

## THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE: ISLAM CENTENNIAL FOURTEEN

### PROGRAM REVIEW

The programs of the National Committee: Islam Centennial Fourteen have been broad and varied. They include exhibitions, publications, public discussion and film series, T.V. roundtables, and the production and distribution of print and audio-visual materials. Some programs which the committee has produced, or is currently producing, include:

#### EXHIBITIONS

##### The Heritage of Islam

A major traveling exhibition of the arts and sciences of the Islamic world, its tour has included Houston, San Francisco, Pittsburgh, and Washington, D.C. where it was opened by Vice President George Bush. The 250 object show was also accompanied by a prize-winning film, The Peoples of Islam, by a slide show on Islamic architecture, and by a series of public programs covering a variety of subjects in a variety of formats. In a letter of March 2, 1982, President Reagan extended his congratulations, and expressed his "hope that the American people will avail themselves fully of the great experience this exhibition offers."

##### Symbols of Faith

An exhibition developed jointly by Islam Centennial Fourteen and the National Geographic Society to trace the common roots and aspirations of the world's three leading monotheistic religions, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. It focused on specific examples of the art--the Jewish menorah, Christian icon, and Muslim prayer rug. First displayed at Explorers Hall, National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C., from December 10, 1981 - April 18, 1982, it has been developed for circulation by the Smithsonian Institution's Traveling Exhibition Service for a three-year nationwide tour. In a Congressional Record statement of March 10, 1981, Senator Mathias commended "this unique and beautiful exhibit" to his colleagues and others.

#### CONFERENCE AND DISCUSSION PROGRAMS

##### The World of Islam: from Morocco to Indonesia

A jointly sponsored two-day conference on Islam was held in June, 1980 at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. This conference resulted in the publication of its edited proceedings as the book Change and the Muslim World, and in a briefing packet on Islam developed for conference use and later re-printed and distributed nationwide. The conference was developed by Islam Centennial Fourteen, the Middle East Institute, and the Washington Center of the Asia Society. It was funded, in part, by grants from the United States International Communication Agency and the National Endowment of the Humanities.

Islam: The Heritage We Share

A multi-faceted public library program held at the Bethesda Library, Montgomery County, Maryland; the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Maryland; and the Martin Luther King Memorial Library, Washington, D.C.. This series involved lectures, discussions, films, readings, and a panel exhibit, library resource development, and book displays at these three sites during February and March, 1982; and March - June, 1983. These programs, covering major themes on Islamic faith, arts, sciences, literature, and culture, were funded, in part, by a grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Maryland Humanities Council, and the D.C. Community Humanities Council.

The Aga Khan Architectural Awards Program

A presentation by His Highness the Aga Khan followed by an illustrated discussion program by experts on Islamic architecture to note the first winners of the Architectural Awards. The awards program encourages the preservation of important elements of Islamic design in an environment of modern, technological architecture. The event, sponsored jointly with the Smithsonian Institution, was held at the Hirshhorn Museum, December 10, 1980.

The U.S. and the Muslim World

ICF co-sponsored with the United States Information Agency a seminar designed to inform 8 visiting Middle Eastern leaders about U.S. interest in the culture and history of the Muslim world. As part of the Visitors Program Service, it was held at Meridian House in Washington, D.C. (November 3, 1981).

Islamic Resurgence in the Contemporary Muslim World

A symposium sponsored jointly by ICF and the American University's School of International Service on October 7, 1982. Five international visitors from Morocco, Pakistan, Cairo, Tunisia, and Jordan provided students and faculty of area universities with an opportunity to discuss Islamic Resurgence from a variety of perspectives.

OTHER EVENTSConvocation

The opening meeting of the members of the National Committee to Honor the Fourteenth Centennial of Islam was held at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden of the Smithsonian Institution. The meeting, attended by members of the National, Academic, and Diplomatic Advisory Committees of ICF, included a welcome by Assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, Paul Perrot, an introductory speech by Ambassador Lucius D. Battle, a reading of President Carter's letter expressing his strong support for the Committee's work, a statement by Ambassador Ali Hedda of Tunisia, senior diplomatic advisor, and a presentation of the Committee's plans and programs. (June 12, 1980).

Open House and Book Presentation

To celebrate its move to new headquarters, ICF held an Open House for The American University administration and faculty. The President of the university, Dr. Richard Berendzen, welcomed ICF noting the importance of Islamic Studies. Dr. Wahbi Al-Hariri-Rifai presented his book Traditional Architecture in Saudi Arabia, a limited edition work of thirty-three detailed renderings of indigenous Saudi architecture, and which will be the cornerstone of an Islamic Studies library (October 20, 1982).

Mirror of Kings: Tales from Kalila wa Dimna

A film premiere of the twelve minute animated color film based on a 14th century Mamluk manuscript. Prince Talal bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, brother of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, was the honored guest at this event on March 21, 1983 jointly sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution and Islam Centennial Fourteen.

FILMS AND AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS

Islam: An Introduction

A multi-media kit designed as basic background on Islam. The kit includes a 21-minute color presentation which highlights the origins, religious beliefs, and achievements of the Muslim peoples. Available in four formats--filmstrip, slides, film, or videotape--each of which includes a script booklet and the print materials from the Islam: An Introduction print kit (see publications). Funded, in part, by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Peoples of Islam

An award-winning 16 mm. film produced to accompany the "Heritage of Islam" exhibition. This 24-minute color film about representative Muslims in six countries--Nigeria, Morocco, Egypt, Pakistan, Malaysia, and Indonesia--shows the differences and similarities in these widespread cultures and the traditional Islamic values that unite them. Winner of the 1982 CINE "Golden Eagle" Certificate.

Architecture of the Muslim World

A 15-minute slide presentation on the architecture and design elements of the contemporary Muslim world, produced to accompany the "Heritage of Islam" exhibition.

PUBLICATIONS

Newsletter

A bi-monthly publication of the National Committee designed to publicize cultural programs on Islam and to update readers on ICF programs and activities. The Newsletter also includes briefly-annotated bibliographies of relevant articles selected from 30 publications, and annual listings of book titles of the year.

Change and the Muslim World

A book of the edited proceedings of the international conference "The World of Islam: from Morocco to Indonesia," it provides an introduction to the complexities of contemporary Islam. Seventeen essays focus on the impact of modernization, with emphasis on politics, education, and family life across the Muslim world and among Muslim communities in primarily non-Muslim countries. (Published by Syracuse University Press, 1981).

The World of Islam, Images and Echoes: A Critical Guide to Films and Recordings

An annotated catalogue reviewing some 250 English-language films and selected recordings on the Islamic world. This publication also includes information on where each is available for rental or sale. Developed as part of the Islamic Teaching Materials project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, and sponsored by the American Council on Learned Societies, its publication was funded by Islam Centennial Fourteen.

Islam: An Introduction

This print packet of materials includes an introductory text, timeline, map, population statistics, glossary, holiday guide, and bibliography.

Symbols of Faith Catalogue

An illustrated essay catalogue which reviews the themes of the Symbols of Faith exhibition.

Patterns and Precision

An illustrated guide to the arts and sciences of Islam designed for the general reader who would like to know more about the materials, instruments, and ideas behind 1400 years of Islamic civilization.

Islam

Foreign Policy Association Headline Series published by the Foreign Policy Association with the cooperation of Islam Centennial Fourteen. A short publication on Islam designed for a lay audience written by Thomas Lippman of the Washington Post.

CLEARINGHOUSE AND INTER-ORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONS

Islam Centennial Fourteen seeks to bring together people, programs, and resources on Islam, as well as to publicize programs of interest in this field. The Committee serves as a focal point for programs dealing with Islam by participating in major conferences, publicizing programs in a Newsletter, and providing assistance to organizations involved with Islam-related programs.

OUTREACH, MATERIALS DISTRIBUTION, AND RESOURCE CENTER

The materials produced by ICF have been distributed nationwide. They have been used by individuals and institutions in over 40 states. A variety of organizations, including colleges, universities, community colleges, and high schools, as well as the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Army, the Foreign Service Institute, and the Business Council for International Understanding, and museums with Islamic exhibitions have made these materials part of their programs. The print packet Islam: An Introduction has been distributed at a number of major conferences on Islam, in Arizona, Minnesota, New York State, and elsewhere. It has also been deposited in each library in the Montgomery County System. Parts of the print kit have been reproduced in the Saturday Evening Post, the Foreign Policy Association's book on Islam, a U.S. Air Force training manual, the Symbols of Islam university-level video course on Islamic Art History, the Department of Commerce's Overseas Business Reports, and Richard Mortimer's book Faith and Power. Thousands of copies of the print kit and books of ICF, and hundreds of copies of the audiovisual materials have been distributed nationwide in the past two years (including those given to entire school systems in Houston, Texas, and Westchester County, N.Y.) but these numbers do not begin to show the numbers of people who have actually read or viewed these products through loans (around San Francisco, for example, to accompany the "Heritage of Islam" exhibition), through large audiences for each showing of the films, or through extensive circulation (and often reproduction) of printed materials.

PRESS COVERAGE

The work of ICF has received extensive press coverage. More than 100 articles have appeared in periodicals nationwide and abroad. Publications which have dealt with the work of ICF include The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, People Magazine, The Gulf Times, The Atlanta Constitution, The Washington Times. Appearances by the Executive Director on radio and T.V. broadcasts, including a nationwide WBS Cable T.V. roundtable on Islam, have also increased the number of people aware of the work of the Committee.

SUPPORTING THE PROGRAMS OF OTHERSThe New School for Social Research (New York, New York)

ICF contributed to the sponsorship of a series of lectures designed to present a broad adult audience with background on Islamic art, science, history, design, and other areas (Fall, 1979; Spring, 1980).

Sunrise Semester

ICF contributed to the funding of 45 half-hour lectures on Islam for nationwide viewing on CBS T.V. (Spring, 1980).

Allegheny College

A videotaped roundtable discussion on Islam with Ambassador Crawford, Professor R. Ramazani, and Ms. Nouha Alhegelan, produced by WQLN at Allegheny College (Meadville, PA), and aired on WQLN in Erie and WOED in Pittsburgh, was sponsored by Islam Centennial Fourteen (February, 1981).

The Smith Archives of Islamic Art

Part of the study collection of the Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Institution, this collection includes a wide variety of photographic prints, negatives, slides, and notes relating primarily to Islamic architecture compiled by Myron Bement Smith when he was in Iran in the 1930's. Funding for the cataloging and indexing of this collection was provided by the King Faisal Foundation under the auspices of Islam Centennial Fourteen.

Images and Echoes

The printing of a film catalogue (described under "publications") was made possible, in part, by a grant from ICF.

Kalila Wa Dimna (the book)

Fables from a fourteenth-century manuscript, this illustrated collection of the Kalila wa Dimna tales (similar to Aesop's Fables) was published by the Smithsonian Institution, funded by the King Faisal Foundation under the auspices of Islam Centennial Fourteen.

Kalila Wa Dimna (the film)

A thirteen minute animated color film, narrated by Omar Sharif, illustrating the fourteenth century Kalila Wa Dimna tales, was produced by the Smithsonian Institution, and funded by the King Faisal Foundation under the auspices of Islam Centennial Fourteen.