



NEWSLETTER

*Commission on History of Science &
Technology in Islamic Societies*

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF THE HISTORY
AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE (IUHPS)

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Editor: Sally P. Ragep

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1989-1993: E. S. Kennedy, USA

*The Commission logo was designed using a segment
of a quasi-crystalline (Penrose) tiling similar to tiling
in medieval Islamic architecture.*

1. MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT & SECRETARY

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

13 August 2008:

Interest in Islamic history, and in the history of science in Islam, continues to grow. By being a non-sectarian, scholarly organization representing members from over 30 countries, we provide an important service not only to the field but to the general public interested in our work. Because of this scholarly focus, we are perceived, rightly in my opinion, as an objective source of information. This has been helped by our website that has, thanks to the hard work of our secretary, developed impressively over the past several years and taken on a professional look. Many thanks to all of you who have contributed to its success.

As you know, the XXIII International Congress of History of Science and Technology will be held next year in Budapest. The Commission's symposium proposal has been sent to the organizers. If approved, we should have some 22 papers spread over 5 sessions. Commission members will also be speaking in other panels.

Another important function of the International Congress is to provide a venue for our next business meeting at which we will elect our new officers. We will again follow the rules set out in our governance document. Later this year, a nominating committee will be appointed that will put together an official slate of candidates. Other candidates can be nominated if supported by five members of the Commission. Details of the election process will be sent out early in 2009.

Let me thank all of you for your continuing support. Looking forward to seeing you in Budapest!

With best regards, **Jamil Ragep**

13 May 2007:

As I near the midpoint of my presidency of the Commission, I wanted to send an update on some recent events and upcoming developments. First, let me thank our colleagues in Barcelona, who outdid themselves in organizing and hosting the Commission's first conference, which was also a commemoration of 75 years of the Barcelona School of history of science in Islam and related cultures. I am especially grateful to our vice-president, Mercè Comes, who did such a marvelous job coordinating the many logistics of the meeting.

During the conference we were able to conduct a business meeting, the minutes of which are online at http://islamsci.mcgill.ca/gov_docs/b.html I would like to bring to your attention several items of note. First, the Commission website is being redesigned by Sally Ragep, and she should have it ready for your use in a few weeks. We hope that this will make the dissemination of information more efficient. (Please note that until then the old website is still in operation.) Second, the membership reaffirmed the decision made in Beijing that the Newsletter will in the future be electronic and archived at the website. Printed versions will be sent to institutions as well as to members who request it.

Finally, we continued our discussion on how to define and develop the outreach mission of the Commission. A number of ideas were put forward, including reviewing and revising entries of subjects in our field in the online encyclopedia Wikipedia as well as soliciting articles by our membership for inclusion on our website. We also plan to have links to material in the website of the Islamic Scientific Manuscripts Initiative, which I will be writing you about in the coming months. I would very much like to hear your thoughts about these ideas and other ways you think the Commission could promote its goal of providing reliable information from our field.

Let me thank all of you for your support over the last two years; I very much look forward to continuing our work together during the coming two years.

With best regards, **Jamil Ragep**

MESSAGES FROM THE SECRETARY

4 August 2008:

One of my overall objectives as Secretary is to provide our members with an easy way to access the most current information in our field on a regular basis. I hope that our new Commission website serves our members well in addition to the general public.

I strongly encourage you all to check the website out thoroughly. I have worked to supply information (often including direct links) to forthcoming events, conferences, publications, job opportunities, related resources, and so forth. You will notice that the Commission website also provides a Membership Directory with the current coordinates of our members. By the way, when you check out the Directory, do let us know if there is a scholar in the field who is currently not listed, and you would like to nominate for membership.

Keep in mind that our Commission website is only as effective as the latest information contributed by you, recognized scholars in the field. So please send me your updates, including changes of location and links that no longer work.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge Katrin Dinkel and Jan Kaminski for their assistance in implementing our new Commission website; I would especially like to thank Jan for his design of the new logo, and Katrin for all her help with the forthcoming printed Newsletter (vol. 11).

I look forward to continuing to serve the Commission members. I will try my best to post items on a regular basis, and I welcome your comments and suggestions.

Sally P. Ragep (sally.ragep@mcgill.ca)

13 May 2007:

I am currently in the process of redesigning the Commission website. This means that you have a great opportunity to help me develop it by emailing any comments and suggestions. One of my overall objectives is that the website serve you by providing current information (forthcoming job opportunities, conferences, publications, etc. and member coordinates) as well as a wide range of information in the field. Another goal is to ensure that this information is easy to locate.

From you, I ask that you please send me any information that you would like to have posted and that you inform me of any changes in your coordinates; I will try to post these items on a regular basis.

I look forward to continuing to serve the Commission members and welcome your comments and suggestions,

Sally P. Ragep (sally.ragep@mcgill.ca)

2. JOURNALS, SERIES, AND NEWSLETTERS

Aestimatio: Critical Reviews in the History of Science. Its primary aim is to promote the study and research of pre-modern science in the history of science. Volume 4 (2007) is downloadable. <http://www.ircps.org/publications/aestimatio/aestimatio.htm>

Arabic sciences and philosophy: A historical journal. This journal, with the assistance of the CNRS, has been publishing articles through Cambridge University Press since 1991, with abstracts in French and English. Volume 18 (2008) is available. <http://chspam.vjf.cnrs.fr/ArabicScience.htm>

Archive for History of Exact Sciences. This journal was established in 1960 and is devoted to mathematics and natural philosophy. <http://www.springer.com/math/journal/407>

Bilim Tarihi (History of Science [in Turkish]). <http://www.bilimtarihi.org/>

CHAMA: Commission for History of Ancient and Medieval Astronomy. The Commission is dedicated to research concerning the astronomical heritage of all cultural areas of the world; Newsletter (Vol. 6[2] and Vol. 7[1], March 2008) is available at <http://chama.fltr.ucl.ac.be/>. Contact: A. Tihon tihon@ori.ucl.ac.be

Ganita Bharati: Bulletin of the Indian Society for History of Mathematics. New Delhi, India. Volume 29, issue 1-2 (June-December 2007). <http://www.mdpppl.com/journals/ganita-bharati.html>

Historia Scientiarum: The International Journal of the History of Science Society of Japan. The journal was founded in 1962 as *Japanese Studies in the History of Science*, and published 3 issues per year. The last volume was Vol. 8, no. 3 (March 1999). <http://www.soc.nii.ac.jp/jshs/publ2.html>

History of Science in Southeastern Europe. A newsletter published by the History of Science Programme INR, National Hellenic Research Foundation IAA, National Observatory of Athens (No. 9, Feb. 2007). <http://www.eie.gr/institutes/kne/ife/newsletter/nwsntr9.pdf>

ICHA Newsletter: Newsletter of the Inter-Union Commission for History of Astronomy. <http://www.historyofastronomy.org/> The International Astronomical Union (IAU) was founded in 1919 to promote the science of astronomy. The Commission was created in 1948 with Otto Neugebauer as its first President. Volume 8 (April 2006) is available.

Indian Journal of History of Science (IJHS). <http://insa.ac.in/html/home.asp> This referred journal is published by the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) which was founded in 1935. Centered in New Delhi, they also publish two other journals: the *Proceedings of the Indian National Science Academy* and the *Indian Journal of Pure and Applied Mathematics (IJPAM)*. Contact: Dr. A.K. Bag, Editor ijhs@insa.nic.in

Islam & Science: Journal of Islamic Perspectives on Science. Started in 2003, it is published by the Center for Islam and Science (CIS) twice a year. <http://www.cis-ca.org/>

JHAS: Journal for the History of Arabic Science is published by the Institute for the History of Arabic Science at the University of Aleppo, Syria. It was established in 1977 by Ahmad Y. al-Hassan (who at the time was both President of Aleppo University and Director of the Institute), with Sami K. Hamarneh and E.S. Kennedy. For information, contact Moustafa Mawaldi: ihass@alepuniv.shern.net Volume 14 (2008) is available. The Institute for the History of Arabic Science also publishes a Newsletter (Vol. 81, July 2008).

JISHIM: Journal of the International Society for the History of Islamic Medicine. <http://www.ishim.net/newsletter.htm>

Journal of Arabic and Islamic Studies. <http://www.uib.no/jais/jais.htm> A refereed journal which is published on the Internet. Vol. VII, 2007 is available.

Kutadgubilig Felsefe (Istanbul, Turkey) [in Turkish].

Miras Maktoob. The Written Heritage Research Center, Iran, Tehran. <http://www.english.mirasmaktoob.ir/> Contact: Dr. Akbar Irani info@mirasmaktoob.ir

Nâmeḥ-ye Bahârestân: An International Journal for Islamic Manuscripts Research, Tehran, Iran.

Osmanlı Bilimi Araştırmaları (Studies in Ottoman Science). Contact: Dr. Feza Günergun, Istanbul University, Istanbul, Turkey at fezagunergun@yahoo.com

SCIAMVS: Sources and Commentaries in Exact Sciences. The annual journal provides studies on original sources in the field, especially critical editions of unpublished texts and their translations together with comments and notes, as well as reviews of books. Sample pages from Volume 8 and past volumes are available to download. <http://www.sciamvs.org/>

Suhayl: Journal for the History of the Exact and Natural Sciences in Islamic Civilisation.

<http://www.ub.es/arab/llibres/Suhayl.htm>. It is published by the Arabic Dept of the Univ. of Barcelona annually, and contains papers, surveys, documents, and reviews, written in English or Arabic. Vol. 8 is scheduled to appear in 2008. Contact: mcomes@ub.edu

Tarikh-i Ilm. A journal at the Institute of History of Science, Tehran University, Iran (Volume no. 4 [Autumn & Winter 2005-6]). <http://utihs.ut.ac.ir/en/magazine.htm>

Zeitschrift für Geschichte der arabisch-islamischen Wissenschaften. Editor: Fuat Sezgin, Institut für Geschichte der Arabisch-Islamischen Wissenschaften an der Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt am Main, Germany. Volume 17 (2006/07). <http://web.uni-frankfurt.de/fb13/igaiw/publication/zeitschrift.html>

3. CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

3.1 Forthcoming in 2008 and 2009

7-12 Sept. 2008: 41st International Congress for the History of Medicine, Mexico City and Puebla, Mexico. For further information contact Carols Viesca: cviesca@frontstage.org. http://www.facmed.unam.mx/eventos/congresos/cihm/c_i.html

2-4 Oct. 2008: The Sixth Congress of the International Association for the History of Nephrology, Taormina in Sicily, Italy.

20-23 Oct. 2008: Homs in History, Al-Baath University, Homs, Syria. A photo gallery exhibit that documents the past and present contributions of Homs. Email contact: humanities@baath.shern.net

25-28 Oct. 2008: The 4th International Congress of the International Society for History of Islamic Medicine, Tripoli, Libya.

28-30 Oct. 2008: Science History and Epistemology, Fez, Morocco. This is part of the 5th Congress of "Scientific Research Outlook and Technology Development in the Arab World, SRO5" organized by the Arab Science and Technology Foundation (ASF).

29-30 Oct. 2008: 9th International Symposium for History of Arabic Science, Universities of Aleppo and Damascus, Syria.

14-17 Nov. 2008: 20th International Association of Historians of Asia, New Delhi, India. <http://www.jnu.ac.in/conference/IAHA/>

9-12 April 2009: 2nd International Conference on Mediterranean Studies, Athens, Greece. <http://www.atiner.gr/docs/Mediterranean.htm>

28 July-2 Aug. 2009: The XXIIIrd International Congress of History of Science and Technology: Ideas and Instruments in Social Context, Budapest, Hungary. <http://www.conferences.hu/ichs09/>

NOTE: The Commission will sponsor several sessions at this Congress, and the results of the elections for our New Officers (2009-2013) will be tallied. There will be more news concerning this in the future.

28 Sept.-3 Oct. 2009: Astronomy and its Instruments Before and After Galileo, Joint Symposium, International Astronomical Union (IAU) and Osservatorio Astronomico di Padova (INAF), Venice, Italy. <http://web.oapd.inaf.it/venice2009/index.php>

6-7 Oct. 2009: The Second International Seminar on Islamic Thought, to be held at the National University of Malaysia, Bangi, Selangor, Malaysia. One of the themes is Islam and Science.
<http://pkukmweb.ukm.my/~isoit/index.html>

3.2 CONFERENCES AND EVENTS held in 2008

9-10 Jan. 2008: ISTAC International Conference on Islamic Science and the Contemporary World. The International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization (ISTAC) of the International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM) in Kuala Lumpur, organized its first conference at the ISTAC, Damansara Campus. Its theme was: "Islamic Science in Contemporary Education."
<http://iiu.edu.my/istac/sina/speaker.php>

29 Feb.-1 March 2008: History, Philosophy and Ethics of Medicine: Reconstructions, Concepts, Cultural Practices, Mainz, Germany. http://www.uni-mainz.de/FB/Medizin/Medhist/veranstaltungen/dokumente/2008_02_programm.pdf

20-23 March 2008: International Conference on Mediterranean Studies, under the auspices of the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Athens, Greece.
http://www.atiner.gr/docs/2008AAAPROGRAM_MDT.htm

24-27 March 2008: Arabs' and Muslims' Scientific Contributions to Humanity, University of Sharjah, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates.

12 April 2008: Islamic Thought & Modern Science: Re-conceptualizing the Debate, Yale University, USA. http://www.yale.edu/cir/CIR_eFlyer.jpg. The keynote address was presented by George Saliba: "The Rise of Modern Science and its Implications for Islamic Societies."

22 April-23 May 2008: Windows into Early Science: Historical Dialogues, Scientific Manuscripts and Printed Books, at Houghton Library, Harvard University, USA. Hosted by Elaheh Kheirandish and students from Harvard and MIT that attended her classes: "Historical Dialogues from the Near East: Case Studies in Early Science," "From Alexandria to Baghdad: Classical Sciences in Islamic Lands," and "From Baghdad to Isfahan: Classical Science in Persian Lands."

23-24 April 2008: Scientific and Historical Connections between Iraq and Syria throughout History. A symposium held at the Institute for the History of Arabic Science, Aleppo University, Syria. Email contact: ihass@alepuniv.shern.net.

6-8 May 2008: Lost and Embedded Manuscript Texts, Alexandria, Egypt.
http://www.manuscriptcenter.org/lost/Agenda_at_a_Glance.asp For an article on the conference, see *Elaph* [dated 9 May 2008]: <http://www.elaph.com/ElaphWeb/NewsPapers/2008/5/328894.htm>

8 May-16 Aug. 2008: From Rhubarb to Rubies: European Travels to Safavid Iran (1550-1700), Harvard University, USA. An exhibition examining European travels to Iran in the Early Modern period. The exhibit included selected instruments, plants, animals, and minerals from Harvard collections.

8 May-16 Aug. 2008: The Lands of the Sophi: Iran in Early Modern European Maps (1550-1700), Harvard University, USA. The exhibit focused on images of Iran in European maps in the 16th and 17th centuries, highlighting the interaction between the regions. Maps included a Ptolemaic regional map, and territorial maps of the Venetian cartographer Giacomo Gastaldi (d. 1566).

20-24 May 2008: 1st International Congress on the Turkish History of Medicine, Konya, Turkey.
<http://www.uttk2008.org.tr/indexE.htm>

18-22 June 2008: 13th Annual Meeting of the International Society for the History of the Neurosciences (SHN), Berlin, German. Contact: G. Kreutzberg: gwk@neuro.mpg.de.

4 Aug. 2008: The Astrolabe. A workshop held at the Institute for the History of Arabic Science, University of Aleppo, Aleppo, Syria in cooperation with Nederlands Instituut Voor Academische Studies Damascus (NIASD). It was organized by Wilfred de Graaf and Jules Lamers (from Utrecht and Leiden Universities, The Netherlands), students of J. P. Hogendijk.

3.3 CONFERENCES AND EVENTS held in 2007

25 Jan. 2007: Les hopitaux en Iran et Inde des Safavides aux Pahlavi, Tehran, Iran. Organized by the Institut Français de Recherche en Iran (IFRI); the Iranian National Museum of History of Medical Sciences, Tehran; and, the Research Institute of History of Medicine and Islamic Medicine, Tehran. Contact: Fabrizio Speziale spezialef@yahoo.com

20-23 Feb. 2007: 1st International Congress of the International Society for History of Islamic Medicine, Doha, Qatar.

A SHARED LEGACY: ISLAMIC SCIENCE EAST AND WEST

11-14 April 2007: Barcelona, Spain

http://www.ub.edu/arab/conferenceabril2007/Shared_ENGLISH.pdf

<p>A Conference sponsored by the International Commission on the History of Science and Technology in Islamic Societies. This conference was a joint endeavor primarily between the Commission and the University of Barcelona. This was the first conference sponsored by the Commission since its inception in 1988.</p> <p>Thirty-two scholars presented papers [see Section 4: "Papers" for titles]. In addition to the opening and closing sessions, there were two sessions devoted to technology; four sessions on the exact sciences; two sessions on medicine and the natural sciences; and two sessions on transmission of knowledge.</p> <p>There was also a presentation on the Islamic Scientific Manuscripts Initiative (ISMI) Project; three plenary lectures; and a public lecture.</p> <p>The final session of the conference paid homage to</p>	<p>Joseph Maria Millás Vallicrosa to commemorate the 75th year of the publication of his seminal book entitled <i>Assaig d'història de les idees físiques i matemàtiques a la Catalunya medieval (Institut d'Estudis Catalans)</i> and to honor his pioneering work in the field of the History of Arabic Science in Barcelona and Spain.</p> <p>Additional support for the conference was provided by the following institutions: the Institut d'Estudis Catalans; Societat Catalana d'Història de la Ciència i de la Tècnica; Casa Asia, Barcelona Ciència 2007; Agència de Gestió d'Ajuts Universitaris i de Recerca; and, Ministra de Educación y Ciencia</p> <p>The Commission took advantage of the Barcelona Conference to schedule a Commission Business Meeting following the last session on 14 April 2007. For a detailed report see the Commission website http://islamsci.mcgill.ca/gov_docs/b.html.</p>
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26-28 April 2007: Vehicles of Transmission, Translation and Transformation, McGill University, Montreal, Canada. This was a workshop on transmission, translation, and transformation in medieval cultures supported by a grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, with the assistance of the Faculty of Arts, the Institute of Islamic Studies, and the Depts. of History, English, Philosophy, and Jewish Studies at McGill.

3-5 May 2007: Cumhuriyet ve Bilim, Ankara University, Turkey.

12-14 May 2007: 9eme Colloque Maghrébin sur l'Histoire des Mathématiques Arabes, Algiers, Algeria. The four general themes were: mathematics, astronomy, applied mathematics, and mathematics and society. Contact: Youcef Guergour (Dept. of Mathematics, Algiers) at guergour@ens-kouba.dz.

25-27 June 2007: The Twenty-eighth Annual Conference for the History of Arabic Science, Aleppo University, Syria commemorated the 1000-year anniversary of the death of Abū al-Qāsim Maslama al-Majrīfī (d. 1007 in Cordova, al-Andalus).

10-15 Sept. 2007: International Congress of Asian and North African Studies (ICANAS 38), Ankara, Turkey. <http://www.icanas38.org.tr/>

3.4 CONFERENCES AND EVENTS held in 2006

7-9 March 2006: Commentary Manuscripts Conference, Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Alexandria, Egypt. <http://www.manuscriptcenter.org/commentary/About.asp>

8-9 March 2006: Arab Contribution to the Development of Chemistry in Europe, Lisbon Portugal. The Executive Committee for this project met with the Steering Committee for this international project. <http://islamsci.mcgill.ca/ArabContribution-Chemistry2006.doc>

28-30 March 2006: Symposium on the Date Palm in Arab Heritage, University of Aleppo, Institute for the History of Arabic Science, Aleppo, Syria. The symposium included the following topics of research on the date palm: the date palm in history, in language and literature; what was written on it in medicine (including pharmacology and plants); and the utilization of its fruit, including the fruit's nutritional and medicinal effects.

6-10 April 2006: International Conference on Archaeoastronomy, Rhodes, Greece. Sessions included: Historical Astronomy and Culture; Archaeoastronomical Orientations; Archaeology, Landscape and Astronomy; Observational Astronomy: Cult & Calendars; Cosmic Images in Ancient Cultures. <http://www.rhodes.aegean.gr/tms/SEAC2006.htm>

24-29 April 2006: Ibn al-Bayṭār and the Development of Sciences, University of Malaga, Benalmadena, Spain. This symposium was held in cooperation between the Institute for the History of Arabic Science, Aleppo University and the University of Malaga. It was the second international symposium concerning the Andalusian Arab scientist Ibn al-Bayṭār.

26-27 April 2006: The Renaissance and the Ottoman World, Warburg Institute and School of Oriental and African Studies, London, UK. Organized by Claire Norton (St. Mary's College, Univ. of Surrey), Charles Burnett (Warburg Institute), and Anna Contadini (SOAS). Papers examine the cultural, intellectual, artistic, and commercial interactions between Christian Europe and the Ottoman Empire during the Renaissance. <http://warburg.sas.ac.uk/lectures/ottomans.htm>

11-13 May 2006: Historiography and Ideology: Architectural Heritage of the "Lands of Rum." A symposium at Harvard University, USA. Organized by Gülru Necipoglu and Sibel Bozdogan, The Aga Khan Program at the Dept of History of Art and Architecture.

29-30 May 2006: David Pingree Memorial Seminar: Empires and Exact Sciences in Pre-modern Eurasia, Leiden University, The Netherlands. Speakers included: C. Burnett, "Abū Ma'shar (AD 787-886)"; A. Jones, "Merely an aberrant development? How much did knowledge of Babylonian astronomy affect Greek astronomy?"; D. A. King, "The end of the Byzantine Empire and the first scientific instrument of the Renaissance"; B. van Dalen, "Transmission of Islamic astronomy to Mongol China"; S.R. Sarma, "Bilingual dictionaries and the dissemination of Islamic astronomy and astrology in India"; T. Kusuba, "Geometrical demonstrations in Sanskrit texts"; C. Minkowski, "The exact sciences in early modern India"; A. Panaino, "Sasanian astronomy and astrology in the contribution of D. Pingree"; T. Knudsen, "Jñānarāja and the crystalline spheres"; J. W. Dauben, "*Shu shu ji yi* (Memoir on the Art of Numbers)"; M. Yano, "The iconography of Buddhist astrology." Sessions were chaired by Reije de Jong, Jan P. Hogendijk, and Arlo Griffiths.

27-29 June 2006: Symposium on Scientific Intellectual Thought in Aleppo through the Ages: The Islamic Period, The Institute for the History of Arabic Science, University of Aleppo, Syria. Papers were presented on various aspects of research on the history of scientific and intellectual life in Aleppo, followed by discussions. There were also two exhibits: one displaying books on Aleppo, and another celebrating the theme of Aleppan efforts in reviving the decorative arts. A list of recommendations were put forth regarding the teaching and dissemination of the scientific/intellectual history of the Arab/Islamic world.

4-6 July 2006: Iconography and Mythology of Elijah, St George and Al-Khodor in the Syrian Orient, Oxford University, UK.

11-15 Sept. 2006: Geometric Patterns in Islamic Art. A workshop held at the Lorentz Center, Leiden University, The Netherlands. Organizers: Jan P. Hogendijk (Utrecht), Remke Kruk (Leiden), and Mohammad Bagheri (Tehran). Topics included: Architecture, Art and Material Culture; Tilings and Muqarnas; Architecture in the Pictorial Tradition; Craftsmanship: Textual Sources and the Oral Tradition; Traditional Methods and Modern Design; Computer Reconstructions.
<http://www.lorentzcenter.nl/lc/web/2006/209/poster.pdf>

21 Sept. 2006: Mathematics in Islamic Societies 9th-15th Centuries. On the occasion of Ahmed Djebbar being awarded an honorary doctorate, Roskilde University, Denmark. Speakers included: Ahmed Djebbar and Sonja Brentjes.

27-28 Sept. 2006: A Symposium on Mathematics and its History, Institute for the History of Arabic Science, University of Aleppo, Syria.

9-11 Nov. 2006: The Sixth Conference of the Jordanian Society for the History of Science, Amman, Jordan. The conference centered around three general themes within Arab/Islamic heritage: Astronomy, geography, and marine sciences. Contact: Abdulkader Abed, Dept. of Geology, University of Jordan: aabed@ju.edu.jo

16-18 Nov. 2006: Islam & Tibet: Cultural Interactions, The Warburg Institute, London, UK. Organized with the support of the Arts and Humanities Research Council of Great Britain, the British Academy, The Shelley and Donald Rubin Foundation, and the Wellcome Trust. Paper topics included: *Mutual perceptions and influences in religion and literature* (sessions chaired by Charles Burnett and Alexander Berzin on: Geography; Religious Contacts [Islam]; and Religious Contacts [Buddhism]). *Contacts in the Cultural and Social Spheres* (Sessions chaired by Peter Jackson on: The Mongols, Iran and Tibet; and Islam and Tibet in the present day). *History of Science* (Sessions chaired by Emilie Savage-Smith, Edward Henning, and Geoffrey Samuel on: Medicine and Perfumery; and Astronomy).

11-13 Dec. 2006: International Multi-Conference on the Role of Isfahan in the Development of Islamic Science, Culture, and Civilization, University of Isfahan, Iran.

26-28 Dec. 2006: Les journées internationales d'Ibn al-Haythem, Tunisia. Focus was on the development of scientific culture and on teaching history of science in Arab/Muslim countries. Organizing Committee: Association "Jeunes Science" de Tunisie (AJST).

Spring 2006: Lecture Series: Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture, Harvard University, USA. Lectures included: Marcus Wilwright (University of Victoria, B.C., Canada), "Defining Islamic Archaeology"; Shelia Canby (British Museum, UK), "Manuscript Illumination and Illuminators in Safavid Iran"; and, Anthony Culter (Pennsylvania State Univ., USA), "Ivory Carving in Medieval Islam."

4. PAPERS AND LECTURES

A SHARED LEGACY: ISLAMIC SCIENCE EAST AND WEST

11-14 April 2007: Barcelona, Spain

http://www.ub.edu/arab/conferenceabril2007/Shared_ENGLISH.pdf

- M. Abbattouy** (Université Mohammed V-Rabat, Agdal): La transformation arabe de la mécanique: la naissance de la science des poids (ilm al-athqāl)
- J. Bellver** (Universitat de Barcelona): On Jābir b. Aflah's Criticisms on Ptolemy's *Almagest*
- S. Brentjes** (Aga Khan University, London): Shams al-Dīn al-Sakhawī on Muwaqqits, Mu'adhdhins, and the Teachers of Various Astronomical Disciplines in Mamluk Towns in the 15th Century
- Rainer Brömer** (Johannes-Gutenberg Universität Mainz): Ibn al-Nafīs: Icon, innovator, inspiration for the Scientific Revolution in Human Anatomy?
- S. Al-Hassani** (Foundation for Science, Technology and Civilisation, Manchester): A 1000 Years of Industry Missing from History
- E. Calvo** (Universitat de Barcelona): Miqāt in Ibn Bāṣo's *Al-Risāla fī-l-ṣafīha al-mu'ayyaba dhāt al-awtār*
- C. Canavas** (Hamburg University of Applied Sciences): Hydraulic Imagery in Medieval Arabic Texts
- M. Charani** (Beirut): Développement de la technologie dans le monde arabe (9^{ième}-16^{ième} siècle)
- B. van Dalen** (Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt): Islamic Astronomy in China: Latest Developments
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- M. Forcada** (Universitat de Barcelona): How the West Rediscovered the East: the Case of the "Andalusi Revolt against Ptolemy"
- H. Gropp** (University of Heidelberg) : Bin Wahshiyya's 93 Alphabets and Mathematics
- M. Herrera** (Universitat de Barcelona): The Portolan Chart of Ahmad al-Tanji
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- P. Lettinck** (University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur): Science in *Adab* Literature
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- J. Ragep and S. Ragep** (McGill University and Max Planck Institute, Berlin): Islamic Scientific Manuscripts Initiative (ISMI) Project
- K. Ramasubramanian** (Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay): Optics in Kamalakara's *Siddhanta-tattva-viveka*
- L. Richter Bernburg** (University of Heidelberg): Nature and Nurture in the Exotic North: Ibrāhīm ibn Ya`qūb from Tortosa as ethnographe
- M. Rius** (Universitat de Barcelona): Al-Tajurī: the Science between East and West
- A. Russo** (University of Macerata): The conception and the Embryo Stages in the Alawite Doctrinal Literature
- G. Saliba** (Columbia University): Mediterranean Crossings: Exchange of Scientific Ideas Across the Pond
- P. Schmidl** (Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt): Missing Pages—Caussin de Perceval's Edition of the Initial Chapters to Ibn Yūnus' *Hākīmī Zīj* and his Omission of the Religious Sections
- A-K Taha and P. Pinel** (Université Paul Sabatier, Toulouse): La version de Jamīl ad-Dīn des Sphériques de Ménélaos et ses sources
- M. Zakeri** (Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt): The Reception of Aristotelian Meteorology in Persian-speaking World. The *Meteorology* of Asfīzārī

SONJA BRENTJES

6 Jan. 2006: Public Lecture: "The Sciences in Islamic Societies – Step Sisters of Religious and Philological Disciplines?", ITREB, Karachi, Pakistan

25 April 2006: "Euclid's *Elements* in Islamic Societies (8th-19th centuries) [Institutions, Cultural Values, Social Practices]," The Open University, Math Dept, Milton Keynes, UK

26-27 April 2006: "Giacomo Gastaldi's Maps of Anatolia -- The Evolution of a Shared Venetian-Ottoman Cultural Space?", The Renaissance and the Ottoman World, Warburg Institute and School of Oriental and African Studies, London, UK

10-14 May 2006: "Patchwork -- The Norm of Mapmaking Practices for Western Asia in Catholic and Protestant Europe as well as in Istanbul between 1550 and 1750?", Uluslararası Bilim ve Teknoloji Tarihi Sempozyumu, Istanbul University, Istanbul, Turkey

3-5 Aug. 2006: "The Persian Transmission of Euclid's *Elements*," Sixth Biennial Conference of Iranian Studies, London, UK

10 Nov. 2006: "Mosque and Science: Who decides where the Ka'ba is?", Cambridge University, Department for History and Philosophy of Science, Paper 1, Early Science

10-15 Dec. 2006: "Safavid Art, Science, and Courtly Education in the Seventeenth Century," Maktabat-e Esfahan, International Congress on Safavid Art History, The Iranian Academy of Arts, Tehran and Isfahan, Iran

30 June- 2 July 2007: "The Mathematical Sciences in Safavid Iran: Questions and Perspectives," Intellectual Relations and the Renewal of Religious Thought in Iran and Muslim India during the Modern Period. Tehran, Institut Français des Recherches en Iran, Iranian Institute for Philosophy

2-5 July 2007: "Ayyubid Patronage of the Ancient Sciences," Hofkulturen in der Islamischen Welt, Schloss Friedenstein, Gotha, Germany

RAINER BRÖMER

16 May 2006: "Ottoman Scholars Congregating in Cairo (And the Many Who Didn't): Framework for the Cultural History of Science in Modern Islamic Empires," Dibner Lunchtime Seminar, Dibner Institute, MIT, Cambridge, USA

26 Dec. 2006: "Common Scientific Civilisation – Cultural History of Modern Islamic Science," First International Conference on "The Cultural Middle Ground," Cairo and Alexandria, Egypt

30 March 2007: "La médecine et la culture – cultures médicales, médecine interculturelle," Symposium Univ. Lyon 3, France

10 June 2007: "Cardiovascular Problems in Ottoman and Arab Reactions to Ibn al-Nafīs," Symposium Alte Medizin, Mainz, Germany

7 July 2007: "Medicine Studies Analysing the Ottoman Empire: Relevance of the Cultural History for the Study of Pre-Contemporary Issues, and Vice Versa," Conference Varieties of Cultural History, Aberdeen, Scotland

25 Sept. 2007: "Circulation or Isolation? Ibn al-Nafīs' Pulmonary 'Circulation' in Ottoman and Contemporary Debates," German Middle East Studies Congress, Freiburg i. Br.

11 Oct. 2007: "Competing Ways of Knowing: Translations between European and Middle Eastern Civilisations Facing Western Colonialism (1798-1919)," Annual Meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science, Montreal, Canada

30 Nov. 2007: "The Human Body in the History of Islamic Medicine: Historical Science Studies, "Medicine Studies," Conference Historical Cultural Studies - Concepts and Methods, Mainz, Germany

1 Dec. 2007: "Science, Exemplified by Medicine, Symposium 'Islam as an Alternative?'," Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker Foundation, Düsseldorf, Germany

15 Dec. 2007: "Intercultural Dimensions of Health Care and Prevention (peer commentary)," Symposium Medicine and Values in Moslem and European Countries. Pathways to Transcultural Medical Ethics, Cairo, Egypt

MERCÈ COMES

24-29 April 2006: "Intercambio de conocimientos entre oriente y occidente en el siglo XIII" Ibn al-Bayṭār y el desarrollo de las ciencias en el siglo XIII, The Second International Symposium on the Andalusian Scientist Ibn al-Bayṭār, Benalmadena, Spain

16-19 Nov. 2006. "La carta nàutica d'Ibrāhīm al-Mursī," IX Trobada d'Història de la Ciència i de la Tècnica de la Societat Catalana d'Història de la Ciència i de la Tècnica, Girona, Spain

1-2 Sept. 2007: "Cartografía árabe en el contexto mediterráneo," Las ciencias medievales y la interculturalidad en el mediterráneo occidental, Ayuntamiento de Murcia, Murcia, Spain

27-28 Nov. 2007: "Intercambio de conocimientos astronómicos entre las cortes de Castilla, Marāga y Pequín, en el siglo XIII," Transmisión del conocimiento científico entre Asia y el Mediterráneo, Casa Asia, Barcelona, Spain

ROSA COMES

24-29 April 2006: "Las notaciones alfanuméricas en manuscritos e instrumentos científicos del siglo XIII," Ibn al-Bayṭār y el desarrollo de las ciencias en el siglo XIII, Second International Symposium on the Andalusian Scientist Ibn al-Bayṭār, Benalmadena, Spain

1-6 Oct. 2007: "Les Etapes Iniciais del Procés de Transmissió de les Ciències Exactes a l'Europa Medieval," I Jornades de Recerca, Facultat de Filologia, Univ. of Barcelona, Spain

BERNARD R. GOLDSTEIN

Oct. 2007: "Astronomy as a 'Neutral Zone': Interreligious Cooperation in Medieval Spain," Al-Andalus: Cultural Diffusion and Hybridity in Iberia (1000-1600), an interdisciplinary conference in Madison, WI, USA

ABDUL NASSER KAADAN

12-14 June 2006: "Some Medieval Medical Achievements Attributed to Western Physicians," First International Conference on Traditional Medicine and Materia Medica in Medieval Manuscripts, Baku, Azerbaijan

26-28 Nov. 2006: "The Development of Health Services and Hospitals in Saudi Arabia during the Era of King Saud," The Scientific Symposium on The History of King Saud Ibn Abdul Aziz Al Saud, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

13-15 March 2007: "The Surgical Diseases of the Eye Lids and its Treatment in Arab Islamic Medicine," World Symposium on the Eye in Islamic Medical Heritage, Kuwait City, Kuwait

17-20 July 2007: "Women's Health in Islamic Traditional Medicine," The 6th International Traditional /Complementary Medicine Conference and the 3rd International Congress on Traditional Medicine and Materia Medica (ICTMMM), Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur

17-20 Oct. 2007: "Organ Transplantation and Medical Ethics: An Islamic Perspective," First International Congress on Medical Ethics and Medical Law, Antalya, Turkey

10-12 Nov. 2007: "Medical Responsibility and Physicians' Mistakes in Arabic Islamic Medicine," The International Symposium on History of Medical Sciences in the Islamic Civilization, Tripoli, Libya

21-24 Jan. 2008: "Joint Diseases in Islamic Medicine," Eighth Pan Arab Rheumatology Society Conference, Doha, Qatar

26-28 March 2008: "The Role of Muslim Physicians in Medicine Development," First International Medical Student Conference at Oman Medical College, Sohar, Oman

16-18 April 2008: "Some of Muslim Physician's Achievements in Medical Ethics," The 2nd International Congress of Medical Ethics, Tehran, Iran

Y. TZVI LANGERMANN

21 May 2008: "Some Medical Episodes from Moses Galeano's Ta'alumot Hokhma [=Moses Galeano'nun Ta'alumot Hokhma'sından Bazı Tıbbi Bölümler]," 1st International Congress on the Turkish History of Medicine, Konya, Turkey

MOUSTAFA MAWALDI

24-29 April 2006: "Ibn al-Bayṭār's Universal tendency: His Background, His Scientific Method, The Nature of His Manuscripts, and His Influence," The Second International Symposium on the Andalusian Scientist Ibn al-Bayṭār, Benalmadena, Spain [with A. Lolah]

27-29 June 2006: "Historization of Arabic Science in Aleppo: Scientists and their Works," International Symposium on Scientific Intellectual Thought in Aleppo through the Ages: The Islamic Period, Institute for the History of Arabic Science, Aleppo University, Syria

27-28 Sept. 2006: "The Science of Algebra for Arab Scientists," Symposium on Mathematics and its History, Dept. of Mathematics and the Institute for the History of Arabic Science, Aleppo University, Syria

25-27 June 2007: “Abū al-Qāsim al-Majrī and his Scientific Works,” The 28rd Annual Conference for the History of Arabic Science, Aleppo, Syria

24-27 March 2008: “Cubic Doings in the Manuscript: Direction for Operations with Irrational Roots for those who do not have a Clear Understanding,” First International Conference on Arab and Muslim History of Science, University of Sharjah, Sharjah, UAE

23-24 April 2008: “An Analytical Study of Syrian-Iraqi Scientific relations focusing on the Bibliography of Scientists,” Scientific and Historical Relationships between Iraq and Syria, Institute for the History of Arabic Science, University of Aleppo and the Mosul Studies Center at Mosul University, Aleppo, Syria

JEFF OAKS

18-20 May 2006: “Medieval Algebra as an Artificial Language,” at The Generosity of Artificial Languages in an Asian Perspective, a workshop in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. For a report on the meeting, go to <http://www.iias.nl/index.php?q=node/368>.

ALAIN TOUWAIDE

21 May 2008: “The Role of Seljukian Sultans in the Translation of Dioscorides’ *Materia Medica* into Persian and Arabic [=Dioscorides’ in *Materia Medica*’sının Arapça ve Farsçaya Çevrilmesinde Selçuklu Sultanlarının Rollerini],” 1st International Congress on the Turkish History of Medicine, Konya, Turkey

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7. TEACHING

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9. AWARDS & DISTINCTIONS

2008 British-Kuwait Friendship Society Book Prize for Middle Eastern Studies was awarded to *Medieval Islamic Medicine* by **Peter E. Pormann** and **Emilie Savage-Smith** (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press [New Edinburgh Islamic Surveys Series], 2007; published simultaneously by Georgetown Univ. Press and The American University in Cairo Press). The award was given at the annual meeting of the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES). http://www.dur.ac.uk/brismes/book_prize.htm

François Charette was the recipient of the Prize for Young Historian 2007 awarded by the Académie internationale d'histoire des sciences. He is working with the Chester Beatty Library in Dublin in preparing a new descriptive catalogue of their Arabic manuscripts and is responsible for cataloguing circa 140 manuscripts in mathematics, astronomy, astrology and technology.

Mercè Comes is IP of 2 projects on nautical cartography in the Mediterrean, sponsored by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Technology: 2005-2008 “Cartografía náutica árabe en el contexto Mediterráneo (c. 1300-1600). Influencias entre oriente y occidente ; and, 2008-2011 “Cartografía náutica árabe en el contexto Mediterráneo (c. 1300-1600). Estudio detallado de las cartas.”

Rosa Comes is IP of the 2008-2009 AMER Project (De al-Àndalus Medieval a l'Europa Renaixentista), “La transmissió dels quadrats astronòmic-matemàtics de al-Àndalus medieval a l'Europa renaixentista. Un cas paradigmàtic de transmissió del saber” sponsored by the University of Barcelona. **Mercè Comes** is IC of this project.

Benno van Dalen began a research position at the Institute for History of Science in Munich on Jan. 15, 2008. His work, on a project entitled “Transmission of knowledge between Orient and Occident” which was granted in connection with the “Excellence Initiative” of the Ludwig-Maximilians University, entails inviting two guest professors for a period of six months, organizing a conference on the theme of transmission, and producing a volume of original contributions on this topic. Van Dalen also continues his

work on a book on “Islamic Astronomy in China,” in which he describes and analyzes the Chinese, Arabic, and Persian sources for the astronomical activities of the Muslim scholars who were brought to the capital of the Chinese Yuan dynasty by the Mongols in the late 13th century.

Ahmed Djebbar received an Honorary Doctorate (Roskilde University, Denmark), 21 Sept. 2006. On the occasion, a workshop entitled “Mathematics in Islamic Societies 9th-15th Centuries” was held in his honor.

Nahyan Fancy (Ph.D. University of Notre Dame) was named the recipient of the 2007 Bruce D. Craig Prize for Mamluk Studies for his dissertation “Pulmonary Transit and Bodily Resurrection: The Interaction of Medicine, Philosophy and Religion in the Works of Ibn al-Nafis (d. 1288).”

Alexander Jones was awarded the Francis Bacon Prize in the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology. In addition, he has accepted a faculty position for the Study of the Ancient World (ISAW) at New York University, effective 1 July 2008.

Abdul Nasser Kaadan received the Bassel Al-Assad Prize for Science and Medical Research, Aleppo, Syria. He was also elected President of the International Society for History of Islamic Medicine in 2007.

Moustafa Mawaldi was appointed Dean (ʿAmīd) of the Institute for the History of Arabic Science, Aleppo University, Aleppo, Syria. He is also the Vice-President of the Syrian Society of the History of Science, 2008-present.

F. Jamil Ragep, Canadian Research Chair in the History of Science in Islamic Societies, became the Director of the Institute of Islamic Studies at McGill University in 2008. He and Robert Wisnovsky, his colleague at McGill who specializes in Islamic Philosophy, received over \$2.4 million for a major database initiative entitled “Rational Sciences in Islam” (RASI) which will make available online to scholars and non-professionals information on Islamic manuscripts for the study of the mathematical sciences and philosophy. [<http://islamsci.mcgill.ca/RASI/>]

Sally P. Ragep was appointed Senior Researcher at The Institute of Islamic Studies at McGill University in 2006.

George Saliba was invited to Lahore, Pakistan in November 2007 by the Khwarizmic Science Society (KSS), a popular science organization to lecture and give a public symposium. For a report of his visit see: http://www.khwarzmic.org/islam/report_saliba.htm

Marina Tolmacheva was appointed President of the American University of Kuwait in June 2006.

Alain Touwaide and his work in the history of Byzantine science(s) were the focus of an article in the *History of Science Society Newsletter* (vol. 37, no. 2, April 2008). <http://www.hssonline.org/publications/Newsletter2008/NewsletterApril2008Touwaide.html>

10. THESES AND DISSERTATIONS

Mohammad Bagheri received his Ph.D. on 20 Dec. 2006 under the supervision of Profs. Henk Bos and Jan P. Hogendijk of the Mathematics Department, Utrecht University, The Netherlands. The title of his dissertation was “Books I and IV of Kūshyār ibn Labbān’s *Jāmi` Zīj*: an Arabic Astronomical Handbook by an Eleventh-Century Iranian Scholar.” The dissertation consists of an edition of the Arabic text with English translation and commentary and is available at: <http://igitur-archive.library.uu.nl/dissertations/2007-0109-200521/UUindex.html>

Nahyan Fancy received his Ph.D. 2007 from the University of Notre Dame, Program in History and Philosophy of Science. The title of his dissertation was “Pulmonary Transit and Bodily Resurrection: The Interaction of Medicine, Philosophy and Religion in the Works of Ibn al-Nafis (d. 1288).” His advisors were Ahmad Dallal and Phillip R. Sloan.

11. RETIREMENTS

John Lennart Berggren is currently Professor Emeritus of the Department of Mathematics, Simon Fraser University, where he taught courses in mathematics, history of mathematics, and mathematics in science and civilization from 1966-2006. He received his Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Washington, Seattle, USA in 1966 and has been a visiting scholar at Harvard University, Yale University, and the University of Warwick. His research centers around reading and translating ancient Greek and medieval Arabic mathematical texts dealing with geometry, statistics, mathematical cartography, and astronomy as well as studies of transmission of mathematical ideas and methods and their historical development.

For a list of some of his current publications, see section 5, "Publications" in this Newsletter and for a more extensive listing as well as information on his teaching and projects, visit <http://www.math.sfu.ca/~berggren/main.html>

David A. King, Professor of History of Science and Director of the Institute for the History of Science, Johann Wolfgang Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main since 1985, retired in 2007. David received his Ph.D. in 1972 from Yale University in Near Eastern Languages and Literatures (his dissertation was "The Astronomical Works of Ibn Yūnus"). Afterwards, he was Director, Smithsonian Institution Project in Medieval Islamic Astronomy, American Research Center in Egypt (1972-79); and Associate, then full Professor in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Literatures, New York University (1979-85). For well over 30 years of his career, David has contributed significantly and substantially to the documentation of the history of science in medieval Islamic civilization, technical scientific texts but also texts on folk science and the sacred law. The range of subjects of his works include Islamic mathematical astronomy, astronomical instruments, geography, and timekeeping, as well as cataloguing the scientific manuscripts in the Egyptian National Library. Two of his most recent books deal with a medieval number notation and a Renaissance painting.

For a list of current articles see section 5, "Publications" in this Newsletter and for a more extensive listing of his publications, visit <http://www.davidaking.org>

12. OBITUARIES

Boris Abramovich Rosenfeld (1917-2008), historian of mathematics and geometry, with over 400 scientific papers and monographs published. Eighty-one of his students received Ph.D. degrees under his supervision. Born in Petrograd, Russia, he received his B.A., M.A., Ph.D., and Doctor of Science from Moscow State university. He married Lucy Davidov, who survives him, in 1946. In 1990 he immigrated to the United States and held a succession of research appointments. He held adjunct appointments and was appointed adjunct professor in the Math Department at Penn State and later held a joint appointment with the History and Philosophy departments. He was a Corresponding Member of the International Academy of Science History since 1971; and, a Corresponding Member of the Barcelona Academy of Science. Although he retired from teaching at 78, he was active in the field up until his death on April 5, 2008.

For recent work, see section 5, "Publications" of the this Newsletter; for tributes, see S. S. Demidov, M. M. Rozhanskaya, and A. I. Volodarsky, "In Memoriam: Professor Boris A. Rosenfeld (30th August 1917-5th April 2008). *Suhayl* 7 (2007): 165 and http://www.d-omega.org/index.php?action=show&post_id=98

Asger Aaboe (1922-2007), professor of Mathematics and Astronomy of ancient Mesopotamia, specializing in the arithmetical astronomy of the Late-Babylonian period. He deciphered cuneiform texts (dating from circa 700 to 150 BCE) relating to Babylonian lunar and planetary theories. Born in Copenhagen, he was educated at the University of Copenhagen in mathematics, astronomy, physics, and chemistry. His Master's thesis supervisor at the University of Copenhagen was Olaf Schmidt who had been Otto Neugebauer's assistant in Copenhagen and then his Ph.D. student at Brown University. In 1952 Asger Aaboe came to the USA to stay (he had taught there from 1947 to 1948 as a Visiting Lecturer in Mathematics) and joined the Mathematics Department at Tufts University as an Instructor. He studied under Otto Neugebauer at Brown University from 1955 to 1956 as a President's Fellow, and obtained a Ph.D from Brown University in 1957; his dissertation title was: "On Babylonian Planetary Theories." He taught at Tufts University (1952 to

1962) and then joined Yale University as an Associate Professor of the History of Mathematics and the History of Science. For over 25 years he was Associate Professor, then Professor of Mathematics and the History of Science at Yale University.

Asger Aaboe was a member of the International Academy of the History of Science, (a Foreign Member of) the Danish Royal Academy of Sciences and Letters, the Institute for Research in Classical Philosophy and Science, the History of Science Society, and the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences. He retired in 1992. During his latter years he was Emeritus Professor of Mathematics, History of Science, and Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at Yale University.

Muhsin S. Mahdi (1926-2007), was a scholar of medieval Arabic and Islamic political philosophy. Born in 1926 in Karbala, Iraq, he completed his early education in Iraq, and then earned degrees in business administration and philosophy from the American Univ. in Beirut, Lebanon, in 1947. He earned his Ph.D. from the Univ. of Chicago in 1954, studying with Nadia Abbott and Leo Strauss; his dissertation on Ibn Khaldūn was published in 1957 as "Ibn Khaldūn's Philosophy of History: A Study in the Philosophical Foundation of the Science of Culture." He taught at Chicago's department of Oriental Languages and Civilizations (1957 to 1969) and at Harvard (1969-1996) and held the James Richard Jewett Chair. He was a visiting professor or lecturer at the American University in Cairo; the Univ. of California, Los Angeles; the Univ. of Freiburg; the Central Institute of Islamic Research in Karachi, Pakistan; and the Univ. of Baghdad. He was president of the American Association of Teachers of Arabic, the American Research Center in Egypt, the International Society for the History of Arabic and Islamic Sciences and Philosophy, and the Society for the Study of Islamic Philosophy and Science. [See Charles E. Butterworth, "In Memoriam: Muhsin S. Mahdi." *The Review of Politics* 69 (2007): 511-512.]

13. RESEARCH: WEBSITES AND ELECTRONIC LINKS

13.1 Islamic Art & Architecture

DISCOVER ISLAMIC ART: Museum with No Frontiers (MWNF)

This is an organization, with a network of partners from 19 countries, that aims to become a gateway to presenting works of art, architecture and archaeology. <http://www.discoverislamicart.org/home.php>

MUQARNAS: A Three-Dimensional Decoration of Islamic Architecture (courtesy of Shiro Takahashi). <http://www.tamabi.ac.jp/idd/shiro/muqarnas/>

NEXUS NETWORK JOURNAL: Architecture and Mathematics Online. A peer-reviewed online research resource for studies in architecture and mathematics. It is published twice yearly in print by Kim Williams Books. <http://www.nexusjournal.com/>

ISLAMIC TILES: This is the research section of the homepage of Peter J. Lu (a post-doctoral research fellow in the Department of Physics at Harvard University). He discusses here his research regarding decagonal and quasicrystalline tilings in Medieval Islamic architecture and provides further links. <http://www.physics.harvard.edu/~plu/research/>

13.2 Islamic Astronomy & Instruments

ISLAMIC ASTRONOMERS from the *Biographical Encyclopedia of Astronomers*, gen. ed. Thomas Hockey with the assistance of Marvin Bolt, Katherine Bracher, Richard Jarrell, Jordan Marché, JoAnn Palmeri, F. Jamil Ragep, Virginia Trimble, and Thomas Williams. New York: Springer, 2007. <http://islamsci.mcgill.ca/RASI/BEA/>

A CATALOGUE OF MEDIEVAL ASTRONOMICAL INSTRUMENTS TO CA. 1500. A catalogue of existing astrolabes, quadrants and sundials (Islamic to 1900 and European to 1550) including detailed descriptions of about 750 instruments. Also see David A. King, "Medieval Astronomical Instruments: A Catalogue in Preparation." *Bulletin of the Scientific Instrument Society* 31(1991): 17-20. <http://web.uni-frankfurt.de/fb13/ign/instrument-catalogue.html>

EPACT: SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS OF MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE EUROPE

This is an electronic catalogue of medieval and renaissance scientific instruments from 4 European museums (by makers who were active before 1600): the Museum of the History of Science, Oxford; Istituto e Museo di Storia della Scienza, Florence; the British Museum, London; and the Museum Boerhaave, Leiden. It consists of 520 catalogue entries and supporting material. <http://www.mhs.ox.ac.uk/epact/>

13.3 Institutes/Libraries

CZECH REPUBLIC: National Library of the Czech Republic, A Manuscriptorium service.
http://www.manuscriptorium.com/Site/ENG/default_eng.asp

DENMARK: The Royal Library, Copenhagen. Digitized materials from the Oriental Collections: including Arabic, Persian, Chinese, Japanese, Tibetan, Mongolian, and Indian manuscripts.
<http://www.kb.dk/en/nb/samling/os/digit.html>

EGYPT: Al-Azhar online. <http://www.alazharonline.org/> Launched in 2006, it is a "Project to Preserve Al Azhar Scripts and Publish Them Online" between Al-Azhar and the support of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum's IT Education Project (ITEP); for an article on this project, see *Tec News* (dated 10 Oct. 2006) from see <http://www.itep.ae/english/pressroom/ITNewsDetails.aspx?ID=1717>

FRANCE: Gallica: La bibliothèque numérique de la Bibliothèque Nationale de France
<http://gallica.bnf.fr/>

GERMANY:

- **The Institute for the History of Arabic-Islamic Science**, Frankfurt am Main. Director: Fuat Sezgin
<http://web.uni-frankfurt.de/fb13/igaiw/index.html>
- **Leipzig University Library:** A project for cataloguing and digitizing 55 Islamic manuscripts.
<http://www.islamic-manuscripts.net/content/below/index.xml;jsessionid=68E03354C1CEA118DB384F80D1D8B57B?lang=en>

INDIA: Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna. <http://kblibrary.bih.nic.in/>

IRAQ: Iraqi Libraries Network. <http://iraklib.ub.uni-bielefeld.de/>

A collaborative project by Iraqi Librarians with the goal of providing information related to Iraqi libraries. Supported by Bielefeld University Library, Cologne University of Applied Sciences, Goethe-Institut, and University and State Library Saxony-Anhalt.

MALI: Timbuktu Libraries. <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/mali/>

UNITED KINGDOM:

- **British Library:**
Manuscripts Catalogue: <http://www.bl.uk/catalogues/manuscripts/INDEX.asp>
Arabic materials online: <http://www.bl.uk/collections/arabonline.html>
The Arabic Section: <http://www.bl.uk/collections/arabic.html>;
The Persian Collection: <http://www.bl.uk/collections/persian.html>
The Indian Office Select materials (holdings of India Office private papers, prints and drawings, photographs within the Library's Asia, Pacific and Africa Collections).
<http://www.bl.uk/catalogues/indiaofficeselect/welcome.asp>. The focus is on the catalogues of South Asia, but there are parts on the Middle East.
- **University of Leeds:** Digitized Arabic texts. The Leeds project is particularly interested in developing techniques to examine watermarks along with other concealed properties of the paper.
<http://www.comp.leeds.ac.uk/arabictexts/index.shtml>

USA:

- **Brown University:** the Minassian collection of Persian, Mughal and Indian Miniature Paintings [<http://128.148.7.229:591/dbminassian/default.htm>]
- **The Johns Hopkins University, the Sheridan Libraries:** “Gold Koran” [<http://goldkoran.mse.jhu.edu/htdocs/mrsid/Koran/>]
- **Princeton University** [<http://www.princeton.edu/main/news/archive/S12/96/71Q21/>]; **The Shahnama Project** [<http://www.princeton.edu/~shahnama/>]
- **Schoenberg Center for Electronic Text & Image (SCETI)**, University of Pennsylvania [<http://dewey.library.upenn.edu/sceti/browse.cfm?nav=browselanguage&type=language&language=arabic>]
- **UCLA:** Near Eastern Manuscripts: **Caro Minasian Collection Digitization Project** [http://unitproj.library.ucla.edu/dlib/minasian/list_mss.cfm]; **Caro Minasian Collection of Arabic and Persian Manuscripts** [<http://digital.library.ucla.edu/minasian/>]
- **Yale University:** Near Eastern, Islamic & Arabic Studies [http://www.library.yale.edu/neareast/1_research/general.html]

13.4 Manuscripts and MSS Projects

AMMS: West African Arabic Manuscript Project. A bi-lingual database developed at the University of Illinois in the late 1980s to describe a collection of Arabic manuscripts in southern Mauritania (Boutilimit) as well as 7 other Western African collections including the manuscript libraries at the Institut Mauritanien de Recherche Scientifique, Northwestern University, and the Centre Ahmad Baba in Timbuktu. [<http://westafricanmanuscripts.org/>]

ECHO: European Cultural Heritage Online <http://echo.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de/home>

Open Access to more than 330 authors; 206,600 documents; 300,000 high resolution images of historical sources; over 240 film sequences of scientific source material; and more than 57,500 full-text page transcription in several languages. They are particularly interested in history of science.

RATIONAL SCIENCES IN ISLAM: An Initiative for the Study of Philosophy and the Mathematical Sciences in Islam (<http://islamsci.mcgill.ca/RASI/>).

Centered at McGill University, the project to study the rational sciences in Islam will investigate the philosophical, scientific, and theological traditions of Islam in a holistic manner. The primary goal is to increase our understanding of how Muslim scholars and the various publics making up Islamic societies explored the world through rational means, and the products and consequences of those explorations.

The project is made up of 3 components:

- **The Islamic Scientific Manuscripts Initiative (ISMI)** <http://islamsci.mcgill.ca/RASI/ismi.html>
- **The Post-classical Islamic Philosophy Database Initiative (PIPDI)** <http://islamsci.mcgill.ca/RASI/pipdi.html>
- **Scientific Traditions in Islamic Societies (STIS) project** <http://islamsci.mcgill.ca/RASI/stis.html>

TIMA: The Islamic Manuscript Association, Cambridge, UK. An international effort to protect Islamic manuscripts. <http://www.islamicmanuscript.org/Home.html>

BOOK OF CURIOSITIES. http://www.ouls.ox.ac.uk/news/2007_mar_29 The Bodleian Library at the University of Oxford has acquired a cosmological treatise entitled *Kitāb Gharā'ib al-funūn wa-mulāḥ al-`uyūn*. The treatise contains diagrams of the heavens and maps of the earth. This copy was probably made in Egypt in the late 12th or early 13th century from an anonymous work compiled in the first half of the 11th century in Egypt.

WORLD DIGITAL LIBRARY. www.worlddigitallibrary.org Their objective is to make available on the Internet, free of charge, selected manuscripts, maps, rare books, and cultural materials for educators.

13.5 Islamic Mathematics

BIBLIOGRAPHY BY TOPIC OF THE MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES IN THE MEDIEVAL ISLAMIC WORLD (courtesy of Jeff Oaks). Includes works published in Western European languages since 1950. <http://facstaff.umd.edu/~oaks/Biblio/Intro.htm>

THE BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS (*bshm*). Its mission is to promote research into the history of mathematics and its use at all levels of mathematics education. <http://www.dcs.warwick.ac.uk/bshm/>

HISTORY OF ISLAMIC MATHEMATICS (courtesy of Jan Hogendijk). This site contains links to scholars working in the History of Mathematics and Science and Islamic science. <http://www.math.uu.nl/people/hogend/links.html>

13.6. Islamic Medicine

ARABIC-HEBREW-ENGLISH GLOSSARIES AND INDICES TO THE MEDICAL WORKS OF MOSES MAIMONIDES. Both original Arabic text and medieval Hebrew translation(s): 1. *On Asthma*; 2. *On Hemorrhoids*; 3. *On Coitus*; 4. *On the Regimen of Health*; 5. *On the Elucidation of Some Symptoms and the Response to them* (more commonly called "De Causis Accidentium"); 6. *On Poisons*. Glossaries are arranged alphabetically according to the original Arabic term, followed by the corresponding medieval Hebrew translation(s) and translation into modern English. <http://www.uni-koeln.de/phil-fak/juda/projekte/maimonides/glossare.htm>

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF ISLAMIC MEDICINE (ISHIM). <http://www.ishim.net/> Among their objectives: promoting the contributions of Arab and Muslim physicians to the history of medicine; establishment of a library (which will include an index and copies of manuscripts); and issuing a bi-annual journal and newsletter. <http://www.ishim.net/links.htm>

ISLAMIC MEDICAL MANUSCRIPTS AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE. 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 raisonné (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. <http://www.nlm.nih.gov/hmd/arabic/arabichome.html>

MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ISLAM AND IRAN. The encyclopedia aims to provide articles on Islamic medicine on subjects such as biographies of physicians, diseases and treatment methods, medical terms and medical institutions. [in Persian and Arabic] http://razi.ams.ac.ir/encme/default_en.php

13.7 Islamic Philosophy

ISLAMIC PHILOSOPHY ONLINE. <http://www.muslimphilosophy.com/>
Books and articles on Islamic philosophy, ranging from classical texts to modern works of Muslim philosophy. Featured original resources include:

- **A Dictionary of Islamic Philosophical Terms** <http://www.muslimphilosophy.com/pd/index.html>
- **A Map of Islamic Philosophy** <http://www.muslimphilosophy.com/ip/p1.htm>
- **Major Islamic Philosophers** <http://www.muslimphilosophy.com/#people>
- **The Journal of Islamic Philosophy** <http://www.muslimphilosophy.com/journal/index.html>

13.8 Technology

HISTORY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN ISLAM (courtesy of Ahmad Y. al-Hassan).

The website contains numerous articles and notes by Prof. al-Hassan on various issues in the history of science and technology: The Arabic Origin of Liber de compositione alchimiae; Gunpowder and Cannon in the 13th and 14th centuries; Potassium Nitrates in Arabic and Latin Sources; Jābir ibn Ḥayyān (ca 721-ca 815)'s Latin works and the question of Gerber; The Origin of Damascus Steel; al-Jazarī and the History of the Water Clock; The Transfer of Islamic Technology to the West; Factors behind the decline of Islamic Science after the sixteenth-century; An 8th-century treatise on glass by Jābir; Arabic Alchemy 'Ilm al-ṣan`a; Engineering in Arabic-Islamic Civilization [<http://www.history-science-technology.com/>]

Islamic Science of Weights and Balances: 2 articles by Mohammed Abattouy.

- “The Balance: The Core mental Model of the Islamic Science of Weights”
<http://muslimheritage.com/topics/default.cfm?ArticleID=616>
- “The Arabic Transformation of Mechanics: The Birth of the Science of Weights”
<http://muslimheritage.com/topics/default.cfm?ArticleID=615>

Ridhwān al-Sā`ātī (604 H./1207): an English translation of an article [in Arabic] by Moustafa Mawaldi
<http://muslimheritage.com/topics/default.cfm?ArticleID=950>

13.9 GENERAL

Arabic Books and Unpublished Manuscripts. <http://www.al-mostafa.com/> An Egyptian website.


INDIAN BOOKS CENTRE: Publishers and suppliers of books related to Philosophy, Religion (Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Christianity), History, Geography, Art, Archaeology, Sociology, Sanskrit, Ayurveda, Tibetan, Unani, Yoga, and other medicinal therapies. 1000 titles of their own and 50,000 titles of well-known authors and publishers. You can request rare, out-of-print, and other Indian books. <http://www.indianbookscentre.com>

ISLAMIC ENCYCLOPEDIA. <http://www.encyclopaediaislamica.com/> was established in Tehran in 1983 by *The Encyclopaedia Islamica Foundation*. Note that articles are in Persian.

MAPS: Middle East and Islam. <http://www.ou.edu/mideast/category/maps.htm> Compiled by Joshua Landis, University of Oklahoma; **Islam's Historical Development.** University of Pennsylvania
<http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/~rs143/map.html>

Sciencia.cat: Science in the Catalan Culture in the Middle Ages & the Renaissance.
<http://www.sciencia.cat/english/indexenglish.htm>

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(IUHPS)



**Commission on History of Science & Technology
in Islamic Societies**

- Do you know of a scholar in the field that you would like to nominate for membership in the *Commission*?
- Are you currently a Member of the Commission but have not yet joined our closed listserve?

If so then please contact: Sally P. Ragep, Secretary sally.ragep@mcgill.ca