

## Islamic Manuscript Association Newsletter, November 2010

### VACANCY

#### **Bilingual Event and Membership Coordinator (Arabic and English)**

**Location:** Cambridge - United kingdom

**Deadline:** 9.00 am GMT, 1 December 2010

The Islamic Manuscript Association is one of the principal projects of the Thesaurus Islamicus Foundation. The Association is an international non-profit organisation dedicated to protecting Islamic manuscript collections and supporting those who work with them. It was formed in response to the urgent need to address the poor preservation and inaccessibility of many Islamic manuscript collections around the world. The position is full-time and is based at the Association's office in Cambridge, UK. The contract is for one year. Employment in Cambridge will be through the Foundation's representative company Tradigital, which is based in Cairo, Egypt. The salary will be £25,000 gross per annum.

The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Association, including writing formal correspondence in Arabic and English, the organisation of the Association's annual conference as well as meetings and workshops, the development of online resources for professionals working with Islamic manuscripts, and the coordination of the Association's grant scheme. He or she will report to the executive director. Excellent interpersonal skills and an enthusiasm for the Association's aims are essential.

The successful candidate will be able to work well as part of a small team and also under their own direction when necessary.

For further details and for information about the post and for guidance about the application process please visit: <http://www.islamicmanuscript.org/about/Vacancies.html>

### **MEMBERS ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**From: Dr Firuza Abdullaeva, University of Oxford**

### **CONFERENCE**

**The Shahnama Millennium Conference, Firdausi: the next thousand years**

**Location:** Clare College, Cambridge

**Date:** December 13-15, 2010

The Shanama Project is hosting a conference dedicated to Firdausi's masterpiece, with 20 speakers from across the world addressing different aspects of the poem: as literature, as history, and in the arts of the book, with particular attention paid to its reception in both Iran and across the wider Persian cultural zone (North India, Central Asia and the Caucasus). The conference will be held at Clare College, Cambridge.

For further information please visit: <http://shahnama.caret.cam.ac.uk/new/jnama/page/>

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**

**From Dr Stefanie Brinkmann (Institute of Oriental Studies, Leipzig University, Germany) concerning her Islamic Manuscript Association grant scheme project 'The study of a manuscript of al Bukhari'.**

The Institute of Oriental Studies at Leipzig University in Germany, in cooperation with Leipzig University Library and the Computer Research Center of Leipzig University, dedicates a number of projects to the cataloguing and digitizing of Islamic manuscripts at Leipzig and abroad ([www.islamic-manuscripts.net](http://www.islamic-manuscripts.net); [www.refaiya.uni-leipzig.de](http://www.refaiya.uni-leipzig.de); [www.manuscripts-aceh.org](http://www.manuscripts-aceh.org); [www.manuscripts-java.org](http://www.manuscripts-java.org)).

With the support of The Islamic Manuscript Association, a precious copy of al-Bukhārī's Sahīh has been digitized and is now accessible online. It was on display in two exhibitions: "Ein Garten im Ärmel, Islamische Buchkultur" (10.7.-27.9.2008, Leipzig University Library, catalogue available) and "Taswir, Islamische Bildwelten und Moderne" (5.11.2009-18.1.2010, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin, catalogue available).

The complete Sahīh has been copied in 800/1398 and contains a high number of marginal entries, among them numerous commentaries by Hadīth scholars, ijāzāt, samāāt, as well as a silsila of [Shams ad-Din] Muhammad ibn Muhammad [b.] al-Jazari (d. 833/1429). Most ijāzāt date between 818/1415-829/1425 and are issued in Shiraz. Three ijāzāt, issued for Ibrahīm Pāshā in 1082/1671, had been added to the manuscript later. For closer information on this manuscript see furthermore the historical catalogue of Heinrich Leberecht Fleischer (d. 1888), digitized under "Historical catalogues", chapter "Codices de traditione prophetica", Nr. CLXXX, pp. 451-464, as well as the English translation and summary of the Fleischer catalogue by Boris Liebrecht, chapter "Prophetic tradition", Nr. CLXXX (on: [www.islamic-manuscripts.net](http://www.islamic-manuscripts.net)).

The manuscript reached Leipzig as Turkish booty (Vienna 1683), as can be seen by the entry on the inner face of the back cover and belonged to the estate of August Pfeiffer (1640-1698).

Currently the catalogue entry is available only in German, the English and Arabic translation will follow soon.

## **EXHIBITION**

Contemporary Shahnama Millennium Painting Exhibition

**Location:** The Prince's Foundation Gallery

19-22 Charlotte Street

London

EC2A 3SG

**Date:** 15 November-11 December 2010

**Telephone:** 020 761 38500

**For further information please visit:** [www.princes-foundation.org](http://www.princes-foundation.org)

## **NON-MEMBERS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **EXHIBITION**

**Location:** Turkish and Islamic Art museum, Istanbul, Turkey

**Date:** 5 September 2010 - 1 December 2010

“The Qur’an in its 1400<sup>th</sup> anniversary year”

During this significant year, marking the 1400th anniversary since the revelation of the Qur’an began, a cultural heritage consisting of a large number of copies of the glorious Qur’an, produced over a period spanning 1200 years, will be on display to visitors.

These Qur’ans represent the finest masterpieces of Islamic Art; they have been preserved and protected by generations of sultans, sultanas, viziers, pashas and governors. These preservation efforts have allowed this precious cultural heritage to survive into the present time where they are still kept and protected for future generations in libraries and museum collections.

Contact: Meydani No 46, Istanbul. (Across Hippodrome from Blue Mosque)

+ 90 212 518 1805.

## **VACANCY**

**Department of Art and Archaeology at Princeton University**

**Deadline:** December 1 or until the position is filled.

## Position in Ancient Art History and Archaeology [Middle East]

The Department of Art and Archaeology at Princeton University invites applications for a tenure track position at the rank of Assistant Professor in the art history and archaeology of the ancient world. The position is conceived as a complement to Princeton's strengths in the areas of (mainland) Greece, the Roman and the Islamic worlds. Candidates will be considered who are specialists in the art and/or archaeology of Egypt, the Levant/Anatolia, Iraq/Iran, Central Asia, or the Gulf Region; expertise should lie chronologically between the 4th century BCE and the 6th century CE, i.e. between the death of Alexander and the end of the Sasanian empire. A scholarly focus on the diffusion of the Hellenistic koiné in its visual and material forms, and an interest in cultural inter-relations (responses, negotiations, resistances) between the Graeco-roman world and those ancient cultures that lay beyond the Mediterranean littoral, are considered priorities.

For further details and for information about the post and for guidance about the application process please visit: <http://www.princeton.edu/jobs>

## **VACANCY**

### **The Museum of Islamic Art, Doha – Qatar**

**Location: Doha- Qatar**

**Deadline: 17 December 2010**

Paper Conservator

The Museum of Islamic Art, Doha – Qatar is now seeking a full-time paper conservator to work as part of the Museum's Collection Division. Conservators report directly to the Manager of Conservation and will be part of a small, highly motivated team dedicated to preserving and promoting the Museum's collections. The work will include assessing, conserving and caring for the collections both on display and in store. You will be part of an interdisciplinary team of conservators and will be expected to help in other areas of the department.

The post is full-time, based in Doha, and attracts a competitive salary and benefits package.

### **Requirements:**

- A recognized degree in conservation and a minimum of 2 years work experience of Middle Eastern/Islamic works on paper and parchment.
- Experience in mount cutting, enclosure making and re-storage essential.
- A good knowledge of monitoring and controlling the environment in which collections are stored or displayed.
- Must be computer literate and have a working knowledge of File maker Pro or similar databases.
- Familiarity with condition surveys with the ability to undertake same

- Ability to work within a team, be flexible and also self motivated.
- Fluent in English, knowledge of Arabic would be an advantage
- Excellent communication skills and written skills

Send your C.V to [miaadmin@qma.com.qa](mailto:miaadmin@qma.com.qa) please include a covering letter, a full CV and the names of two referees.

## **VACANCY**

### **Islamic Art and Architecture, Tufts University**

**Location: Medford - USA**

**Deadline:** December 1 or until the position is filled.

Assistant Professor, tenure track, Islamic Art and Architecture, Tufts

Assistant Professor, tenure-track, Islamic Art and Architecture. To teach and advise undergraduates, Masters in Art History, and Masters of Fine Arts students; beginning fall semester 2011. Focus upon Islamic art and architecture, 7th-15th centuries.

Submit a cover letter, C.V., three letters of recommendation, teaching materials, and writing samples to Daniel Abramson, Islamic Search Committee Chair, Department of Art and Art History, Tufts University, 11 Talbot Avenue, Medford, MA 02155.

**Email:** [peter.probst@tufts.edu](mailto:peter.probst@tufts.edu)

## **SEMINAR**

### **Research Seminars in Islamic Art**

You are all welcome to the first two Research Seminars in Islamic Art of the academic session at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London:

**Location:** London, SOAS

**Date:** Thursday 25th November 2010

5.30pm in Room B111 (Brunei Building)

For further details and for information please visit:

<http://www.soas.ac.uk/art/events/ressemislamicart/?showprevious=1>

## **PUBLICATION ANNOUNCEMENT**

Textiles of the Islamic World by John Gillow, Thames and Hudson, October 2010

ISBN 978 0 500 515273

This book surveys the astonishing array of textiles made, worn, used and displayed throughout the Islamic World, from the glorious fabrics of the past to those still being produced today. Hundreds of illustrations feature examples from around the globe, including embroidered Persian prayer cloths, Anatolian ikat coats, Ottoman knitted purses, Caucasian striped silk bags, Berber women's shawls, Yemeni indigo robes, and much else besides.

Region-by-region coverage offers concise details of local history, particular textile traditions, materials, dyes, special forms of decoration and information on current practice. Also explored is the fascinating fusion promoted by the merchants, missionaries, migrants, and conquerors who travelled the world promulgating Islam and trading textiles widely. Specially taken colour photographs, portraits of weavers and dyers at work, and rare historical material complete this remarkable visual panorama, which provides a wealth of information and will be invaluable to anyone interested in the rich art of textiles, costume or craft.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT:**

The Museum of Islamic Art, Cairo is officially open to the public once again.

## **LECTURE:**

The New York Chapter of the Guild of Book Workers and BCNYC (Book Conservators of New York City) present:

Islamic Bindings: A Conservator's Perspective on Form and Function, an illustrated Lecture by Katherine Beaty

**Location:** The Metropolitan Museum of Art  
1000 Fifth Avenue at 82nd Street\*  
New York, New York 10028

**Date:** Thursday, December 2nd, 2010, 4:00 – 5:00 PM (reception following)

Space is limited, please RSVP: [jae.carey@metmuseum.org](mailto:jae.carey@metmuseum.org); 212-650-2891

Katherine Beaty, rare book conservator at Harvard College Library, will describe the fundamentals of Islamic bookbinding structure and discuss the conservation challenges posed by these unique materials. Katherine will draw upon examples from Harvard University's recent Islamic Heritage Digitization Project and collections from the Library of Congress.

This lecture is being held in conjunction with the New York Chapter of the Guild of Book Workers' workshop on Islamic Bookbinding, taught by Katherine on December 3-5th, 2010. For workshop information, please go to <http://www.gbwny.org/news/announcement/> or call Erin Albritton at 212-822-7364.

Please find directions to The Metropolitan Museum of Art here:  
[http://www.metmuseum.org/visit/general\\_information/#directions](http://www.metmuseum.org/visit/general_information/#directions)