



DIRECTOR'S REMARKS

Assalamualaikum,

Welcome to the first issue of the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia's e-Newsletter.

We are pleased to introduce this e-newsletter as a communication tool to introduce IAMM to other museums, scholars and institutions involved in the world of Islamic Arts. Throughout the newsletter you will be introduced to key happenings at the museum, its latest exhibitions, publications, talks, new acquisitions and promotional items from our museum shop. We also are keen to introduce you to the upcoming events, and we look forward to your participation. We hope this will become a forum for the exchange of news and a platform for enthusiasts of Islamic Art. This newsletter is set to be produced on a quarterly basis, thus we encourage you to visit our website and download it.

Syed Mohamad Albukhary

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Lasting Impressions

Seals from the Islamic World



LAUNCHED BY HRH SULTAN SHARAFUDDIN IDRIS SHAH AL HAJ, THE SULTAN OF SELANGOR, on 27 September 2012, this exhibition is held in association with the British Library and the British Museum. Showcasing more than 80 seal matrices and manuscripts bearing seal impressions from the collection of the IAMM, the exhibition reveals the beauty and significance of the art of the seal in the Islamic world. To support the exhibition, the IAMM has also published a scholarly book authored by two renowned experts in the field, Dr Annabel Gallop of the British Library and Dr Venetia Porter of the British Museum. Lasting Impressions will be on display at Special Gallery 2 from 27 September 2012 to 27 January 2013.

Formation Of A Nation: A Photographic Flashback

THE EXHIBITION is held in celebration of Malaysia's 55th Merdeka and 49th Malaysia Day. It features 55 rarely-seen black and white photos from the collection of the National Archives of Malaysia. Accompanying the exhibition is a 132-page catalogue enhanced by quotes from all six of Malaysia's prime ministers. Formation of A Nation will be displayed in Special Gallery 1 from 29 August to 29 November 2012.





The story beyond the artefact

KITAB SIYAR-I NABI (SAW) In 1376 AD the Mamluk Sultan of Egypt and Syria celebrated his coming to power by commissioning the compilation and translation of the history of Prophet Muhammad (saw). Several sultans have attempted this work, yet their products were lacking elegance and accuracy. Sultan Barquq ordered the renowned Mustafa bin Yusuf bin Umar al Mevlevi al Erzerumi, known as al Dharir (the blind), to author the history of the Prophet known as Siyar -I Nabi (saw). He believed that when recalling the Prophet's encounters (siyar) every detail matters. The Mamluk sultan could not read Arabic and the translation was to be in Othmanli Turkish, the language of the ancestors of the Mamluk Sultans. Unfortunately Sultan Barquq died before the manuscript was completed, and the manuscript was completed only 12 years later.

Two hundred years later, in 1594-95, the celebrated text was copied by the royal scribe Mustafa bin Vali in Istanbul. The manuscript was a royal commission, where in every other page the scribe would leave space for a miniature, a small drawing illustrating the narrated encounter. The completed six volumes, depicting 814 miniatures, were presented to the Ottoman Sultan Murad II in 1595.

Today, the Topkapi Saray, the former Ottoman Sultan's palace and library has three of the six volumes. The other three found their way to the Public Library of New York, the Chester Beatty Library in Dublin and the last volume is still missing! The Chester Beatty volume on the other hand, was in the possession of an Ottoman Princess in the first quarter of the 20th century. She offered the manuscript for sale in Cairo, Egypt. The price was too high and the dealers suggested offering some detached folios for sale to private collectors. Among the collectors was Major R.G. Gayer-Anderson Pasha, who resided next to the mosque of Ibn Tulun in Cairo, Egypt and was an avid collector of art. Major Gayer-Anderson bought several folios (almost 53 folios), before Alfred Chester Beatty acquired the remainder of the volume (490 folios, 136 miniatures and the colophon).

The 53 folios of Gayer-Anderson were soon dispersed to different collectors and libraries around the world. Paris, Berlin, Copenhagen and Kuala Lumpur are just among the few cities that today are proud to have acquired folios of the manuscript.

New acquisitions



A Portrait of Timur
Delhi, India, 19th century AD



The Mughal Dynasty,
(Timur, Akbar And Humayun)
Deccan, India, 17th century AD



An Equestrian Portrait of
Ali Mardan Khan
Deccan, India, 18th century AD

Educational activities



LECTURE ON SEALS FROM THE ISLAMIC WORLD
Date: 28 SEPTEMBER 2012

The Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia organised a public lecture that brought together experts in the field - Dr. Annabelle Teh Gallop, Head of the Southeast Asia Section and Curator for Indonesian and Malay, British Library and Dr. Venetia Porter, Curator of Islamic and Modern Middle Eastern Art, British Museum.



TALK ON PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION OF PHOTOGRAPHS
Date: 14 SEPTEMBER 2012

In conjunction with the photography exhibition Formation of A Nation: A Photographic Flashback, which celebrates the 55th Merdeka Day, a public talk on evolution of the preservation of old photographs was held at Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia. The talk was given by Puan Nor Azlina Yahya, Archive Officer from the National Archives of Malaysia.

HIGHLIGHTS OF WINNERS FROM MALAYSIA'S NATIONAL CALLIGRAPHIC COMPETITIONS
Date: JULY - AUGUST 2012

The exhibition showcased a compilation of winners and finalists from Malaysia's National Calligraphic Competitions from 1999 to 2009. The art work ranges from paint on canvas to ceramics, depicting traditional and contemporary calligraphic styles.

News & events



VISIT BY HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS MAHA CHAKRI SIRINDHORN, PRINCESS OF THAILAND
Date: 24 JULY 2012



VISIT BY DATUK SERI MOHD ALI RUSTAM, MALACCA CHIEF MINISTER
Date: 10 JULY 2012



LAUNCH OF 'ANN DUNHAM'S LEGACY: A COLLECTION OF INDONESIAN BATIKS' BY DR. MAYA SOETORO-NG
Date: 8 JUNE 2012

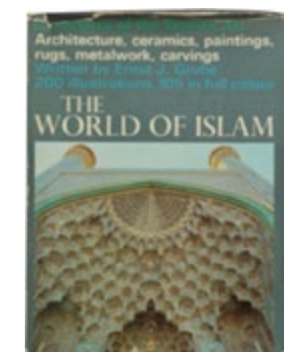
The exhibition showcased 20 batiks from the private collection of Ann Dunham, President Obama's mother. The launch of the exhibition, by Ann Dunham's daughter, Dr. Maya Soetoro-Ng, marked the first time that the collection was exhibited outside the United States.

Contemporary Islamic arts & artists



IAMM proudly unveils its first public sculpture by the renowned national artist, Syed Ahmad Jamal (1929 - 2011). The stainless steel sculpture, donated to the museum in 2011 is installed by the main entrance to the museum. Titled "A Gift", the sculpture is reflective of calligraphic strokes that spell out Allah.

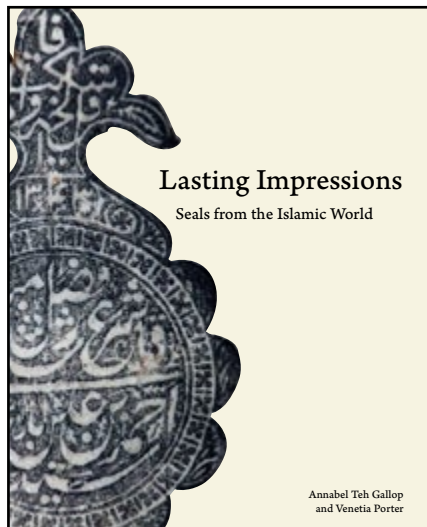
Scholar's Library & rare collection



TITLE: THE WORLD IN ISLAM
AUTHOR: ERNAST J. GRUBE
IMPRINT: LONDON: PAUL HAMLYN LIMITED, 1966

In his enthralling survey of the history and art of the divergent peoples which composed an empire, Dr Grube shows us with the aid of 200 magnificently-illustrations, the richness and variety of Islamic art. This magnificently illustrated book shows us not only the range, but also the amazing skill and virtuosity of the Islamic artist. Source: Adapted from the preface.

Publication highlights



LASTING IMPRESSIONS: SEALS FROM THE ISLAMIC WORLD

Authored by Dr Annabel Teh Gallop, Head of the Southeast Asia Section and Curator for Indonesian and Malay, British Library and Dr Venetia Porter, Curator of Islamic and Modern Middle Eastern Art, British Museum, the catalogue presents more than 300 Islamic seals dating from the earliest days of Islam through to the modern era. The 199-page catalogue published by the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia contains collections of seal matrices made of stone and metal, and impressions stamped on manuscript documents and books from the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia, the British Library and the British Museum.

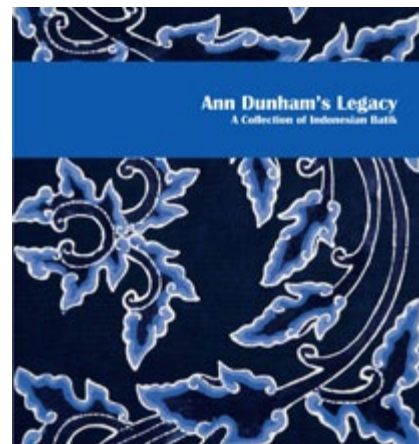
ISBN: 97898344696



FORMATION OF A NATION: A PHOTOGRAPHIC FLASHBACK

The catalogue features 72 rarely-seen black and white photos compiled by the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia from the collection of the National Archives of Malaysia. These photos highlight the history of Malaysia's formation and exemplify the symbolism contained in the flag of Malaysia.

ISBN: 9789834469689



ANN DUNHAM'S LEGACY: A COLLECTION OF INDONESIAN BATIK

An exquisite 112-page exhibition catalogue in full colour and hard cover. The catalogue focuses on the life and work of Ann Dunham; explores the history of batik, its motifs and patterns, as well as how it is made, worn and collected.

ISBN: 97898344672

Great selections @Museum Shop



A collection of notebooks with illuminated pages selected from the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia's manuscript collection. Selling at RM9.00



Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia
Jalan Lembah Perdana
50480 Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia
Tel: 603 2274 2020
Fax: 603 2274 0529
Email: info@iamm.org.my
www.iamm.org.my