

ISLAMIC MANUSCRIPT ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER, January 2011

TRAINING

The Centre de Conservation du Livre has just launched its training program for 2011. Topics include:

- Training in conservation-restoration
- Training in the knowledge, digitalization and appraisal of collections of cultural heritage
- Training in preventive conservation

Training day (free of charge) at E-Corpus

Date: 22 March 2011

Location: e-Corpus, Arles, France

Contact: formation@ccl-fr.org

Collections currently being digitized at the Centre include:

- a collection of archives from Peiresc preserved by a *provençale* family- private collection (digital broadcasting in January 2011 on E-corpus)
- a collection of manuscripts from a Sufi brotherhood in Algeria
- archives, manuscripts and ancient books from the multimedia library of Arles [on religious and military orders](#)
- Indian manuscripts (Urdu or Persian) from the collection of Garcin de Tassy, one of the founders and later president of the *Société Asiatique*.

VACANCY

Aga Khan University Institute for the Study of Muslim Civilisations, UK

ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN Salary: £25,000 to £32,000

Location: London – United Kingdom

Deadline: 13th January 2011

www.aku.edu/ismc

e-mail: ismc.personnel@aku.edu

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Deadline: 15 January 2011

The Smithsonian Institution offers research fellowships in the History of Art, Design, Crafts, and the Decorative Arts which can be taken up at any one of several of the Smithsonian's museums including the Freer|Sackler, the Smithsonian's museums of Asian art. A variety of predoctoral, postdoctoral and senior fellowships are available. Fellowships are residential and support independent and dissertation research. The stipend for a one-year fellowship is \$30,000 for predoctoral fellows or \$45,000 for senior and postdoctoral fellows, plus research and travel allowances. The standard term of residency is twelve months, but shorter terms will be considered; stipends are prorated for periods of less than twelve months.

Webiste: <http://www.si.edu/ofg/fell.htm>.

EXHIBITION

Location: Museum of Islamic Art, Bodestr. 1-3, 10178 Berlin, Germany

Date: 18 March 2011 – 19 June 2011

An exhibition of Shahname manuscripts and single folios from the collection of the Museum of Islamic Art in Berlin and the Berlin National Library

Organised by

The Museum of Islamic Art, Berlin (SMB) and and The National Library, Berlin (SPK).

Admission Free

Enquiries:

Museum für Islamische Kunst
Staatliche Museen zu Berlin - SPK

Bodestraße 1-3
10178 Berlin

RESOURCES

<http://www.iranheritage.org/>

Please visit this website for information connected to the 1000 year Shahnameh celebrations

WORKSHOP

Introduction to Islamic Book Structures: Mamluk Bookbinding

Dates: Monday, 31 January – Friday, 4 February 2011

Location: The Moller Centre, Churchill College, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

Tutor: Mr John Mumford, Senior Conservator and Head of Manuscript Conservation,
Thesaurus Islamicus Foundation and Dar al-Kutub Manuscript Project

Guest Lecturer: Dr Alison Ohta, Director, Royal Asiatic Society

Participants in this short course will make a model of a Mamluk style Islamic bookbinding based on 13th–16th century examples from Egypt that the course tutor has studied at the National Library of Egypt and the British Library. After an introductory lecture on the history and codicology of Mamluk bindings, participants will sew a pre-cut and pre-folded text block, make pasteboards and embossed leather doublures, construct endbands, cover the boards with leather, and tool and gild the binding with replica tools.

During the course, the tutor will compare and contrast Mamluk bindings with the descriptions of Islamic book structures and binding practices in five historical treatises: Ibn Badis' *'Umdat al-kuttab wa-'uddat dhawi al-albab*, Yusuf ibn 'Umar al-Malik al-Muzaffar's *Mukhtara' fi funun min al-suna'*, Bakr ibn Ibrahim al-Ishbili's *al-Tasir fi sina'at al-tasfir*, Ibn Abi Hamidah's *Tadbir al-safir fi sina'at al-tasfir*, and Ahmad ibn Muhammad al-Sufyani's *Sina'at tasfir al-kutub wa-hall al-dhahab*. He will also explain the strengths and weakness of Mamluk bindings and related conservation problems.

This course does not require any previous experience of bookbinding. All tools and materials will be provided. The course is limited to ten persons.

E-mail: admin@islamicmanuscript.org or calling the Islamic Manuscript Association at +44 (0)1223 303 177.