 14- Specialist in Zarbiya and Kilims, Algeria.
- 15- Specialist in Traditional Costumes, Algeria.
- 16- Cook, Algeria.
- 17- Sweets Specialist, Algeria.
- 18- Specialist in Ornamentation of Pottery and Mosaic, Jordan.
- 19- Specialist in Jewelry and Silver Works, Kazakhstan.
- 20- Specialist in weaving Textile and Carpets, Kazakhstan.
- 21- Specialist in Silver and Copper Works, Morocco.
- 22- Specialist in Traditional Costumes and Textile of Morocco.
- 23- Specialist in Ornamentation of the works extracted from Camel Leather, Pakistan.
- 24- Specialist in Pottery and Ceramic, Pakistan.
- 25- Specialist in Mosaic, Palestine.
- 26- Specialist in Traditional Costumes and Textile, Palestine.
- 27- Specialist in Leather Products, Senegal.
- 28- Specialist in Traditional Costumes, Senegal.
- 29- Specialist in Leather Works, Sudan.
- 30- specialist in Ornamentation of Pottery, Ceramic and other relevant products, Sudan.
- 31- Specialist in Traditional Costumes of Khyrgyzstan.
- 32- Specialist in Traditional Costumes, Kyrgyzstan.
- 33- Specialist in Embroidery and Textiles, Kyrgyzstan.
- 34- Cook, Kyrgyzstan.
- 35- Sweets Specialist, Kyrgyzstan.

Artisans from Kenya, Oman, Afghanistan, Egypt and many other countries also participated in the international exhibition of artisans.



Chief in Cooking and Sweets,
Nur Komariah S.Sos., MM,
Indonesia



MALIK MUHAMMAD ABDUR
REHMAN NAQASH, Pakistan.



specialized in Carpets, Margoum and Costumes, Gafsa,
Tunisia.



Nahid Azizi, specialist in enamel jewelry and silver works,
Iran



Azerbaijan Folklore Group

Meetings, Cooperation

Visit of Mr. Hassan Sawadi Abu Tabikh, Consul General of Iraq in Istanbul

The Consul General of Iraq in Istanbul, Mr. Hassan Sawadi Abu Tabikh, visited the Director General of IRCICA on 9 January 2014. Dr. Fazil Bayat from IRCICA participated in the meeting. The talks were centered around cultural and educational issues in general and cooperation between IRCICA and the Iraqi cultural institutions in particular. Furthermore the Centre's activities relating to the history and cultural heritage of Irak were highlighted. These include among others the international congress on "Baghdad in Islamic Civilization" which was organized by IRCICA and Marmara University's Faculty of Theology (2008) and the seminar and exhibition on «Ottoman documents concerning Iraq» organized by IRCICA jointly with Beit al-Hikmah, Iraq (2012). The Consul General praised the Centre's programs and projects.



Ambassador Tharit Charungvat, Ambassador of Thailand in Ankara, visited IRCICA

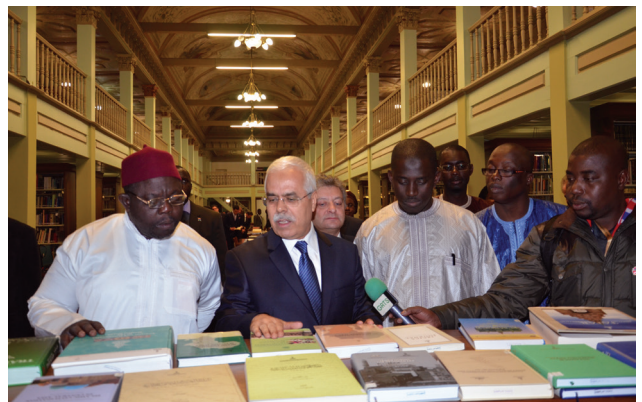
Ambassador Tharit Charungvat, Ambassador of Thailand in Ankara, visited IRCICA on 28 January 2014. The meeting in Director General Dr. Halit Eren's office focused mainly on the subject of dialogue and cultural understanding between peoples of the world and the Centre's activities aiming to contribute in that direction. Specifically, the project to organize an international congress on "The Coexistence of Faiths and Cultures", undertaken jointly by the Government of Thailand and IRCICA, was discussed. The congress is to be held in Thailand in spring 2015. It is expected to define and encourage scholarly perspectives in understanding and promoting multicultural, especially multi-faith coexistence particularly in the context of Thailand and its region.



Visit of a presidential delegation from The Gambia to IRCICA

During the period of Gambian President H.E. Yahya Jammeh's state visit to Turkey (10-12 February 2014), the governmental delegation that was accompanying H.E. the President paid a visit to IRCICA. The delegation, comprising ministers and high officials from the Gambian Government, were received by Dr. Eren, Director General of IRCICA. Dr. Eren informed the guests on the Centre's activities and guided them to some of the departments. Topics discussed included the preparations for the "Banjul International Festival for Arts, Crafts and Creativity" to be organized in March 2015 in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and Culture of The Gambia.

President Yahya Jammeh's visit to IRCICA in 1997 was recalled. The wish to develop continuous collaboration between governmental and cultural institutions of The Gambia and IRCICA was expressed.



Sheikh-ul-Islam Talgat Tajuddin, Grand Mufti of Russia, at IRCICA

The Grand Mufti of Russia Sheikh-ul-Islam Talgat Tajuddin visited IRCICA on 19 February 2014. IRCICA Director General Dr. Eren and Grand Mufti Tajuddin have known each other for a long time through cultural contacts and participation in multi-faith gatherings. Most recently, at the invitation of Grand Mufti Sheikh-ul-Islam Talgat Tajuddin, Dr. Halit Eren had participated in and addressed the closing session of the conference commemorating the 225th anniversary of the establishment of the Central Spiritual Board of Russia Muslims, which was held in Ufa, Bashkortostan, from 21 to 23 October 2013.



Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi, D-8 Secretary General, visited IRCICA

On 6 March 2014 IRCICA received Dr. Seyed Ali Mohammad Mousavi, Secretary General of the D-8 Organisation for Economic Cooperation. During the visit to IRCICA headquarters, Dr. Mousavi and IRCICA Director General Dr. Halit Eren had the opportunity to exchange views and explore potential areas of future cooperation between the two organisations. Dr. Mousavi stated that IRCICA as a subsidiary organ of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation occupies a respected position in the Islamic world due to its intense efforts for the preservation of cultural and historical heritage. He added that IRCICA's accumulated experience and prestige in the Islamic world could contribute to the mobilization of D-8's potential especially with regards to cooperation in historical, cultural and artistic realms.



During the visit, Dr. Mousavi was informed about the wide array of research conducted by IRCICA and signed the Honorary Book of the Centre. IRCICA Director General Dr. Eren presented Dr. Mousavi a copy of the Holy Qur'an attributed to Ali b. Abi Talib, the copy of Sana'a.

Prof. Abdul Adhim Abbas Nassar from Qufa University visited IRCICA

On 10 March 2014, Prof. Abdul Adhim Abbas Nassar from Qufa University, Iraq, visited IRCICA. Dr. Eren gave information to Prof. Nassar on the Centre's studies and showed him some publications resulting from the different projects. Possibilities of cooperation between IRCICA and Qufa University were discussed.



Cooperation agreement signed with the Turkic Academy, Kazakhstan, during the visit of the Academy's President Dr. Darkhan Kidirali to IRCICA

A cooperation agreement was signed between IRCICA and the Turkic Academy, Astana, Kazakhstan, during the visit of the Academy's President Dr. Darkhan Kidirali to IRCICA on 11 March 2014. Dr. Kidirali and Dr. Eren had an extensive meeting whereby they discussed on projects that can be undertaken jointly in areas of common interest.

The Turkic Academy was established in 2010 in Astana, following the proposal made by Kazakhstan President H.E. Nursultan Nazarbayev at the 2009 Summit of Turkic-speaking countries held in Nakhchivan, Azerbaijan. It is an eminent scholarly research Centre devoted to Turkic studies, covering the history, cultures, economic and cultural development of Turkic peoples.



Visit of Dr. Hayel Abdulhafez Dawud, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of Jordan

On 16 April, Dr. Halit Eren received Dr. Hayel Abdulhafez Dawud, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of Jordan, and the accompanying delegation. During the talks, the activities conducted by IRCICA in cooperation with governmental departments and universities of Jordan were recalled; needs and possibilities of future cooperation were discussed. Dr. Eren guided the Minister and his entourage to the library of the Centre and some of the research departments. The Minister



signed the Visitors' Book recording his impressions on the Centre and its activities: "I and the delegation with me are honoured to visit this great institution directed by our dear brother Dr. Halit Eren. We heard about the immense efforts and big missions assumed by this institution to preserve and document the Islamic heritage in the various regions of the Muslim world and to underscore Muslims role in building the human civilization..."

Arab Provinces in Ottoman Documents (At the end of the reign of Sultan Suleyman the Lawgiver)

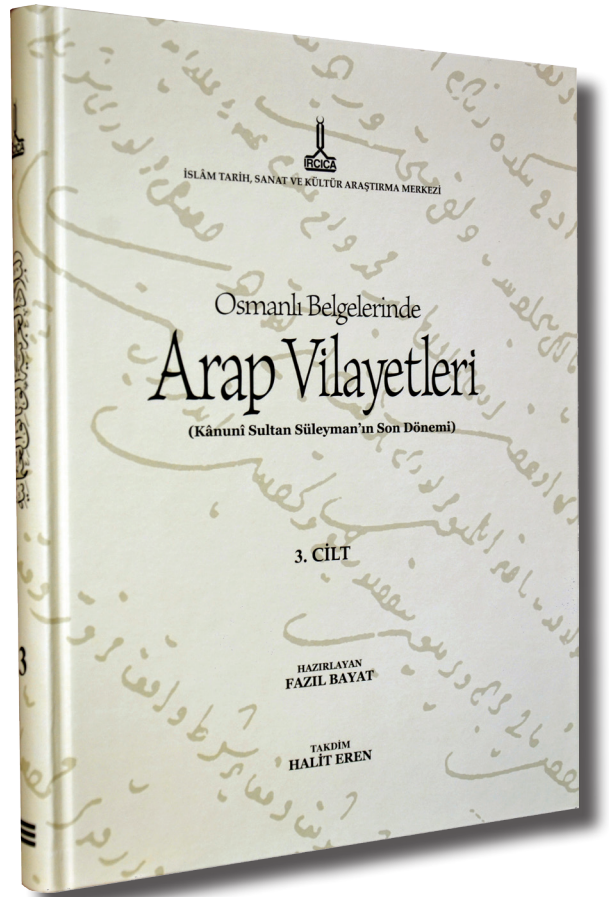
Preparation, translation and study: Fazıl Bayat. Foreword: Halit Eren

Volume III, History of Muslim Countries through Ottoman Archive Documents Series 3, IRCICA, Istanbul, 362, xvii pp.+ CD, samples of documents, 29 cm. (texts of documents: in Ottoman; translation and study: in Arabic; introduction and summaries: in Turkish)

This is the third volume resulting from IRCICA's project that aims to render the Ottoman archive documents on Arab lands accessible to researchers who work in the Arabic language. The first and second volumes were published in 2010 and 2011 respectively. The third volume is related to the period of Sultan Suleyman the Lawgiver (1520-1566). The author, Dr. Fazıl Bayat, researcher at IRCICA, applied the same method as in the first two volumes: for each document selected for the book he transcribed the text, translated it into Arabic, and analyzed it. A detailed index arranged according to subjects facilitates the task of the reader. The documents included in this volume were chosen from among the Hükümü Hümayun (Imperial Decrees) listed in the registers nr. 3, 5 and 6 of the Mühimme Defterleri («registers for essential subjects») which are part of the collections in the Ottoman Archives in Istanbul.

The author underlines in his Introduction that in this volume he gave special importance to analyzing each document in order to explain and at the same time, to referring to others on similar subjects that are not included in the volume. The book is divided into eight independent chapters, focusing, respectively, on: the general and administrative situation, the holy places (Makka al-Mukarrama and Madina al munawwara), the organization of the Hajj [pilgrimage], the awqaf [foundations] and religious affairs, legal affairs and establishment of justice, economic affairs, local leadership and tribes, military affairs and maintenance of security, and miscellaneous subjects.

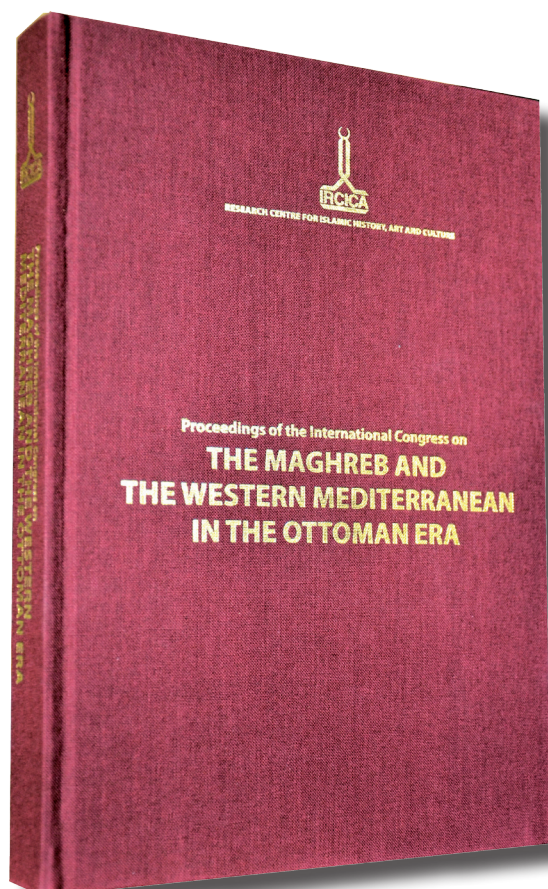
The series will continue; the fourth volume is planned for publication by the end of 2014.



Proceedings of the International Congress on
The Maghreb and the Western Mediterranean in the Ottoman Era

Rabat, Morocco, 12-14 November 2009, Sources and Studies on the History of Islamic Civilization
Series 27, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2013; 186, 227 p.; ill. 25 cm.

This book resulted from the congress which was organized jointly by the Royal Institute for the History of Morocco (IRRHM, Rabat) and IRCICA with the collaboration of the Faculty of Letters and Humanities, Mohammed V University, in Rabat. Its theme, with geographical focus on “The Maghreb and Western Mediterranean” and historical reference to the Ottoman period, brought into scope a multitude of issues of the sea and the land, travels and trade, political rivalries, economic competition, dynasties and legal systems. Relations between the states and societies around the Mediterranean, development of technology, arts and culture, and the external and the internal factors always at play in this zone of crossings, all came into the analysis. Thus the congress covered a wide range of subjects. The session theme “Discovering The Other” was addressed with studies on geographers and travelers with regard to how peoples of the Maghreb and the Ottoman world came to know each other through these sources. Among the texts studied were the works of illustrious Ottoman scientists-geographers such as Piri Reis and Katip Çelebi about Morocco and the writings emanating from Moroccan ambassadorial missions and Moroccan travelers about Ottoman lands. Two sessions were devoted to the theme “Maghrebians and Ottomans”, dealing with a wide gamut of cases of unity and conflict, cooperation and competition, perception and treatment. Another session was devoted to the theme of economy and architecture, with references to European trade in the region, Ottoman legislation on trade, infrastructural developments and mutual influences between Ottoman and Maghrebian architectural styles and elements. The session on “Western Mediterranean between Confrontation and Communication” addressed several specific subjects, including navies, slavery, and pilgrimage routes, while the session titled “Between Localism and Centralism” discussed challenging topics in the context of relations between the Ottoman State and the regions then falling within and outside its realm. As to



the theme “Maghreb in World History”, it highlighted diverse cases and channels of diplomatic relations within the region placing them in the context of the surrounding world historical situations. The papers are presented in this volume in their original languages – in Arabic, English, French or Turkish.

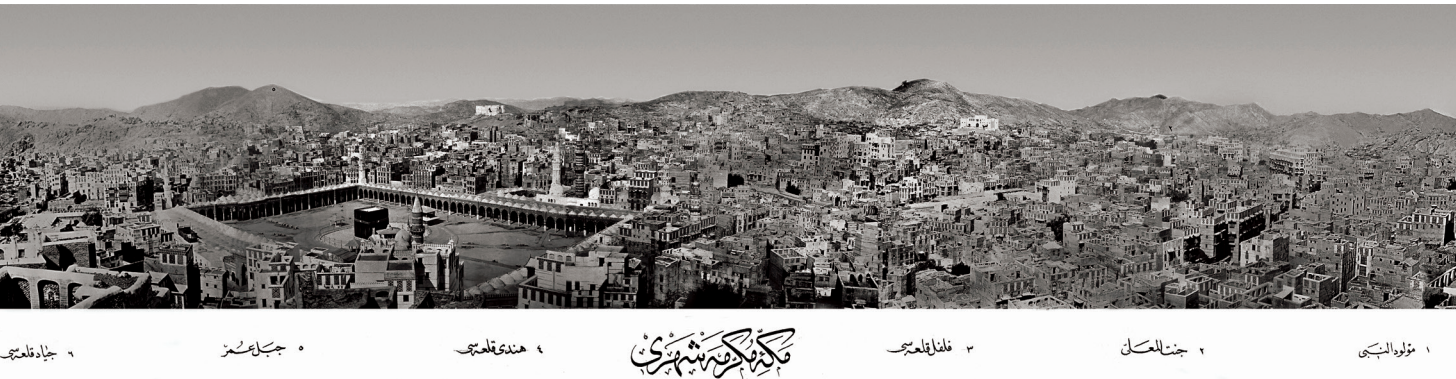
Haremeyn. Makka al-Mukarrama and al-Madina al-Munawwara in photographs from the Ottoman period selected from the albums of Sultan Abdulhamid II and the collection of Fahreddin Pasha (Türkkan)

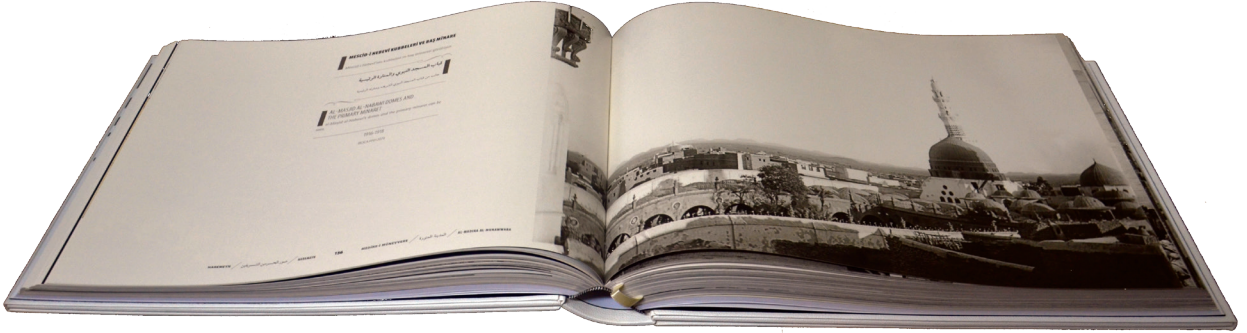
prepared by Halit Eren and Salih Sadawi, Foreword by Abdullah Gül, prologue by Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu,
Series of historical photograph albums 8, IRCICA; Istanbul, 592 p., 37x46 cm., illustrations, maps, plans
(Turkish, English, Arabic)

This major publication by IRCICA contains reproductions of historical photographs of Makka and Madina selected from the archives of IRCICA accompanied by a history of the Muslims' devotion and services rendered to these holy lands of Islam. Within the Islamic understanding, the locations that are considered to be more virtuous and sacred spiritually than any other in the world and are landmarks in humanity's sphere of faith and worship, are the Ka'ba (Masjid al-Haram) in Makka al-Mukarrama, al-Masjid al-Nabawi in al-Madina al-Munawwara and al-Masjid al-Aqsa in al-Quds. For this reason, Makka, Madina and al-Quds have a special place in the hearts of the Muslims. Makka and Madina among them are specifically safeguarded by the Islamic jurisprudence and considered to be "harem" (sacred territory) and are called "Haramayn" or "haremân" meaning two sacred territories. These sacred places where the Holy Qur'an was revealed are the originating points of the Islamic faith, its history and civilization and the locations that Prophet Muhammed (pbuh) spent his worldly days; they have maintained and will continue to maintain their importance as sources of knowledge and inspiration, places of worship and visit as well as valuable heritage assets of Islamic civilization.



The book's album section containing the photographs is divided into four parts, devoted, respectively, to photographs of Makka, Madina, the Surra (the caravan carrying gifts and





money to Makka from the Ottoman Sultans annually), and miscellaneous photographs (adjacent cities, economic and social activities, personalities, etc.)

The book prepared by the IRCICA team has been published under the patronage of H.E. Abdullah Gül, President of the Republic of Turkey who also wrote the Foreword. It has a prologue by Prof. Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu, Secretary General of the OIC. The Introduction by Dr. Halit Eren reviews the services rendered to the holy places by rulers of the Muslim states succeeding each other, with an emphasis on the Ottoman period. These services include: repairs, restorations, constructions conducted in the Holy Ka'ba and other sacred places in Makka, the Prophet's Mosque and other sacred locations in Madina, land development, services and arrangements relating to the Hajj – Muslims' pilgrimage, the Surra welfare assistance provided and endowments dedicated to the holy cities and their peoples, among many others.

The introductory parts and the photographs' annotations are in Turkish, English and Arabic. The photographs contained in the album date from the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century. Altogether the book documents all salient aspects of the history of Makka and Madina, with special reference to the delicate period of this history corresponding to about the last forty decades of the Ottoman State.

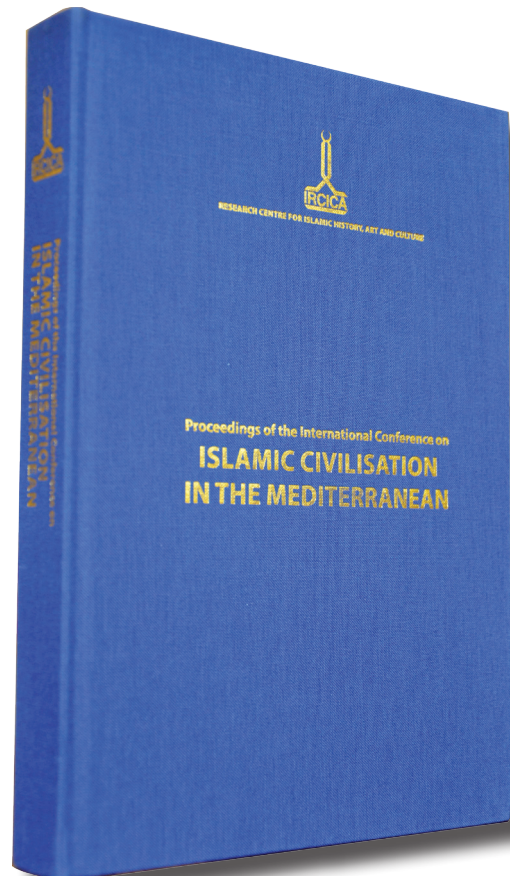


Proceedings of the International Congress on
Islamic Civilization in the Mediterranean

Nicosia, 1-4 December 2010, Preface: Halit Eren, Sources and Studies on the History of Islamic Civilization Series 28, IRCICA, Istanbul, 2013, 262+194 p.; ill., 25 cm.

A congress was organized jointly by IRCICA and Near East University, Nicosia (Northern Cyprus), on the theme “Islamic Civilization around the Mediterranean”, in December 2010. Papers contributed by scholars and researchers from all continents around the Mediterranean glimpsed at life in the region at different time periods with focuses on Muslims’ presence and participation in the various processes including the development of cities, art and architecture, science and education, governance and administrative practices.

Islam, unlike Christianity and Judaism, was not born in the vicinity of the Mediterranean but reached it by mid-7th century. Then within its first century Islam spread in the southern, eastern and western shores of the Mediterranean Sea. In later centuries, commercial and cultural exchanges between Muslims on one hand and Europeans on the other grew uninterruptedly, at times of conflict (such as the Crusades) as well as of peace. This contributed to enriching the cultural diversities of the civilizations that evolved around the Mediterranean. The bouquet of good quality studies contained in the book reflects the scope and depth of this multicultural legacy and its Islamic component that is diffused throughout the region.



IRCICA Journal. A Journal on Islamic History and Civilization *Volume I, Issue 2, Fall 2013*

The second issue of IRCICA Journal has appeared. This is an interdisciplinary refereed journal published two times per year (Spring and Fall) which includes articles in English, French or Arabic.

The journal touches all fields of Islamic studies including history of culture, art, science, philosophy, literature, traditional handicrafts and archaeology. It welcomes previously unpublished manuscripts on topics relating to different regions within and outside the Muslim world including the Balkans, Caucasus, Central Asia, the Middle East, North and Sub-Saharan Africa, South and Southeast Asia. It is expected to serve the needs of researchers in the fields of history, cultural studies, sociology, architecture, international relations and anthropology, among others.

A list of the contents of Volume I in its Spring and Fall issues is given below.

Vol. I, Spring 2013

Articles in English:

The Balkan Wars in the Records of the Italian Army General Staff, by Alberto Becherelli (Sapienza University of Rome, Italy)

Political Activities and Popular Outcry on the Turkish Question in Muslim Bengal (1908-1924): An Archival Report, by Assoc. Prof. Kazi Sufior Rahaman (University of Calcutta, West Bengal, India)

Seeds of Ottomanism and Islamism: Fruits of Secularism and Democracy, by Khurram Qadir (Managing Editor of IRCICA Journal & Former Director of NICHR, Pakistan)

Yasaviya Traditions in the Culture of the Volga Muslims, by Guzel Sayfulina (University of Leiden, Netherlands)

Articles in Arabic:

The Issue of Orthography in the Manuscripts of the Qur'an, by Tayyar Altikulaç (former President of Directorate of Religious Affairs and former Member of Parliament, Turkey)

Higher Education Institutions in the Eastern Arab Provinces of the Ottoman Empire in the Light of Ottoman Documents, by Fazil Bayat (IRCICA)



Vol. I, Fall 2013

Articles in English:

Incorporating the Maghrib as an Axis in World History, by Gavin D. Brockett (Wilfrid Laurier University, Department of History and Coordinator of Muslim Studies, Ontario, Canada)

“Al-Andalus” and Recovering the Cultural Legacy of the Moorish Presence in the Iberian Peninsula, by José Tomaz Castello Branco (Department of Political Studies, Catholic University of Portugal, Lisbon)

East Encounters West: French Merchants and Islamic Law in the Ottoman Mediterranean (Late-Sixteenth and Early-Seventeenth Centuries), by Viorel Panaite (Department of Islamic and Ottoman History, The University of Bucharest, Romania)

Articles in Arabic:

Contributions of Women to Charitable Waqfs during the Rasulid State in Yemen (616-858 AH/1228-1454), by Muhammed Arnaoud (World Islamic Science and Education University, WISE, Amman, Jordan)

The Abuse of the Idea of Islamic Caliphate by Britain in India in the 19th Century, by Asma Muhaibil (Algiers University-II, Algeria)

