

NEWSLETTER

BAHAGIAN III

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The front cover of this quarter's newsletter is a painting of the Ottoman Sultan Bayezid I (r. 1389 -1402) produced in Italy circa 1580, inspired by the school of Veronese, now part of the IAMM collection. Also known as Yildirim ('the Thunderbolt'), Sultan Bayezid is depicted in three-quarter view, wearing a large turban and richly embroidered cloak. Portraits of Ottoman sultans were used as diplomatic gifts, but were also a means of documenting Ottoman genealogies.

The third quarter of the year is, as usual, full of new and interesting activities such as International Museum Day 2017 and exhibitions at the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia. After the successful launch of the exhibition "Fann al-Tajlid: The Art of Bookbinding" in May, a series of activities is being prepared to cover important aspects of the history, art and skills associated with Islamic bookbinding. In-depth examination of the structure of Islamic manuscripts and their bindings will be the topic of the forthcoming talk and workshop conducted by Dr Karin Scheper, a specialist and author in the field. The Islamic bookbinding exhibition is accompanied by an outstanding, fully researched publication of 200 pages with coloured photographs, illustrations and close ups, now available at the IAMM Museum Shop.

This year, IAMM organised the International Photography Competition 2017, with the theme "Spiritual Journey: Islamic Culture and Heritage of Southeast Asia". Fifty outstanding photographs reflecting the inspirational contributions of young and experienced photographers were shortlisted. They will be on display at the Open Space Gallery in July. During the launch, three winning photographs will be announced and honoured. The Open Space Gallery is dedicated to photographic exhibitions, and in the fourth quarter it is preparing for an important eye-opening exhibition titled "The Risk of Forever Being Lost: Destruction of Cultural History". This display looks at cultural heritage sites as they are affected in times of war and unrest.

This quarter fall between the two feasts of Islam; Aidilfitri (End of June) and Aidiladha (Beginning of September). May I wish all the Muslim community in Malaysia and around the world very blessed feasts and wish us all peace, tranquillity and blessings.

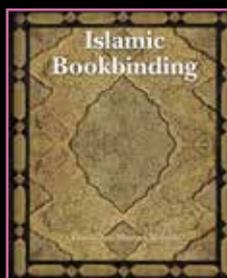
Syed Mohamad Albukhary

UPCOMING EVENTS 2017

8 MAY - 31 DECEMBER 2017

8 MAY - 3 DEC 2017

Exhibition:
"Fann al-Tajlid: The Art of Bookbinding".
Special Gallery 1



24 - 28 JULY 2017

Workshop:
'Islamic Bookbinding: Understanding Book Structures And Bindings Of Islamic Manuscripts' by Dr. Karin Scheper

29 JULY 2017

Talk:
'Islamic Bookbinding' by Dr. Karin Scheper

26 AUG 2017

Workshop :
'French Stitch Bookbinding' by Education Department

8 - 10 SEPT 2017

Workshop:
'Islamic Illumination' by Azma Salman

5 OCT 2017

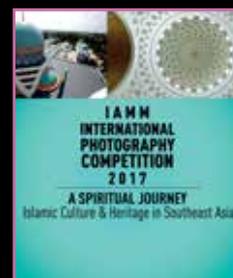
Workshop:
'Bookbinding 101' by Conservation Centre

9 DEC 2017

Workshop:
'Parent & Child Bookbinding' by Education Department

JULY - OCTOBER 2017

Photography Exhibition:
"Spiritual Journey: Islamic Culture and Heritage of Southeast Asia"
Open Space Gallery



NOV 2017 - FEB 2018



Photography exhibition:
"The Risk of Forever Being Lost: Destruction of Cultural History". Open Space Gallery

NOV 2017 - MARCH 2018

Exhibition:
"Faith Fashion Fusion Women's Style in Australia".
Special Gallery 1



Front cover is a painting of the fourth Ottoman Sultan, Sultan Bayezid I (r. 1389-1402 AD), by the school of Veronese, Italy, circa 1580. Collection of Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia.

IAMM STEPS INTO EUROPE: *MoU with the Musée National des Arts Asiatiques-Guimet*



The President of the Guimet Museum, Sophie Makariou and IAMM's Head of Curatorial Affairs Department, Dr. Heba Nayel Barakat upon signing the MoU between both institutions.

On 28 March 2017 there was a landmark event in IAMM's development with the signing of a two-year memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Paris-based Guimet Museum, also known as the Musée National des Arts Asiatiques-Guimet. The ceremony was witnessed by the former French President, François Hollande, who was on his first state visit to the Asian region. The signing was represented by Sophie Makariou, the President of the Guimet Museum, and Dr Heba Nayel Barakat, IAMM's

Head of the Curatorial Affairs Department. The MoU marked the collaborative efforts between both institutions, especially in organising an exhibition on the Malay world for an audience in France. The exhibition intends to showcase IAMM's most significant holdings that represent the exquisite Islamic arts of the Malay world, with such widely admired genres as songket and keris. The Guimet Museum aims to increase the institution's international visibility by strengthening the relationship between France and Asia, in addition to being the custodian of artefacts from ancient Egypt, classical antiquity and Asia. The partnership supports many related efforts financially as well as helping to broaden European understanding of Malay culture. The MoU signing is another institutional collaboration that IAMM has achieved beyond borders.



François Hollande, the former French President marking his presence in the IAMM's VVIP Guest Book.

VISIT BY THE FRENCH PRESIDENT

IAMM was honoured to welcome the visit by former French President François Hollande, who was also travelled to Singapore and Jakarta. During the thirty-minute visit, he toured the Architecture, Quran and Manuscripts, India, China and Malay World galleries, guided by Dr Heba Nayel Barakat, IAMM's. He also witnessed the MoU signing ceremony between the President of the Guimet Museum in Paris and IAMM. Hollande was accompanied by ministers, members of parliament, officials, as well as a business delegation. He was the second French President to visit Malaysia after President Jacques Chirac's visit in July 2003. His visit to Malaysia also coincides with the 60th anniversary of diplomatic ties between Malaysia and France.



Hollande astonished by the intricacy of IAMM's artefact in one of its galleries.



The guests were given a guided tour by Dr. Heba Nayel Barakat, highlighting IAMM's masterpieces.



IAMM

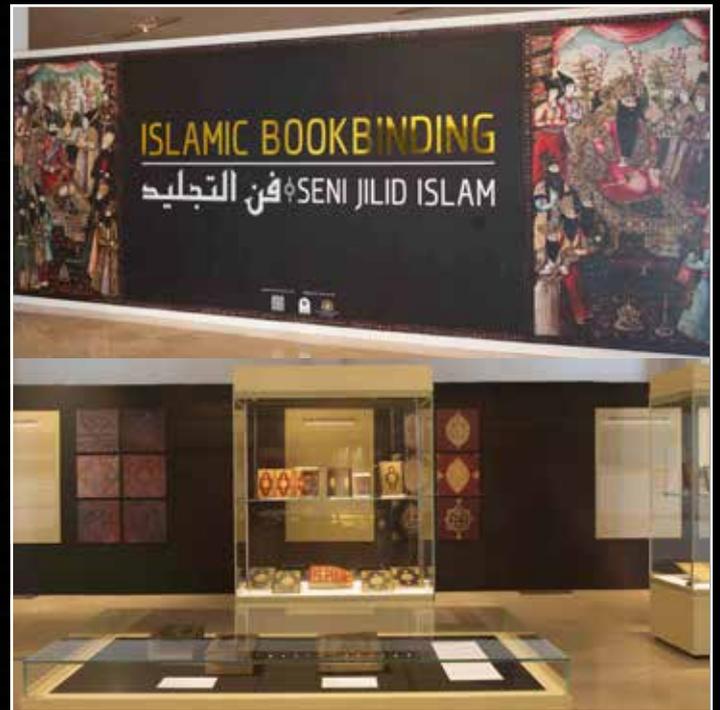
HIGHLIGHTS

THE OPENING OF ISLAMIC BOOKBINDING EXHIBITION

The Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia opened its latest exhibition to the public on 8 May 2017 with the subject of Islamic bookbinding. The exhibition showcases over 70 artefacts that comprehensively portray the beauty and diversity of bookbindings from around the Islamic world. At the exhibition visitors will discover a very wide variety of bookbindings, one of the many great accomplishments of the Islamic world.

The cover materials range from leather to lacquerwork and textiles, in addition to other decorative media such as metal and precious gems. Some of these manuscripts also come with additional housings such as a box, pouch or slipcase. Moreover, the art of bookbinding was not only committed to refining the design of the covers but also focused on other constituent elements such as the doublure (inner cover) and the flap, which is a feature associated specifically with Islamic bindings.

This exhibition is open to the public in Special Gallery 2 until 31 December 2017.



IAMM's latest exhibition on Islamic Bookbinding was officially opened on 8th May 2017.

THE LAUNCHING OF "THE TATARS – MUSLIMS IN THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND"



His Excellency Marcin Kubiak accompanied by Rekha Verma, IAMM's Head of Collections and Exhibition Manager to "The Tatars" Exhibition.

In April, IAMM with the collaboration of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Kuala Lumpur launched "The Tatars: Muslims in the Republic of Poland". H.E. Marcin Kubiak, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland performed the ribbon-cutting ceremony to officially open the exhibition to visitors on 11 April 2017. The special talk "Islam & Relationship with the Muslim Lands in Poland" by Professor Ataulah Bogdan Kopanski in conjunction with the launching was well attended by the public.

IAMM INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2017: Thanks for the submissions



"Spiritual Journey: Islamic Culture and Heritage of Southern Asia"

Attached image by Tong Eng Chun from Malaysia

IAMM International Photography Competition 2017 with a theme "A Spiritual Journey: Islamic Culture & Heritage in Southeast Asia" has successfully ended on the 31st of May 2017. It has attracted 124 photographers, from different background and nationalities that provided inspiring images of Islam in Southeast Asia. 50 selected photographs will be displayed in a photography exhibition that will be held in our Open Space Gallery where the three Grand Prize winners will be announced during the exhibition period.



INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY 2017:

*“Museums and contested histories:
Saying the unspeakable in the museum”*



On 18 May 2017, IAMM celebrated the annual International Museum Day. Following this year's theme: “Museum and Contested Histories: Saying the Unspeakable in the Museum”, IAMM staff donned traditional costumes of diverse Muslim cultures from all over the world. These included traditional Malay attire with headdress, the whirling Dervish robes, Ottoman royal dresses and many more. This was a part of our special role-playing game “Lost Artefacts Quest” that encouraged visitors to explore our museum and look for selected artefacts to understand their history better.

The celebration took place under the Inverted Dome pavilion, Open Space gallery and Education workshops. All departments at IAMM participated by offering various activities at

their respective booths. IAMM also invited as this year's exhibitors: the National Association of Islamic Calligraphy or Persatuan Seni Khat Kebangsaan; Nor Azhar Ishak, an author, illustrator and Batik Painter; Shuhada Hasim, a professional photographer and a consultant; Illy Muzliza, an artist of ‘Oh So Muslim’; The Baydouns of Damascene Art, a family of Syrian experts on the lost Ajami arts; and Rami Alfandi, a Syrian archaeologist. Each of these participants contributed their knowledge and expertise through workshops, live demonstration, consultation and talks on the same day.

IAMM's celebration of International Museum Day received an overwhelming attendance, with about 1,000 visitors excluding walk-ins.



WORKSHOP AND TALK ON ISLAMIC BOOKBINDING

by Dr Karin Scheper

In conjunction with the Islamic Bookbinding exhibition, IAMM is organising a five-day workshop on “Islamic Bookbinding: Understanding book structures and bindings of Islamic Manuscripts from 24th until 28th of July 2017 followed by a talk on the same topic on 29th July.

The aim of programme is to teach participants how manuscripts were bound in the Islamic world, focusing on the predominant structure but also explaining region-specific characteristics and varieties, and the strengths and functionality of this bookbinding method.

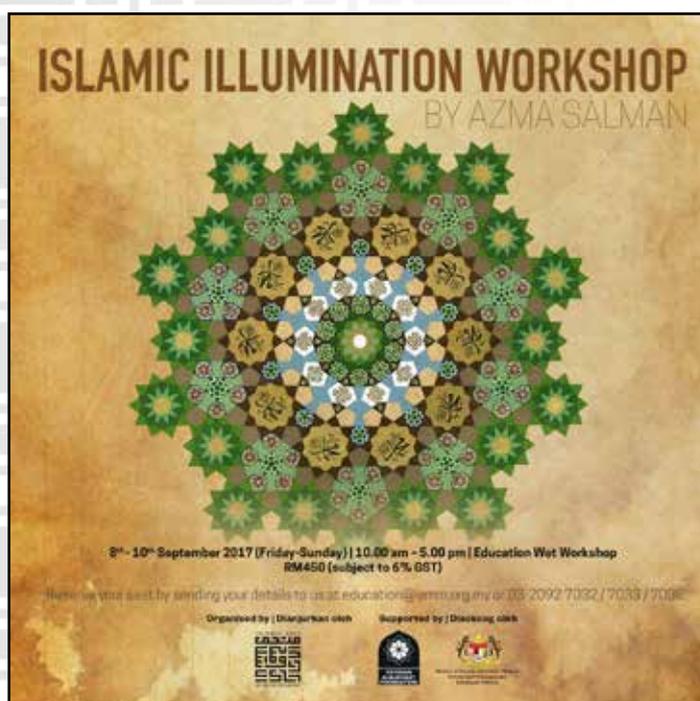
The workshop will consist of both theoretical and practical components. Participants will be guided to make a model of a bound manuscript, allowing them to practice original techniques of sewing, endbanding and covering a text block.

Dr. Karin Scheper, is the head of the Conservation department at the University Library Leiden since 2000. Her book, *The Technique of Islamic Bookbinding* (Brill 2015), won her the 2017 De la Court – award of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW).



ISLAMIC ILLUMINATION WORKSHOP

by Azma Salman



In conjunction with the Islamic Bookbinding exhibition, IAMM will be organizing a workshop on Islamic Illumination. Students of arts, calligraphers and those who have passion in this form of art are welcomed to join.

The workshop will be guided by Azma Salman, an expert artist in illumination or tazhib from Lahore. Interestingly, she received her training in this unique art in the manner of traditional and old-fashioned ijaza from the Masters such as Ayten Tiryaki, Nilofer Kurfez and Emel Turkman.

The workshop will be held for three days from 8th to 10th of September 2017, in which the participants will be taught the art of Turkish illumination and its history; how to prepare and apply gold leaf, drawing the motifs using various media, to produce an art piece and more. All of this for only RM 450 (subject to 6% GST) and registration can be made to the Education department.

PLATE



From Left:

1) **Dark Blue (Bird)** (42312) Plate, Iran c. 18th century AD

Inspired by a Safavid blue and white fritware with cobalt decorated dish depicting a pair of cranes in a Chinese landscape setting, which might have been taken from a Chinese prototype. Vessels such as these were popularised during the Safavid dynasty and were significantly influenced by the blue and white porcelains of the late Ming dynasty, China.

2) **Light Blue** (42315) Plate, Iznik, Turkey, 1535-1535 AD / 936-941 AH

Inspired by an Ottoman blue & white fritware dish painted in two shades of cobalt blue with a central rosette encircled by a band of linked rosettes and a large band of saz leaves and rosette within a cusped panel. The cavetto is adorned with alternating tulips and floral sprays.

3) **Beige (Duck)** (42316) Plate, Samarqand, Central Asia, 10 - 11th cent AD / 4th-5th century AH

Inspired by an earthenware dish with a wide out turned rim and a rib around the inner edge. Painted in dark manganese brown, ochre and red slip on a white ground with continuous frieze of kufic inscription around the rim. Bird motif at the inner centre of the dish.

4) **Orange** (32209H) Treasures of the World Exhibition, Porcelain Plate Dish LNS 1785 J, India, Mughal c. 1st quarter 17th century AD / c. 11th century AH Inspired by an Indian dish (The al-Sabah Collection, Dar al-Athar al-Islamiyyah, Kuwait)

5) **Dark Green** (42317) Replica of an earthenware dish, Bukhara, Uzbekistan 18th century AD / 12th century AH

6) **Light Green** (42314) Plate, Iznik, Turkey c. 1620 AD / 1029 AH

Inspired by an Ottoman fritware dish with reserve-painted white interlaced split palmettes with red and blue highlights against a green interior. The interior cavetto is similarly coloured with floral sprays and saz leaves and the exterior is adorned with simple alternating green and blue motifs.

7) **Beige – Floral** (42313), Plate, Iran NW, Kubachi, 17th century AD / 11th century AH

Inspired by an underglaze-painted fritware dish of deep circular form decorated in underglazed blue, red, green and ochre with black outlines in a motif of a central rosette enclosing floral and foliate motifs. The cavetto is adorned with a broad continuous band of interlocking foliate motifs.

Selling Price : **RM 127.20** | Discount 50% : **RM 63.60**

Discount while stock last.

Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia • Jalan Lembah Perdana • 50480 Kuala Lumpur • Malaysia