MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

For our next four-year term (2001-2005), we move into the new millennium with impressive strides. The Commission for History of Science and Technology in Islamic Civilization has now an online listserve with a subscription from over twenty countries. Its annual Newsletter has an additional electronic version, as part of a website, which represents the Commission. This website (officially approved at the general assembly of the Commission during the IUHPS Congress in Mexico City in July 2001) will be maintained professionally and free of charge from the Department of History of Science at Oklahoma University.

(continued on page 14)

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

Let me thank all of you who have sent information for this Newsletter. Once again the response to our request for news, publications, and so forth has been gratifying. I would also like to thank you for making the online Newsletter and listserve a success through your participation. Please note that Volumes 4-7 of the Newsletter are available at http://www.ou.edu/islamsci/ (vols. 5-7 being in .pdf format, which requires the free and easily downloadable Adobe Acrobat Reader).

At the recent History of Science Congress in Mexico City, there was a meeting of the Commission on History of Science and Technology in Islamic Civilization. An election was held and the new officers are listed below. A number of initiatives were proposed at the meeting, and Prof. Russell will be discussing these with you in the coming months. The minutes of the meeting are printed in the appendix of this Newsletter (page 15).

(continued on page 15)
2. ORGANIZATIONS/ NETWORKS/ GROUPS

THE AVICENNA STUDY GROUP (ASG) was formally established in the concluding session of The First Graduate Student Conference on Ibn Sīnā March 2001, Yale University. The purpose of this group is to facilitate communication concerning recent academic research on the life, times, and thought of the 10th-11th-century philosopher Avicenna (or Ibn Sinā), to disseminate information on manuscripts, primary, and secondary material related to Avicenna and medieval Arabic philosophy in general, and to serve as the first stage in projected major collaborative research projects on Avicenna.

- IBN SĪNĀ ACADEMY OF MEDIEVAL MEDICINE & SCIENCES was inaugurated April 20, 2001 by Mohammad Hamid Ansari, Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), and presided over by Siraj Hussain. Vice Chancellor, Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman, The Founding President of the Academy, delivered the welcome address. The website is: www.ibnsinaacademy.com.

  Attendees included: Aqa’i Roohi Sefat, Deputy Chief of Mission & Councilor, Islamic Republic of Iran, who inaugurated the Newsletter of Ibn Sīnā Academy [NISA]; Aqa’i Taqi Rafi of Noor Microfilm Centre, Iran Culture House, New Delhi (who presented the book Tibhi Tagadme by Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman); Ather H. Siddiqi, Former Dean, Faculty of Life Science, AMU; and more than two hundred senior faculties of AMU and a delegation from the Iranian Embassy.

- THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF ISLAMIC MEDICINE (ISHIM) The first meeting of the ISHIM took place December 1-3, 2000 in Doha, Qatar. The international physicians, scholars and historians who attended called for studying the Islamic medical heritage in order to show the role Arab and Muslim physicians played in the development of medical science during the renaissance of Islamic civilization, as well as its importance in the development of modern medicine, especially its effect on the European Renaissance.

  An executive council was set up; by-laws were discussed and approved during the meeting. Doha was selected as the permanent location of the society. Membership in the society is open to anyone who has an interest in or would like to contribute to the study of the History of Islamic Medicine.

  For more information contact: Abdul Nasser Kaadan, M.D., Ph.D., Orthopedic Surgery, History of Medicine, Aleppo University, The Secretary General of ISHIM, P.O. Box: 7581, Aleppo, Syria; Tel.: 963 21 2667345, Fax: 963 21 2248035; Email: a.n.kaadan@mail.sy; website: www.ishim.net

3. NEW JOURNALS/SERIES/NEWSLETTERS


  For further information contact: Dr. Feza Günergun (editor), Istanbul University, Faculty of Arts, Department of Philosophy, Division History of Science, 34459 Beyazıt, Istanbul, Turkey; Fax: 0090 212 511 43 71; Email: guner@attglobal.net


  For further information contact: Nâder Mottalebi-Kâshâni, Editor-in-Chief, Nâmehe-ye Bahârestân, P. O. Box 11365-954, Tehran 11357, Iran. Tel.: (+ 9821) 75 26 873; Fax: (+ 9821) 75 33 541; Email: nameh_baharestan@majlislib.com; editorial@majlislib.com; Website: www.majlislib.org

- The Arab World Geographer. A quarterly journal in the field of studies on the Arab and Islamic world. It was previously based at the University of Toronto, and is now in the process of relocating to the University of Akron, Ohio.

  For further information contact: Dr. Ghazi Falah, Editor-in-Chief; http://www.frw.uva.nl/ggct/awg

- The Graeco-Arabic Sciences and Philosophy Series of Brigham Young University (http://meti.byu.edu/ast.html) announces the imminent publication of three works:

  1. Ibn Rushd’s Middle Commentary on the De Anima of Aristotle, edited and translated by Alfred Ivry.

  2. Moses Maimonides treatise On Asthma, edited and translated by Gerrit Bos, with the Latin translations of John of Capua and of Armengaud Blaise, edited by Michael McVaugh, and comprehensive Arabo-Latin glossary prepared by Glen Cooper. This work will be issued in two volumes, Arabic and English in the first, and Latin and glossary in the second.

  3. Moses Maimonides’ Medical Aphorisms, Part I, edited and translated by Gerrit Bos. The latter two works are the first in the Complete Medical Works of Moses Maimonides series, edited by Gerrit Bos, and published in the GrASP series, under the direction of Glen Cooper, and an Advisory Board under the supervision of Dimitri Gutas.
For more information about the GrASP series, please contact: Glen Cooper: glen_cooper@byu.edu or maimonides@byu.eduoap.

- The ICHA Newsletter: The Newsletter of the Inter-Union Commission for History of Astronomy. No. 1-June 2001. Contact: Dr. Ilena Chinnici, c/o Osservatorio Astronomico di Palermo G. S. Vaiana, Piazza del Parlamento, 1, 90134 Palermo, Italy; tel. 39091233443; fax: 39091233444; Email: chinniastropa.unipa.itci@oapa.

- SCIAMVS: Sources and Commentaries in Exact Sciences. (For the Table of Contents of Volume 2, April 2001, see “Appendix”) Those who are interested in subscribing and/or sending contributions to SCIAMVS, please visit their homepage: http://plaza.harmonix.ne.jp/~sciamvs/

- Historia Scientiarum. The International Journal of the History of Science Society of Japan. Founded in April 1941, the Society aims to advance research in all aspects of the history of science and technology from ancient times to the present. Formerly titled as Japanese Studies in the History of Science, the journal is published three times a year, and contains papers, surveys, documents, and reviews, written in English, German or French. The Society’s membership is international and open to individuals and institutions. Email: serials@jptco.co.jp; http://www.jptco.jp/book/serials/index.html

4. CONFERENCES/SYMPOSIA/MEETINGS/LECTURES IN 1999-2001

* CONFERENCES 2001 *

- NASIRADDIN TUSI AND MODERN ASTRONOMY. October 4-7, 2001 in Azerbaijan. The Conference was in commemoration of the 800-year anniversary of Naṣīr al-Dīn al-Ṭūsī and took place at the the Shamakhy Astrophysical Observatory (Pirgulu site, Y Mammadaliyev settlement, about 144 km distance from the capital of Azerbaijan, Baku. It was sponsored by the Government of the Azerbaijan Republic and Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences and was one of the series of conferences of the Majlis (School) “TUSI-800” organized by the Shamakhy Astrophysical Observatory since 1998.

  Topics included: History of Astronomy; Physics of the Sun; Investigation of Solar System Bodies; Astrophysics; Space physics

  Scientific Organizing Committee: Chairman of SOC: Prof. Dr. Ayyub Salah-oghlu Guluyev, Correspondent-member of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences; Vice-Chairman of SOC: Dr. Elchin Safaraly-oghlu Babayev; Secretary of SOC: Mrs. Aynura Alili

  Members of SOC: Academician Arif Mekhtiyev (Azerbaijan); Academician Akif Hajiyev (Azerbaijan); Prof. Dr. Vladimir Nukhimovich Obridko (Russia); Prof. Dr. F. Jamil Ragen (USA); Prof. Dr. Juergen Staudte (Germany); Prof. Dr. Shuhrat Ehgamberdiev (Uzbekistan); Prof. Dr. N. Sakhibullin (Tatarstan, Russian Federation); Dr. T. Appourchaux (The Netherlands)

  Contacts: ShAO, P.O.Box 153, Central Post Office, Baku, 370000, Azerbaijan Republic; Email: ebabayev@yahoo.com; elay@lan.ab.az; ayyub@dcacs.ab.az; Fax: (994 12) 97 52 68; Tel.: (994 50) 213 14 59


An international conference on cultural interaction between Europe and the ‘Orient,’ from the early Middle Ages to 1600. Email: between.empires@trin.cam.ac.uk; Website: http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/Arts/departs/medieval/conf.html

XXIst INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF HISTORY OF SCIENCE. July 8-14, 2001 in Mexico City, Mexico. Theme: Science and Cultural Diversity. For info: Juan José Saldaña, Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the XXIst ICHS, Apartado postal 21-873, 04000 México, D. F., México. URL: http://www.cilea.it/history/DHS

ICHIS SYMPOSIONS

–ASTRONOMICAL HERITAGE OF NON-EUROPEAN CULTURAL AREAS. Organized by S. M. R. Ansari (Aligarh/India), Il-Seong Nha (Seoul/South Korea), and Marco A. M. Corral (Mexico); co-sponsored by the Commission on History of Science and Technology in Islamic Civilization. Contact Person: S. M. Razaullah Ansari (Raza.Ansari@gmx.net)

–HISTORY OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD. Organized by Hélène Bellosta.

–THE MEDIEVAL NEXUS: SCIENTIFIC TRANSMISSION WITHIN AND FROM ISLAMIC LANDS. Organized by J. Samsó and J. Ragep; sponsored by the Commission on History of Science and Technology in Islamic Civilization.


–OTTOMAN SCIENCE AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY. Organized by E. İhsanoğlu, E. Nicolaidis, and A. Picon; co-sponsored by the Commission on History of Science and Technology in Islamic Civilization. Contact Person: Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu(ircica@superonline.com)

–SCIENCE AT THE FRONTIERS: MEDICINE & CULTURES IN THE ANCIENT & MEDIEVAL WORLDS. Organized by A. Touwaide (atouwaide@hotmail.com)


INTERNATIONAL MEDIEVAL CONGRESS. July 9-12, 2001 at The University of Leeds. For information: http://www.leeds.ac.uk/imi/imc/imc2001/imc2001.htm Email: IMC@leeds.ac.uk


Speakers: J. Barbour (UK); J. A. Belmonte Aviles (Spain); F. Bonoli (Bologna); R. Buonanno (Il Università di Roma “Tor Vergata”); M. Capaccioli (SALT, OAC); V. Castellani (Pisa); K. Cham-Cham (Casablanca); P. Davies (Australia); S. DeMeis (Milano); J. Elamrani (Casablanca); O. Gingerich (Harvard Univ.); B. Guiderdoni (Paris); H. Hunger (Vienna); D. King (Coldfort); P. Kunitzsch (Munich); A. Panaino (Bologna); S. Picchioni (Bologna); D. Pingree (Brown Univ.);

R. Rashed (Paris); G. Saliba (Egypt); J. S. S. Silke (Oxford UK); R. Teunermann (MPG Munich); N. Vittorio (Il Università di Roma “Tor Vergata”)

– WRESTLING WITH NATURE: FROM OMENS TO SCIENCE. A Conference in Honor of David C. Lindberg. April 26-28, 2001 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

Participants: G.E.R. Lloyd (Univ. of Cambridge): “Case Histories in Ancient Medicine: Greece, Egypt and China”; F. Rochberg (Univ. of California, Riverside): “Natural Knowledge in Near Eastern Antiquity”; Commentator: B. Goldstein (Univ. of Pittsburgh); J. Ragep (Univ. of Oklahoma): “Natural Knowledge in the Greek and Arabic Middle Ages”;

A. I. Sabra (Harvard Univ.); M. H. Shank (Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison): “Natural Knowledge in the Latin Middle Ages”; Comm. J. Cadden (Univ. of California, Davis); R. S. westman (Univ. of California, San Diego): “Natural Knowledge in Early Modern Europe”; Comm. F. Hsia (Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison); J. L. Heilbron (Burford, England): “Natural Philosophy”; Comm. P. Dear (Cornell Univ.); P. Harrison (Bond Univ., Australia): “Natural History”; Comm. L. Koerner (Imperial College, London); R. L. Numbers (Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison): “Science and Medicine”; Comm. J. V. Pickstone (Univ. of Manchester); E. Schatzberg (Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison): “Science and Technology”; Comm. S.W. Leslie (Johns Hopkins Univ.); J. H. Roberts (Univ. of Wisconsin-Stevens Point): “Science and Religion”; Comm. F. Gregory (Univ. of Florida); Daniel P. Thurs (Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison): “Scientific Methods”; Comm. T. Gieryn (Indiana Univ.); B. Lightman (York Univ.): “Science and the Public”; Comm. L. K. Nyhart (Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison); D. N. Livingstone (Queen’s Univ., Belfast); “Science and Place”; Comm. T. H. Broman (Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison)


There was also a presentation of Printed Books in the History of Mathematics from the History of Science Collections, by Irina Lyuter, Kerry Magruder and Jamil Ragep. For more information: http://www.ou.edu/islamsci/Rockefeller.htm

THE FIRST GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE ON IBN SINĀ, March 17-19, 2001, Yale University.


Professors Emeriti A. I. Sabra and Franz Rosenthal also attended the conference. The Conference papers are currently being edited for a projected volume (2002) entitled “Before and After Avicenna.”

THE GROUP OF RESEARCH IN HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE (GRHPS, Rabat, Morocco) organized a roundtable on the theme “The Gradual Decline of the Sciences in the Late Medieval Islamic West,” February 9-10, 2001 in Marrakesh, Morocco.


* CONFERENCES 2000 *

HISTORY OF EARLY MEDICINE: A SYMPOSIUM. University of Oklahoma, November 20, 2000

Participants: L. Richter-Bernburg (Orientalisches Seminar, Universität Tübingen, Germany): “Communicable Diseases in Pre-modern Islamic Medicine”; G. A. Russell (Texas A & M): “Perception of Continuity and Change: The Role of Medical History in Medical Curricula”; N. G. Siraishi (Hunter College, City University of New York): “Girolamo Mercuriale and Renaissance Medical Antiquarianism”

In addition “An Exhibit of Renaissance Medical Books” was presented by Alain Touwaide at the University’s History of Science Collections.

Contact person: F. Jamil Ragep (jragep@ou.edu) Web page: http://www.ou.edu/islamsci/medposter-online.htm

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON GHIYĀTH AL-DĪN JAMSHĪD KĀSHĀNĪ. Organized by Kahanan University. November 9-11, 2000 in Kashan, Iran. The topics of the Congress were History of Islamic Science, in connection with Ghiyāth al-Dīn Jamshīd al-Kāshī (d.1429), and Computational Mathematics and Astronomy.

For the History of Islamic Science, the two foreign plenary speakers were: Jan P. Hogendijk (Utrecht): “Al-Kāshi’s determination of 2π in 16 decimals and its role in the history of mathematics”; Yvonne Dold-Samplonius (Heidelberg): “Al-Kāshi’s method to calculate arches”

Both were also members of the Advisory Committee. Y. Dold was invited as keynote speaker and was granted honorary citizenship of Kashan “to mark her efforts for promotion of the famous and great people of this land.”

MIDWEST HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS CONFERENCE. Northern Kentucky University, October 13-14, 2000 in Highland Heights, Kentucky Kim Plofker gave the keynote address “Essential Astrology for Historians of Mathematics.”

2000 YEARS TRANSMISSION OF MATHEMATICAL IDEAS: EXCHANGE AND INFLUENCE FROM LATE BABYLONIAN MATHEMATICS TO EARLY RENAISSANCE SCIENCE. May 8-12, 2000 at the Rockefeller Study and Conference Center in Bellagio, Italy.

Organized by: Profs. Yvonne Dold-Samplonius (Univ. of Heidelberg, Germany), and Joseph Dauben (City Univ. of New York, USA). The conference was designed to focus on the history of intercultural mathematical transmission. An edited volume of the conference papers is now in preparation.

* CONFERENCES 1999 *

- OMAR KHAYYAM. MATHÉMATIQUES, PHILOSOPHIE ET POÈTE. International Colloquium. UNESCO. September 20-22, 1999 in Paris, France. Inauguration: Message from Sayyed Mohammed Khatami (Pres. of the Islamic Republic of Iran); Federico Mayor, Director General of UNESCO; Abdulaziz Othman Altwaijri, Director General of UNESCO; Ehasan Naraghi, Coordinator of the Bayt al-Hikma Project: “Le projet Bayt al-Hikma et le colloque international sur Omar Khayyam”; Presentation of gold medal to Roshdi Rashed and his group by Federico Mayor


KHAYYAM AND HYDROSTATICS: M. M. Rozhanskaya (Institute for the Hist. of Sciences and Technology, Moscow)


* PAPERS 2001 *

FEZA GÜNËRGUN delivered a paper on “German chemists in Turkey during the Darülfünun reformation of 1914” at the XXVIIIth Deutscher Orientalistentag held on March 26-30, 2001, in Bamberg, Germany.

ABDUL NASSER KAADAN presented the following papers: —“Sexology in Early Arabic Medicine.” The XVth World Congress of Sexology, Paris, France, June 24-28, 2001. [To be
published in the News bulletin of the International Society for Sexual and Impotence Research]

—“Albucasis is the Pioneer of Neurosurgery during the Middle Ages.” The 6th Annual Meeting of the International Society for the History of Neurosciences (ISHN) and 8th Meeting of the European Club for the History of Neurology (ECHN), Cologne, Germany, June 13-16, 2001.


* PAPERS 2000 *

BENACER EL BOUAZZATI gave a paper entitled “The Problems of Science in the Islamic West in the Fourteenth Century” in Tunis (Conference of SIHSPAI, November 2000).


* PAPERS 1999 *

HARUN DIRAMAN presented the following papers:

—“An Ottoman Agricultural Book: Some Notes on Kitab-i Re-vank-i Bustan (Book of the Luminous Garden)” at the International Congress on Learning & Education in the Ottoman World. April 12-15, 1999 in Istanbul, Turkey. [The book was written by an unknown writer from Edirne in the 16th c. It was one of the most often used basic agricultural books in Ottoman Turkish. It was translated into Arabic under the same title.]

—“A Case Study of Transferring Knowledge in Agriculture Science from Andalus Science to Ottoman Science: Some Notes on First Turkish Translation Of The Agriculture Book of Ibn al-‘Awwām.”

AHMAD HALOUBI presented a paper “Methods to increase and grow grapevines in Ibn al-‘Awwām al-Ishibli” at the Twentieth Annual Congress for the History of Arabic Science, Aleppo, Syria, 1999.

5. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

• FIRST CONGRESS ON TURKISH HISTORY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY. “History of Technology in Turkey.” November 15-17, 2001 in Istanbul, Turkey.

The fundamental goal of this congress is to present an account of all contributions and developments that might be considered “technological.” It is hoped that the proceedings book of the congress will constitute an important resource for the coming studies on the issue. The congress aims to bring together historians of science and technology and scholars and researchers exploring the fields of engineering, archeology, anthropology, philosophy, military arts, etc.

Topics: Agriculture and Food; Construction; Water; Transportation and Communication; Energy; Mining and Metalurgy; Industry (Chemistry, Ceramic, Glass, Textiles, Paper); Measurement and Observation Instruments; Machines; Military Technology

Contact info: Congress on Turkish History of Science and Technology, TBTK, Yıldız Saraylı Masaşıp Ağalar Dairesi, Barbaros Bulvarı 50700; Beşiktaş, Istanbul, Turkey. Tel: (212) 260 07 17; Fax: (212) 258 43 65; Email: ircica@superonline.com or Zekai Şen (Congress Secretariat) at zsen@itu.edu.tr

• CERTAINTY, DOUBT, ERROR: THE PRODUCTION OF KNOWLEDGE AND ITS IMPEDIMENTS IN THE PRACTICE OF PRE- AND EARLY MODERN SCIENCE. November 17th-18th, 2001 in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. In honor of David King’s 60th birthday

Organizers: Sonja Brentjes, Benno van Dalen, and François Charette. For further information contact: Institut für Geschichte der Naturwissenschaften Johann Wolfgang Goethe Universität, Postfach 111932 (FB 13), 60054 Frankfurt am Main, Germany; Tel: (069) 79822338; Email: dalen@em.uni-frankfurt.de ; http://www.uni-frankfurt.de/fb13/ign/symposium2001.html.


• 7e COLLOQUE MAGHRÉBIN SUR L’HISTOIRE MATHÉMATIQUES ARABES. May 30 - June 2, 2002. comhisma7@ensma.ac.ma
6. RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Please note that these publications have been submitted from online members and should be supplemented by the ISIS critical bibliography (http://depts.washington.edu/hssexec/isis) and the International Society for the History of Arabic and Islamic Science and Philosophy’s Newsletter (http://www-phil.tamu.edu/philosophy/sihspai/) among other sources.


Alparslan Ackıngemi, Scientific Thought and its Burdens: An Essay in the History and Philosophy of Science. Istanbul: Fatih University Press, 2000. [Can be ordered through Dr. Salim Ayduz, Fatih Univ. Buyuk Cekmece, ISTANBUL] Price: US$25.00 (includes airmail cost); Email: sa@fatih.edu.tr


———. “Propagation of Trees by Budding and Grafting by the Agricultural Arab Scientists.” Alexandria Journal of Agricultural Sciences 41, 2, 1996.

———. “Classification of Arab Scientists to Forage Plants of the Arab Peninsula.” Alexandria Journal of Agricultural Sciences 41, 1, 1996.


IRCICA, History of the Ottoman State, Society & Civilisation. Ed. Ekmelledin İhsanoğlu. Foreword by Halil İnalcık. Ottoman State and its Civilization series, nos. 4-5. Istanbul, 2001. 2 vols. [In English; this book includes extensive bibliography, chronology, and index. Each vol. $60 (postage included)]


———. Osmanlı Matematik Literatürü Tarihi (History of Ottoman Mathematical Literature). Prepared by E. İhsanoğlu, R.


DAVID A. KING. The Ciphers of the Monks – A Forgotten Number – Notation of the Middle Ages. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner, 2001. 506 pp. 198 DM [Deals essentially with medieval European topics, but also includes material on the Hindu-Arabic numerals, Islamic ciphers, and secret codes.]


LEIF STENBERG. The Islamization of Science: Four Muslim Positions Developing an Islamic Modernity. Lund Studies in History of Religions. Vol. 6, 1996. [The four persons discussed are: the French convert and physician M. Bucaille, the Persian-American scholar S. H. Nasr, the British-Pakistani author Z. Sardar, and the Arab-American scholar I. Raji al-Faruqi]


7. WORK IN PROGRESS


BENNACER EL BOUAZZATI is editing a book entitled Science and Scientific Thought in the Medieval Islamic West [the proceedings of the roundtable of February 2000 GRHPS, Rabat, Morocco conference].

CHARLES BURNETT, MICHIO YANO and KEIJI YAMAMOTO. The edition of al-Qabīṣ’s Introduction to Astrology and Testing of the Astrologers (Arabic and English versions of both texts, and Latin version of the former), is in the final stages of preparation and should be published by the Warburg Institute in 2002.

EDWARD KENNEDY continues to work on Battānī’s “On the Indications of Conjunctions and Eclipses.” He is working on the commentary; George Saliba worked on the text, and the two did the translation.

UNESCO. “Science and Technology in Islam.” Vol. 4 of a 6-vol. work entitled The Different Aspects of Islamic Culture.

8. INSTITUTIONS

GRADUATE PROGRAM AT YALE. The Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at Yale University has an extensive program in Graeco-Arabic studies and in science and philosophy in the Islamic world. Interested students may check their website at http://www.yale.edu/nelc/ or write directly to dimitri.gutas@yale.edu

HISTORY OF SCIENCE IN ISLAMIC CIVILIZATIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA. The Department of the History of Science at the University of Oklahoma offers courses in Arabic/Islamic science and the opportunity to pursue advanced degrees (both Master’s and Doctoral) in this area. Interested students may obtain information about the Department and application procedures at http://www.ou.edu/cas/hsci/ or email jragep@ou.edu

9. RESEARCH / CONFERENCE REPORTS

CHARLES BURNETT, MICHIO YANO and KEIJI YAMAMOTO. Future projects include editions of al-Bīrūnī’s Kitiḥ al-tafhīm, a new Arabic edition with English translation of Abū Ma‘shar’s Great Introduction to Astrology, the Arabic and Latin versions (with an English translation) of Abū Ma‘shar’s Revolution of the Nativities, and the Medieval Arabic and Latin versions of Ptolemy’s Tetrabiblos.

RAINER BROEMER reports that Aberdeen Univ. (Scotland) has a substantial collection of Arabic manuscripts and papyrus fragments from Fayyum. The fragments seem to be mostly private correspondence of the 2nd and 3rd century AH, potentially relevant for social historians of early Islam. Revel Coles, from the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford who made the photos 25 years ago, said that there are around 45 frames with Arabic fragments mounted, so it seems to be more than just a few bits mixed with the larger Greek collection. While going through the “Untitled [nearly all of them] Oriental Manuscripts,” Broemer found some more texts of potential interest for philological rather than history of science scholars (like Arabic copies of Kalīla wa-Dimma, Yudasaf wa-Barlaam, an Urdu translation of Majnūn Layla, etc.; he feels it would be worthwhile publishing a summary description of these holdings to make them known to scholars who might be interested.

JAN P. HOGENDIJK has done a detailed comparison between the editions of Diocles’ On Burning Mirrors by G. J. Toomer (New York: Springer, 1976) and R. Rashed (Paris: Les Belles Lettres, 2000), and he has put the comparison on the internet in the form of a paper “Diocles on Burning Mirrors: A Tale of 209 Corrections,” which can be downloaded via www.math.uu.nl/people/hogend/di.html

Any comments and reactions by colleagues are much appreciated (hogend@math.uu.nl)


10. TEACHING

BENACER EL BOUAZZATI lectured on the “Haythamian science” January to March 2001 to postgraduate students of the Unit of Research in Islamic Thought, Faculty of Letters, Rabat.


MOUSTAFA MAWALDI (Institute for the History of Arabic Science, University of Aleppo) taught a course on History of Mathematics, and a course on historical methods, editing manuscripts, and sources, 2000/2001.

11. THESES/DISSERTATIONS

12. OBITUARIES

Professor/Doctor Khaled Maghout died on July 8, 2000. He was Director of the Institute for the History of Arabic Science,
Aleppo, Syria from 1981 until his death. He was also President of the Syrian Society for the History of Science. Both institutions jointly held a Commemorative Celebration in his honor September 19, 2000. Born in Salamiah, Syria in 1932, he obtained a B.S. in Mathematics and the Higher Diploma in Education from the Syrian University, Damascus in 1955 and a Ph.D. in Mathematics from Université de Paris, 1962. He will be missed and fondly remembered by the international family of scholars working in the field of history of Arabic science.

13. AWARDS/ ELECTIONS/ NEW POSTIONS

• THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM IN THE HUMANITIES, History of Science Program, The University of Oklahoma announces the 2001-2002 Fellows:


At the University of Oklahoma, Dr. Fazlioglu will work on a project entitled “Reconsidering the Response of Ottoman Scholars to Early Modern European Science, 1600-1800.”


At the University of Oklahoma, Prof. Walbridge will work on a project entitled “Rationalism in the Islamic Seminaries.”

For more info: http://www.ou.edu/islamsci/Rockefeller.htm

FEZA GÜNERGUN was designated head of the Division for History of Science (Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts, Istanbul University) upon the retirement of its former head and founder Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu in January 2001.

EKMELEDDİN İHSAŅOĞLU has been granted the “State Medal and Title for Distinguished Service” by Süleyman Demirel, the ninth President of the Republic of Turkey. Dr. İhsanoğlu was also granted the first “Honorary Doctorate” degree bestowed by the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences.

He was also elected President of the International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science (Division of History of Science) at the XXI International Congress of History of Science in Mexico City, July 2001.

ABDUL NASSER KAADAN was granted honorary membership of the Executive Council of the Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences (IAMMS) of India.

E. S. KENNEDY was presented Jordan’s Independence Medal of the First Order by H.R.H. Prince Hassan in appreciation of his research and contributions to the field of the history of Islamic science. The ceremony took place August 2001 in Amman, Jordan at the Institute for Inter-Faith Studies conference (see p. 3).

ELAHEH KHEIRANDISH has been awarded a Dibner Institute Fellowship for 2001-02 to continue her work entitled “The Optical Traditions of Ancient Alexandria and Their Transmission within Near Eastern and European Lands: 300 B.C.-1300 A.D.”

DAVID A. KING was awarded the World Yearbook Prize of the Islamic Republic of Iran for his book, “World Maps . . .” as the best book relating to Iran published outside Iran in 1999. Since he could not attend the ceremony, Mohammad Bagheri received the award on his behalf.

Dr. King will also be honored by a conference celebrating his 60th birthday entitled, “Certainty, Doubt, Error: The Production of Knowledge and its Impediments in the Practice of Pre- and Early Modern Science” (see Forthcoming Events)

KIM PLOFKER has been appointed to a second year as a Dibner Institute Postdoctoral Fellow for 2001-02 to continue her research on Indian and Islamic mathematical and astronomical traditions.

F. J. RAGEP has been named Co-director of the Center for Peace Studies (International Programs Center) and Coordinator of Middle East Studies at the University of Oklahoma, in addition to being Professor in the History of Science Department.

YUNLI SHI has been awarded a Dibner Institute Postdoctoral Fellowship for 2001-02 to continue his research project entitled “European Background of Jesuit Predictive Astronomy in 18th-Century China.”
14. JOBS/FELLOWSHIPS/GRANTS

- **THE DIBNER LIBRARY RESIDENT SCHOLAR PROGRAM.** The Program awards stipends of $2,500 per month for up to six months to individuals working on topics relating to collections in the Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology. Historians, librarians, and pre-doctoral students and postdoctoral scholars are invited to apply.

  Interested scholars should submit an application by March 1, 2002. To be competitive, the application should describe in detail how the applicant intends to use the collections of the Dibner Library.

  For more information about the Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology and its holdings, consult the website: [www.sil.si.edu/Branches/dibner.htm](http://www.sil.si.edu/Branches/dibner.htm)

- **ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIPS THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA.**


  The History of Science Program at the University of Oklahoma invites applications for its Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship Program. The 2002-2003 program focuses on scientific interrelations between Europe and Islam during the period 1300-1800 and on comparisons between their respective scientific traditions. Possible topic areas include transmission of scientific ideas between Islam and the West, the roles of various communities and travelers in this transmission, how political and economic factors influenced the transmission of science, and comparisons of knowledge structures and the institutionalization of knowledge between Islam and Europe.

  Fellows will be associated with the History of Science Program, which has seven core members who teach and conduct research in multifaceted aspects of the history of science from ancient to modern times. A central resource of the Program is the noted 88,000-volume History of Science Collections. The Middle East Studies Faculty includes five members who cover the ancient Near East, medieval Islam, Judaic Studies, the history of science and philosophy in Islam, and the modern Middle East.

  Two fellowships will be awarded for 2002-2003 to scholars with doctorates or equivalent background in appropriate fields. The 9-month fellowship carries a stipend up to $32,000, with benefits including a budget for travel and research expenses.

  Applications are due February 1, 2002.

  For further information and application forms, please contact F. Jamil Ragep, Department of the History of Science, The University of Oklahoma, 601 Elm, Room 622, Norman, OK 73019-3106 USA; Tel.: (405) 325-2213; Fax: (405) 325-2363; Email: jragep@ou.edu; Website: [http://www.ou.edu/islamsci/Rockefeller.htm](http://www.ou.edu/islamsci/Rockefeller.htm)

  For an application form: Smithsonian Institution Libraries, Dibner Library of the History of Science and Technology, Resident Scholar Program, NMAH 5016, MRC 630, Washington, DC 20560-0630; Email: libmail@sil.si.edu; Website: [www.sil.si.edu](http://www.sil.si.edu), (then click on Research Grants and Internships)

  (NOTE: For Dibner Institute Postdoctoral Fellowship information, go to [http://dibinst.mit.edu/default.htm](http://dibinst.mit.edu/default.htm))

- **THE CENTER FOR THEOLOGY AND THE NATURAL SCIENCES (CTNS) Science and Religion Course Program** offers a series of resources to support scholars & faculty in their teaching of science & religion:
  - $10,000 awards for new course syllabi
  - Introductory and Advanced Workshops
  - Specialized Conferences
  - Regional Support
  - Publications
  - International network of leading scholars

  To apply for the Course Award Competition, visit [www.ctns.org](http://www.ctns.org). Proposals must be received by 15 February 2002. If you have any questions email: [srcourse@ctns.org](mailto:ssrcourse@ctns.org)

15. EXHIBITIONS/EXHIBITS/DISPLAYS


  —For students, the site includes an extensive glossary of medical, scientific, and book-production terminology linked to the text. For advanced scholars, the site provides a catalogue (including images) from the 300 or so Persian and Arabic manuscripts in the National Library of Medicine. Most of these manuscripts deal with medieval medicine and science and were written for learned physicians and scientists. Some of the manuscripts are richly illuminated and illustrated.

- **LEIDEN UNIVERSITY:**

  —A virtual exhibition on Yunani Tibb, the Greek-Islamic medicine in India and Pakistan (Leiden University): [http://www.etel.nl/bc/tentoonstelling/yunani/default.htm](http://www.etel.nl/bc/tentoonstelling/yunani/default.htm)

  —The homepage of the Special Collections (Leiden University Library): [http://bc.leidenuniv.nl/](http://bc.leidenuniv.nl/)

  —Oriental collections web site: [http://bc.leidenuniv.nl/olg/default.htm](http://bc.leidenuniv.nl/olg/default.htm)

- **MUQARNAS.** Project at the Institute for Scientific Computing, Heidelberg (courtesy of Yvonne Dold): [http://www.iwr.uni-heidelberg.de/iwr/ngg/Muqarnas/](http://www.iwr.uni-heidelberg.de/iwr/ngg/Muqarnas/)

APPENDICES

SCIAMVS. Sources and Commentaries in Exact Sciences. Volume 2, April 2001. Kyoto, Japan

CONTENTS

K. Muroi, Reexamination of the Susa Mathematical Text No. 12: A System of Quartic Equations

R. Netz, K. Saito and N. Tchernetska, A New Reading of *Method* Proposition 14: Preliminary Evidence from the Archimedes Palimpsest (Part 1)

J. L. Berggren and Glen Van Brummelen, Abū Sahl al-Kūhī on Rising Times


K. Takahashi, A Manuscript of Euclid’s *De Speculis*: A Latin Text of MS 98.22 of the Archivo y Biblioteca Capitulares de la Catedral, Toledo

A. Jones, Pseudo-Ptolemy *De Speculis*

P. D. Napolitani and Jean-Pierre Sutto, Francesco Maurolico et le centre de gravité du parabolôide

S. Ikeyama and K. Plofker, The *Tithicintâmaṇī* of Gaṇeśa, A Medieval Indian Treatise on Astronomical Tables


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W. Madelung, To see all things through the sight of God: Naṣīr al-Dīn al-Ṭūsī’s attitude to Sufism

H. Landolt, Khâjâ Naṣīr al-Dīn Ṭūsī (597/1201-672/1274), Ismāʿīlīsm, and *Ishrāqī* Philosophy

C. Jambet, Êdad du politique et politique idéale selon Naṣīr al-Dīn Ṭūsī

F. Daftary, Naṣīr al-Dīn Ṭūsī and the Ismaʿīlis of the Alamūt Period

A. S. Melikian-Chirvani, Khâjâ Naṣīr and the Iranian Past

G. Saliba and E. S. Kennedy, The Spherical Case of the Ṭūsī Couple (reprint from *Arabic Sciences and Philosophy* I (1991), pp.285-291)

F. J. Ragep, The Persian Context of the Ṭūsī Couple

E. Khéirandish, A Report on Iran’s ‘Jewel’ Codices of Ṭūsī’s *Kutub al-Mutawassīfāt*


S. Tourkīn, Copies of Naṣīr al-Dīn al-Ṭūsī’s Treatise on the Astrolabe and Commentaries on it in the Manuscript Collection of the Institute of Oriental Studies, St. Petersburg

S. Sadjed-Orsīnī, La lettre de Naṣīr Ṭūsī à Malik al-Nāṣīr\n
F. Richard, Les “portraits” de Naṣīr al-Dīn Ṭūsī

E. Alexandrin, Éléments de bibliographie sur Naṣīr al-Dīn Ṭūsī

S. Tourkīn, Bibliography on al-Ṭūsī (Works in Russian)

(Message from the President continued)

The task before us is to provide a firm foundation to ensure both the continuity of these achievements and the further expansion of the Commission’s activities through a greater involvement of scholars. Our first priority therefore is to set up policies and procedures to govern our activities as a corporate body. Such bylaws are necessary to give us a constitutional structure, clearly defining the function as well as the terms of election of executive officers, councilors, membership, voting, as well as the academic and professional responsibilities of the Commission.

Our activities should certainly encompass more than a meeting once every four years. In the coming months I would like us to consider what the role of the Commission should entail. To this end, we already have preliminary plans and would very much welcome your input.

We could play a substantial role not only in organizing additional seminars and symposia in between IUHPS meetings, but also in increasing access to research tools, and in creating a dialogue with other Commissions and societies.

We could explore how to effectively enhance the further incorporation of our fields into the broader history and philosophy of science—both in research and through teaching. In a divided world, recognition of the legacies in common through history of science and philosophy may serve to illuminate the unity or the close interconnections underlying cultural diversities, religious conflicts, and political strife.

As a multi-national body of scholars we have an immense opportunity to advance our profession. In our discipline, which should foster intellectual curiosity, pursuit of scholarship to the highest standards, and integrity, we could set an example and encourage the younger scholars who hold the future, thereby laying the ground for a lasting legacy.

In the coming months I hope to present an agenda for your consideration. Let us look forward to an exciting and dynamic period of developments. I hope that the Commission will bring all scholars together united by our common goals, which can only be achieved in a concerted effort in all areas.

I am pleased to be able to serve in office and will do my best to take the Commission further—with your help.

Gül A. Russell, President
(Message from the Secretary continued)

Sally Ragep and I have edited this year’s Newsletter (Volume 7); Professor Comes (comes@lingua.fil.ub.es) will take over responsibility for both the printed and online Newsletter beginning in January 2002. The online listserv, however, will remain at islamsci@lists.ou.edu. Wishing you all the best for a fruitful year.

F. Jamil Ragep

QUADRENNIAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON HISTORY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION, July 11, 2001, Mexico City, Mexico

AGENDA
1. Report by the President
2. Report by the Secretary
3. Setting up a committee to draft bylaws
4. Current activities of Commission
5. Future projects which the Commission might undertake
6. Commission Webpage
7. Election of new officers

MINUTES
11:30 am: Meeting of Commission commences. Agenda passed out. Report by the Pres. Julio Samsó who provides a brief history of the Commission. He points out its growth and achievements over the years (e.g. the importance of establishing the webpage) while maintaining a relatively low cost of maintenance.

11:35: Report by the Secretary, Jamil Ragep. This includes review of past and present initiatives as well as recommendations and suggestions.


Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu reflects on Commission’s origins. He commends its growth and development over the past 4 years, its success at disseminating information, and specifically acknowledges the work of Jamil and Sally Ragep regarding the creation of the webpage, and online Newsletter. He points out the importance of continuing to maintain a hard copy of the Newsletter. S. M. R. Ansari also reflects on Commission’s past, the importance of the webpage, Newsletter (online and printed), and affirms the importance of the recommended projects presented by the Secretary in his report. İhsanoğlu, Ansari, and Ragep discuss the need for translating works from Arabic; also not restricting works to Arabic alone. İhsanoğlu mentions that a translation of the G.P. Matvievskaya and B.A. Rozenfeld book will be forthcoming; Ansari mentions that Storey’s work needs to be translated (other than into Russian); Ragep recalls findings in Persian sources.

Ragep reviews various questions regarding the need for bylaws: dues, what constitutes a member, voting by non-attending colleagues; mentions he talked with Gül Russell and Robert Halleux, Secretary General IUHPS-Division of the History of Science. General discussion on the need of the Commission to establish bylaws by studying the Union and other Commissions; Samsó points out the need to adapt rather than invent bylaws; Gregg DeYoung suggests the bylaws should be circulated before the next meeting.

12:05: VOTE. The 3 officers plus the 2 counselors elected today are charged with drafting bylaws before the end of 2004, 6 months before the next meeting. PASSED BY CONSENSUS

Ragep reviews Points 4, 5 & 6 of Agenda (activities/future projects of Commission): raising funds for scholars, online bibliography, updating Matvievskaya/Rozenfeld, scanning manuscripts for online access, organizing symposia and seminars, etc.; Ragep mentions many of these were ideas were raised by Gül Russell. Ragep also says that he is willing to continue maintaining the listserv and that the University of Oklahoma is willing to continue hosting the website for free. In addition, he states that Elaheh Kheirandish has designed a webpage for the Commission; it is agreed that there should be only one website for the Commission and that the new officers will determine how much of Kheirandish’s webpage to implement.

Samsó: Point 7 (of Agenda): Motion to elect new officers. He summarizes past nomination process of Commission whereby nominees have been presented at the meeting and normally the VP would become President (in this case Gül Russell); the Secretary would become VP (Jamil Ragep); Samsó mentions his intent to nominate Mercè Comes for Secretary.

12:15: İhsanoğlu asks to adjourn for 5 minutes.

12:25: Commission reconvenes. Ballots distributed for voting. Samsó nominates Gül Russell for President, Jamil Ragep for Vice President. Since there are no other candidates, Samsó tells members to write either Yes or No on ballot VOTE: 24 yes; 1 abstention

12:30: Samsó nominates Mercè Comes for Secretary and describes her qualifications. In response to a question about the role of the secretary and maintaining the website, again Ragep states his willingness to continue to maintain the listserv and website at the Univ. of Oklahoma. He explains that there should not be a problem working with the Secretary to add new members; he also reiterates that the listserv is a closed one, open only to scholars in the field in order to preserve its integrity.

12:35: VOTE: 25 Yes

In response to a question about the role of the 2 counselors, Ragep suggests that they are additional voices for the 3 executive officers should an issue arise; counselors can be called upon to do additional things if they are willing. Ragep nominates Cemil Aydin, a graduate of Istanbul University and presently a graduate student at Harvard Univ. and Benno van Dalen, presently at the Institut für Geschichte der Naturwissenschaften, Frankfurt. There are no other nominations.

12:50: VOTE: 23 Yes; 2 abstentions

1:50 pm: Ragep: Motion to adjourn until 2005.

Applause. Everyone leaves.
ELECTRONIC LINKS

- **HISTORY OF ISLAMIC SCIENCE WEBPAGE**
  Access to the following information:
  — the Commission on History of Science & Technology in Islamic Civilization
  — RECENT NEWS
  — past Newsletters of the Commission
  — ADDRESS LIST of historians of science
    [http://www.ou.edu/islamsci/](http://www.ou.edu/islamsci/)

- **ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA**
  [http://www.ou.edu/islamsci/Rockefeller.htm](http://www.ou.edu/islamsci/Rockefeller.htm)

- **NEWSLETTER: INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF ARABIC AND ISLAMIC SCIENCE AND PHILOSOPHY**:
  [http://www-phil.tamu.edu/Philosophy/sihspai/](http://www-phil.tamu.edu/Philosophy/sihspai/)

- **HISTORY OF ISLAMIC MATHEMATICS BIBLIOGRAPHY**
  (courtesy of Jan Hogendijk):
  [http://www.math.uu.nl/people/hogend/Islamath.html](http://www.math.uu.nl/people/hogend/Islamath.html)

- **THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF ISLAMIC MEDICINE**:
  [www.ishim.net](http://www.ishim.net)

In order to be included in our ONLINE ADDRESS LIST ([http://www.ou.edu/islamsci/WebbAdd.htm](http://www.ou.edu/islamsci/WebbAdd.htm)) and/or the LISTSERVE (islamsci@listserv.ou.edu), please fill in the following and send by email to jragep@ou.edu or by regular mail to: F. Jamil Ragep, Dept. of the History of Science, 601 Elm Street, Room 622, The University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma 73019 USA

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Commission on History of Science & Technology in Islamic Civilization
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF THE HISTORY & PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE

C/o History of Science Department
601 Elm Street, Room 622
The University of Oklahoma
Norman, OK 73019-3106
USA

122-7247