



Newsletter

Of Ibn Sina Academy

Vol. 3 Number 2; April - June 2003

ISSN No. 0972-6411

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. (Hkm) Syed Zillur Rahman

Editor

Prof. S. M. Razaullah Ansari

Associate Editor

Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman

Editorial Board

Prof. Ather H. Siddiqi (Aligarh)

Prof. (Hkm) Abdul Hannan (Karachi)

Dr. Amulya Kumar Bag (New Delhi)

Dr. Abdel Nasser Kaadan (Aleppo)

Dr. Mohammad Bagheri (Tehran)

Dr. Rashid Bhikha (Johannesburg)

Designing & Composing

S. Majid Hasan Zaidi



Function to welcome the delegation of Iranian Scholars & Inauguration of New Hall at Ibn Sina Academy

Ibn Sina Academy organized a programme to welcome the delegation of Iranian Scholars and to inaugurate a new hall at Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences on January 21, 2003 at 12:30 p.m.

Dr. Syed Mahmud Marashi (Director, Al Marashi Library (Qum, Iran) graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while, Mr. Naseem Ahmad (Vice Chancellor, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh) presided over the function. Prof. Ather Siddiqi conducted the proceedings. The president of the Academy, Prof. S. Zillur Rahman delivered his 'Welcome Address', followed by the address of the chief guest. The function was organized with the cordial assistance and cooperation of Dr. Mehdi Khaja Piri (Director, Noor Micro-Film Centre, Iran-India, New Delhi). At the end of the function, the vice-chancellor released a book of Dr. S. Tasawwer Husain. Finally Prof. S.M.R. Ansari moved a vote of thanks.



Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences

ALIGARH, INDIA

IAMMS ACTIVITIES

Excerpts of few of the remarks made at the time of inaugural function of new hall of Ibn Sina Academy

"Many thanks for inviting me for the occasion. I wish I could attend but due to previous engagements I am unable to come. Best wishes and congratulations" (Dr. Hasan Beg, ENT Consultant, UK)

"Please convey my heartfelt congratulations to Hakim Zillur Rahman Saheb and other members of the Ibn Sina Academy on this occasion" (Dr. Shahid Jameel, New Delhi)

"I am glad to know the project of yours _____. It is great achievement in this era of Western medicine. Please convey my congratulations to Dr. Zillur Rahman on the opening and inauguration of this new hall" (Dr. Ebad Ansari, UAE)

"Received your message regarding the inauguration of the new hall at Ibn Sina Academy and congratulate you for the same. After coming back from India about two weeks ago I have become so busy in translating the book, Which has already been delayed that I could not write to you or any one else. I take a chance here to thank you and all the members of your family for the hospitality and love extended to my family members and me. Please convey my salam to every member of your kind family. (S.A.Q. Hashemi, Tehran).

Excerpts from Correspondence

"It was really nice to hear about the Ibn Sina Academy. In fact, I have given here at least two lectures on Ibn Sina and his remarkable contribution to the field of medicine. This great philosopher is known as the PRINCE and PHYSICIANS. He is my most proud and ideal scientist. Thanks" (Dr. Rozul Haq, Reyadh).

Dr. Rozul Haq's Reply

The Ibn Sina's Reply:

As fewsletterSina, may I inform you that in this short communication of the Academy, we are doing these short communications on topics these and history of science and medicine? original, these contributions should also be original, that is, they should be based

on primary sources, rather than on secondary. May I therefore suggest you to compile a short bibliography of manuscript-sources on Ibn Sina, which are available in the libraries/collections of Saudi Arabia. I presume that you are working somewhere there. I can suggest you some other original topics as well.

For my own interest, may I know whether you can read and understand Arabic now? Or in your work, you consult only English writings on Ibn Sina".

Guest lecture

A guest lecture by Dr. Abidullah Ghazi (Director, Iqra International Educational Foundation, Chicago, USA) was arranged on January 8, 2003 at Ibn Sina Academy. The topic of his lecture was "Islamic Education in the Context of 11th September, 2001".

Individual Activities of Members of IAMMS

Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman attended the International Conference of Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR) during March 28-April 2, 2003 at New Delhi.

Prof. S. M. Razaullah Ansari was invited to the International Seminar on Science, Technology and Society, held during January 29-31, 2003, and organized by the Department of History, Panjab University, Chandigarh (India); Chairperson of the organizing committee was Prof. Ms. Kamlesh Mohan (Chairperson of the History Department). Prof. Ansari delivered his oral presentation with the title: "Hindu Scholars' Writings in Indo-Persian and Assessment of their Contribution to Medieval Indian Science". He chaired also the session VII: "Responses to Technology", on January 31, 2003. A report of this important Seminar will be published in the subsequent issue of this Newsletter.

Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman has been selected for membership of International Society of Neurochemistry with effect from January 13, 2003. He was also awarded WHO Fellowship to attend WHO "Second Asian Course on Problem-Based Pharmacotherapy Teaching" held at Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) during March 6-15, 2003. He has been elected as Editor of Indian Journal of Pharmacovigilance (which is an official journal of the Society of Pharmacovigilance, India), during its General Body Meeting on 1-3, 2003. Dr. Rahman also attended the

2nd Annual Conference of Society of Pharmacovigilance, (India) at Patel Chest Institute, University of Delhi, (New Delhi), held during March 1-2, 2003; 20th Annual Conference of Indian Academy of Neurosciences, Udaipur (Rajasthan), during February 21-23, 2003.

OTHER NEWS ITEMS

NEW PUBLICATION

Newsletters & Journals

History of Oriental Astronomy (Proceedings of the IAU Joint Discussion-17, held in Kyoto (Japan), August 25-26, 1997), Astrophysics and Space Science Library, Vol. 274, Kluwer Academic Publisher, Dordrecht (The Netherlands), 2002. Ed. Ansari, S.M. Razaullah, IAU stands for International Astronomical Union, the General Assembly of which is held every three years. Prof. Ansari organized this Discussion (a sort of conference) at the 23rd IAU General Assembly.

The 2-day discussion was organized in five sessions for oral presentations and a poster session. The talks were scheduled and distributed under two broad themes: 1. Oriental Astronomy during the Ancient and Medieval period, and 2. Modern Astronomy in the Orient. The former covered Chinese, Indian, Islamic, Japanese and Korean traditional astronomy. The second theme was devoted to the transmission of European astronomy into Non-European countries and also to the modern astronomy as carried out presently in these countries. The book consists of 19 contributions with the following break-up: On the East Asian (Chinese, Japanese and Korean) indigenous astronomy four presentations; four additional contributions along with two talks on the transmission of European astronomy, on Ancient Indian astronomy two talks along with two modern astronomy in India; two talks on the transmission of Islamic astronomy in China and three presentations on modern European astronomy.

Storia del Mondo (ISSN 1721-0216) is the scientific electronic journal, published periodically by Drengo with the collaboration of Medioevo Italiano Project. The journal is issued every two weeks and examines historical events that have important worldwide relevance. Special attention will be paid to Italian history: ancient, medieval, renaissance and modern history. Minority and town history are preferred topics for contemporary historical issues. The periodical includes

a by-weekly appointment (Monday Night History) and includes in-depth contributions in text format-HTML. Its supplement is *Rassegna Storica* (online) New Series, continuation of the first historical e-journal (2000-01). It explores important scholarly historical studies, written in several languages and published as PDF files. For further information visit <http://www.storiadelmondo.com/submit.htm>.

The editorial board in Rome comprises university scholars, who will be assisted by an international team of freelance reporters, collaborating via the Internet. A Steering Committee of international university researchers and professors has been formed. For details contact, Storiadelmondo, History and Humanities, Editorial Board, Rome, Italy. Website: <http://www.storiadelmondo.com>

Volumes on Indian Philosophy, Science and Culture

The ambitious project of the History of Indian Science, Philosophy and Culture undertaken by the government will be completed by 2010. This was announced by HRD Minister Dr Murli Manohar Joshi while speaking at the inauguration International Conference of Indian Council of Philosophical Research. In terms of size and scope this project is the biggest project ever to document the story of the evolution of Indian Philosophy, history of science and culture. It will comprise 77 volumes.

A 10-volume project was conceived in 1981 but work on it began only in 1991. Till to-date, 27 volumes have been published. This project has now been extended by the HRD Ministry. It would be an unprecedented project with many unique features. It seeks to represent critically the cultural ideas and values as they emerged in the historical course of Indian civilization. The project will focus on capturing the past of India and understanding the spirit of the trends of the present.

The project was the brainchild of D.P. Chattopadhyay, a scholar of Indian philosophy. The historical compendium on China's scientific and spiritual heritage by the British scholar Joseph Needham served as his model. But this project is larger than Needham's *Science and Civilization of China*. The entire project is divided into 10 basic 'complexes' to tell the story of the development of Indian philosophy

from the earliest stages of Indian civilization. (Courtesy: Hindustan Times, March 31, 2003, p. 8)

WEBSITES / CD ROMS

Online Anatomy Plates of Pietro da Cortona
The Hardin Library for the Health Sciences at the University of Iowa has recently completed a project that allows a series of early 17th century anatomical images to be viewed via the Web. Pietro da Cortona, a noted Italian painter and architect of the high baroque renaissance fashioned a superb series of 27 drawings around 1618 that were later expertly engraved by Luca Ciamberlano. The plates lay unpublished for more than a century until assembled into an atlas and printed in 1741 as *Tabulae Anatomicae*. The John Martin Rare Book Room at the Hardin Library for the Health Sciences owns a well-preserved copy of the work and recently the images were scanned at high resolution by staff members of the Information Commons for placement on the World Wide Web.

The images can be viewed in varying degrees of magnification so that the viewer can gain an appreciation of the close-up beauty and artistry of the original drawings. The new offering is the second of a series of images to be mounted in this fashion, the first being the magnificent color lithographs of Mascagni's *Anatomia Universa*. The web site was designed and developed by Christy Stevens, an Information Commons Graduate Assistant studying Library and Information Science at the University of Iowa. Other contributors to the development of the site include Ed Holtum (Head of the John Martin Rare Book Room); Scott Fiddelke (Digital Media Project Manager) and Jim Duncan (Coordinator, Information Commons & Electronic Services). The website is at: <http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/hardin/rbr/imaging/cortona/>

Online Translation of Book I of Vesalius' Fabrica

D.Garrison & M.Hast's annotated translation of both the 1543 and 1555 editions of Book I of Vesalius' *De Humani Corporis Fabrica* have been released on the website. Some time this year, Book II is expected to be added in the same website. The printed (non-electronic) version, in several volumes, will be published when all seven

books of the Fabrica have been translated. To access this website, go to: <http://vesalius.northwestern.edu>. Or contact: Malcolm Hast, Malcolm Howard Hast, Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Otolaryngology - Head & Neck Surgery, Northwestern University, The Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago IL 60611-3008

CD ROM on Oral Histories - A Pictorial History of Dentistry told through the BDA Museum Collections

Where does the word "dentist" come from? How has dentistry changed over time? What did the earliest dental tools look like? The British Dental Association Museum has produced a CD-ROM Oral Histories, which tells the story of how dentistry developed in Great Britain, and is illustrated with over 150 images from the BDA Museum image library. The images in Oral Histories record changes in dental treatments from early market-place extractions, to the complex technological procedures available today, and include the personalities and inventions who made these changes possible.

Oral Histories are divided into 5 sections. Each is dedicated to an important period in British dental history, and includes the providers of dental treatment and their patients, and the tools of the trade as illustrated through photographs, drawings, paintings, prints and advertisements held in the BDA Museum collections. It can be purchased online at the BDA Shop (www.bdashop.com), by e-mail bdashop@bda-dentistry.org.uk

For enquiries contact: Roxanne Fea, British Dental Association Museum, 64 Wimpole Street, London W1G 8YS, England. E-mail: r.fea@bda-dentistry.org.uk

Exhibition on Sir Bernard Spilsbury

Sir Bernard Spilsbury (1877-1947) is widely recognized as the greatest medical detective of all time and one of the founders of modern forensic medicine. His life and work is the focus of a new exhibition at the Art Gallery & Museum in the Royal Pump Rooms, Royal Leamington Spa.

The exhibition will include the original evidence from some of the trials that Spilsbury worked on, including the 'Blazing car murder', some of the index cards he completed to keep a record of his post mortems and a

scrapbook about the trial of Dr Crippen that was compiled by Charles Belcher, the Scotland Yard Inspector who investigated the case. It will also look at the development of forensic science with modern scene of crime material.

The forensic pathologist is a common figure in modern detective drama and fiction and forensic science is an invaluable crime-fighting tool. 100 years ago, when Sir Bernard Spilsbury was at St Mary's medical school specializing in pathology, police did not even wear gloves at a crime scene and the pathologist's evidence was not as respected as it is today.

Spilsbury's evidence was the deciding factor in some of the most sensational trials of the early 20th century, including the Crippen trial in 1910. This was the first time a microscope had been used in court, allowing jurors to examine slides of scar tissue that identified the murdered body to be that of Dr Crippen's wife. Spilsbury rose to fame as pathologist to the Home Office and became a household name due to numerous murder cases that hit the headlines between 1910 and 1947; (he was even featured on an ice cream card!). In his career he carried out over 25,000 post mortems.

Spilsbury's other important contribution was the creation of the 'murder bag'. He was horrified to see detectives touching human remains with their bare hands and encouraged the introduction of gloves, bags tweezers and test tubes. This idea is still used today to ensure that crucial evidence is preserved at a crime scene.

For further information, contact Nicky Tibbitts, Curatorial Officer (Social History) on 01926 742703 ntibbitts@warwickdc.gov.uk or Sara Dewsbery on 01926 742709 sdewsbery@warwickdc.gov.uk

Courtesy: Art Gallery & Museum, Royal Pump Rooms, The Parade, Royal Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV32 4AA.

CONGRESSES/ CONFERENCES HELD

Report of The Conference/Seminars

2nd Annual Conference of Society of Pharmacovigilance, India
The Second National Conference of Society

of Pharmacovigilance, India, was held under the presidency of Prof. K. C. Singhal at Ballabhbai Patel Chest Institute (VPCI), University of Delhi, Delhi, during March 1-2, 2003. The organizing secretary was Dr. Arunabh Ray, Professor and Chairman, Department of Pharmacology, Patel Chest Institute, Delhi.

In 1998, an idea was generated during the International Workshop on "Adverse Drug Reaction Monitoring" to establish Pharmacovigilance as a distinct and influential clinical discipline in India. To materialize this idea, a meeting of interested scientists took place at Lucknow at the time of the annual conference of Indian Pharmacological Society. Some decisions were taken at the meeting and as a follow-up action an application to that effect was submitted under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860. Prof. K. C. Singhal (Aligarh) drafted the Memorandum of Association for the Society of Pharmacovigilance, India (SOPI). The first meeting of the Society was held in Agra. At present, SOPI is the only single National Society in the entire world and is associated with the International Society of Pharmacovigilance (earlier European Society for Pharmacovigilance). In addition to the office bearers and executive members, the Society comprises of 160 life-members.

In spite of the fact that Pharmacovigilance is a new discipline in India, around 62 participants registered themselves for the 2nd Annual Conference as delegates, including 4 foreign delegates. The Inaugural Session was started with the Welcome Address by Dr. V. K. Vijayan (Director, VPCI) followed by the Presidential Address by Prof. K. C. Singhal. The chief guest Prof. Ralph Edwards (Director, WHO Collaborating Centre for ADR Monitoring, Uppsala, Sweden) delivered the Inaugural Address, while Prof. P. N. Srivastava (Chairman, Governing Body, VPCI) released a souvenir. The Keynote Address was given by Prof. S. D. Seth (ICMR Chair, Clinical Pharmacology) and at the end Prof. A. Ray presented the Vote of Thanks.

The President of the Society, Prof. K. C. Singhal, in his presidential address emphasized on the need of concerted efforts for organized activities of Pharmacovigilance which is the need of the day. Monitoring is required for adverse drug reactions (ADR), medical devices, drug abuse, counterfeit drugs and

for medical errors. He informed that 85,000 pharmaceutical formulations in India pose even greater problem in monitoring ADR. A large number of drugs available in the market are unethical and are being promoted by the industry and drug control regulators. Prescription drugs are available without prescription, resulting in drug-induced reactions. He emphasized the need to dissociate the hazards caused due to medical negligence and to revamp laws and judicial panel for alleged negligence against physicians. Prof. S. D. Seth emphasized that ADR Monitoring Center and Poison Centres should jointly be established in every medical institution and the findings and observations be published in newsletters and journals. Prof. Edwards emphasized the need for rational drug therapy, approaching poor population for providing effective medical care, conducting research and publicizing the findings regarding the usefulness of Traditional and Complementary Medicines in comparison with drugs of Modern Systems of Medicine.

The deliberations of the conference were organized in nine sessions. It brought together officials from national governments and International organizations like WHO Collaborating Centre for ADR Monitoring, academia, research institutes, public health and private pharmaceutical industries and others to discuss possible mechanisms for global cooperation in raising the importance of Pharmacovigilance, and increasing the transparency of such efforts, as well as fulfilling global obligations to facilitate technology transfer. During the meeting, possible legal frameworks to enhancing global cooperation on ADR Monitoring were discussed. On the whole the deliberations aroused keen interest in participants and very useful discussions took place especially with experts from WHO.

The John Autian Oration was delivered by Prof. Ralph Edwards. This oration was established after the name of Prof. John Autian, Dean Emeritus and Former Vice Chancellor, University of Tennessee at Memphis.

Pharmacovigilance is a new and emerging discipline. It is relatively more new to India. Limited number of physicians, pharmacists and faculty members in medical colleges

are aware of the methodologies and activities in the field of Pharmacovigilance. Pharmacovigilance activities should be carried out in coordinated manner under the auspices of Government agencies, apex hospitals and Society of Pharmacovigilance, India. Collaboration should be sought from WHO Centre for Adverse Drug Reaction Monitoring (Uppsala, Sweden) at levels other than the establishment of National Centres to facilitate ADR monitoring and reporting. ADR Monitoring and other aspects of Pharmacovigilance should form a part of curriculum for medicine studies (MBBS.), Pharmacy (B. Pharma and M. Pharma) and postgraduate medical students (MD/MS).

Regional Centres should be established for pharmacovigilance activities. The main activities of these centres should be ADR Monitoring, Error Monitoring, Poison Information and to promote Rational Drug Therapy. General practitioners and specialists in private practice be involved in pharmacovigilance activities. Recently, Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) - an establishment of Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare - has initiated a Pharmacovigilance Project across the country. This project will envisage setting-up peripheral, regional and zonal pharmacovigilance centers for spontaneous as well as drug specific adverse drug event monitoring and causality analysis.

Overall, the programme was highly educative and useful in updating knowledge of pharmacologist, pharmacists, general / specialist practitioners, academicians, medical teachers and consultants. It was very well organized. All delegates including foreign ones were very happy and satisfied with all scientific sessions.

Following major decisions were taken during the General Body Meetings on 1.3.2003:

1. The house approved the previous minutes of the 1st Annual Meeting.
2. The house approved the Treasurer and Secretary's Report.
3. The house elected following members as the office bearers of the Society: Prof. K. C. Singhal (Aligarh) - President; Prof. N. S. Parmar (Gandhinagar) & Prof. A. Ray (Delhi) - Vice-Presidents; Dr. Sandeep Agarwal (Agra) - Gen. Secretary; Dr. Pipasha Biswas (UK) - Secretary International Affairs; Dr. Govind Mohan (Agra) - Treasurer; Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman (Aligarh) - Editor; The EC Members are: Dr. A. K. Kela (New Delhi).

Dr. Geeta Sharma (Amritsar), Dr. Barna Ganguly (Karamsad) and Dr. Anil Kumar (Rohtak).

4. The Third Annual Conference of SOPI will be held at Agra followed by the 26th National Centres Annual Meeting of WHO Collaborating Centres (Uppsala, Sweden) in Delhi (India) during December 8-10, 2003.

Report by Dr. S. Ziaur Rahman

20th Annual Conference of Indian Academy of Neurosciences

20th Annual Conference of Indian Academy of Neurosciences was held at Hotel India International, Udaipur (Rajasthan) during February 21-23, 2003. The following may be noted.

Prof. Maheep Bhatnagar (Chairman, Dept. of Zoology, College of Science, MLS University, Udaipur) was the organizing secretary. Prof. A. K. Singh (Vice Chancellor, MLS University) presided over the Inaugural Session. Prof. P. N. Tandon (Formerly Chairman, Dept. of Neurosurgery, AIIMS, New Delhi) delivered the Presidential Address. He also received the Life Time Achievement Award of IAN. Prof. G. Gopinath delivered the presidential address of the IAN-2003. Prof. V. Ravindranath (Director, NBRC, Gurgaon) delivered Prof. K. P. Bhargava Memorial INSA Lecture on 21st February.

Over the Counter Drugs: The History of Narcotics in Western Patent Medicines

A lecture by Michael R. Harris, M.S., Historian at the DEA Museum and former staffer at the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution was held on Tuesday, March 25, 2003 at the DEA Museum, Arlington, VA.

For over 300 years, powerful drugs have been key ingredients in manufactured medicines sold over the counter. The lecture touched on the use of opiates in British medicines of the 18th Century to the present-day inclusion of ephedra.

For detail, visit the website at <http://www.deamuseum.org>

FORTHCOMING CONGRESSES/CONFERENCES

Conference on "Medicine in its Cultural Contexts"

The Conference on "Medizin im Kontext der Kulturen" [Ayurvedische, Arabische, Chinesische (TCM) und Tibetische Medizin im Kontext mit der Westlichen Medizin] will be held at Technische Universität München, Auditorium Maximum, München/ Germany during May 30-June 1, 2003. The firma (Kultursleben, GmbH) is responsible for organizing this conference. The collaborators are: DANA e.V., Gesellschaft zur Erhaltung tibetischer Kultur und Medizin, Prof. Dr. med. Jürgen C. Aschoff (Poliklinik für Neurologie Universitätsklinikum, Ulm), Prof. Dr. Michael von Brück (Religionswissenschaft an der, LMU, München), Prof. Dr. Franz-Theo Gottwald (Schweisfurth-Stiftung, München), Prof. Dr. Ernst Pöppel (Humanwissenschaftliches Zentrum der, LMU, München), Prof. Dr. med. Klaus Jork (Institut für Allgemeinmedizin, Klinikum der Johann Wolfgang, Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt am Main).

Invited lectures:

Begrüßung Prof. Dr. Kurt Weis - "Menschenbild und Medizinkultur"

Prof. Dr. Phil. Dr. med. habil Ernst Pöppel - "Eröffnungsvortrag"

Ananda Samir Chopra - "Ayurveda"

Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman - "Unani Medizin"

QingBo Sui - "Traditionelle Chinesische Medizin"

Dr. Dorjee Raptan Neshar - "Einführung in die Tibetische Medizin"

Dr. Jon Kabat-Zinn - "Kulturelle und Geist/Körper-Perspektiven auf die Integrative Medizin des 21. Jahrhunderts"

Prof. Charles Burnett - "Griechenland, Syrien, Persien und Asien - Verbindungen"

Jabrane Sebnat - "Schamanismus und Moderne Medizin"

Prof. Dr. Michael von Brück - "Kontext und Deutung, Fakten, Erfahrungen, Entwicklungen"

Seine Heiligkeit der XIV Dalai Lama - "Abschlussvortrag"

For details, contact Dieter Reichert (managing director), Kultursleben, GmbH, Am Erlbach 7, D-82386

Oberhausen, E-mail:

dieter.reichert@culturelife.de. Website: www.culturelife.de

39th International Congress on The History Of Medicine

The 39th International Congress on The History of Medicine will take place in Bari (Italy) during September 5-10, 2004. For details contact, Congress President: Dr. Alfredo Musajo Somma. E-mail: musajosomma@libero.it. For further information visit the website of the Congress: www.39ishmcongress2004.it

20th Pacific Science Congress

National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT) in collaboration with the Thai Academy of Science and Technology (TAST), and the Agricultural Science Society of Thailand (ASST) under the Patronage of His Majesty the King are jointly organizing the 20th Pacific Science Congress (20th PSC) during March 17-21, 2003 at the Sofitel Central Plaza, Bangkok Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand. The 20th PSC is supported by the Pacific Science Association (PSA). The Congress theme "Science and Technology for Healthy Environments" is organized around three major sub-themes: natural resource challenges, social challenges, and science and technology challenges with twenty-two symposia in various related fields.

For the scientific programmes and the detailed information, visit <http://www.20pscbbangkok.com>

36th International Congress for the History of Pharmacy

The 36th International Congress for the History of Pharmacy will take place at Sinaia, a beautiful mountain resort in Romania during September 24 - 28, 2003. Please visit www.histpharm.org for details. Deadline for abstract submission is May 31, 2003; deadline for early registration (discount fee) is May 15, 2003.

Contact Address: Dr. Axel Helmstädter, General Secretary, International Society for the History of Pharmacy. E-mail: helmstaedter@goi.de

3rd Conference of the International Network for the History of Hospitals (INHH-2003)

The Conference will take place during June 19-21, 2003 in Montreal. The Conference registration forms and the programme for "Form + Function" are now available online at: <http://www.cf.ac.uk/hisar/people/kw/montreal.html>. "Form + Function" will explore a number of multidisciplinary questions of interest to anyone studying health care

institutions, including: how medical ideas and functions shape design, how different patient populations experience the hospital and contribute to its formal development, how the hospital is imagined and portrayed and how the hospital forms a medical and social space.

For details contact: David Theodore, School of Architecture, Macdonald-Harrington Building, McGill University, 815 Sherbrooke St. West, Montreal, QC H3A 2K6. E-mail: david.theodore@mcgill.ca

New Plants and Botany before Linnaeus

History of Science Society Annual Meeting slated to be held in Cambridge MA during November 20-23, 2003 is organizing a Session co-sponsored by the Botany Section, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, and the National Coalition of Independent Scholars (NCIS). As a lead-up for the 300th anniversary of Linnaeus's birth (1707-1778), a session on pre-Linnaean botany and the response to new plants to be organized. From prehistory onwards, people who use plants in their work - physicians, pharmacists, midwives, herb-gatherers, explorers, naturalists, chemists, gardeners, farmers, veterinarians, artisans - have encountered unfamiliar plants. Some of these plants were introduced from other places, some moved into new territory as the result of environmental change; some were sports or hybrids and some had been there all along but had gone unnoticed. Before Linnaeus, there was no generally accepted way to name, catalogue, and characterize these 'non-descripts', to use John Ray's term.

Proposals of papers are invited that analyze the discovery, dispersion, naturalization, uses, and intellectual impact of previously unknown plants before the mid-eighteenth century. Deadline for submission is April 1, 03. Please, send proposals (title and short abstract) to Alain Touwaide, atatouwaide@hotmail.com, or to Karen Reeds, at karen.reeds@verizon.net

Health and Medicine in North America in the Era of Lewis and Clark

The Francis C. Wood Institute of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia is planning a major conference on medicine in the U.S. circa 1800, to be held Thursday evening through Saturday, November 4, 5, and 6, 2004. Co-sponsors will include the American Philosophical Society, the Library Company of Philadelphia, and the McNeil Center for Early American Studies at the University

of Pennsylvania. The conference is timed to coincide with the opening of a national touring exhibition on the Lewis and Clark expedition at Philadelphia's Academy of Natural Sciences. Another exhibit, "Only One Man Died: Medical Adventures on the Lewis and Clark Trail" is currently on display at the College of Physicians and will remain there till 2006.

This will be a scholarly conference intended to generate papers suitable for publication as a collection. Participants will be expected to submit a 25- to 30-page draft one month in advance of the conference. These papers will not be generally pre-circulated, but will be made available to session commentators. Oral presentations will be limited to summaries of 20 to 25 minutes. To have their papers considered for publication, participants must have the longer version in shape for submission to the volume editor by the time of the conference.

Session topics may include, but are not limited to: 1. Health and the environment in the expanding United States. 2. The convergence of European, African and Native American medical traditions. 3. Military medicine in new republic. 4. Philadelphia medicine after the yellow fever epidemics. 5. Women as healers and caretakers in the early nineteenth century. 6. Health care on the Lewis and Clark expedition. 7. Medical botany and the American West. 8. Medical theory and medical practice circa 1800. 9. The organization of health care in the early United States. 10. Urban public health at the start of the nineteenth century

Proposals on any of these topics, or any other topic pertinent to the general theme of the conference are invited. Submissions of individual papers or of complete sessions are welcome. Proposals are due September 30, 2003, and the conference program will be finalized by the middle of November. Those selected to present papers will receive assistance with travel expenses.

Proposals - of no more than 500 words for individual papers or 1000 words for sessions - may be submitted as email attachments or in paper form. Proposals should be accompanied by CVs of all participants. Proposals and requests for further information should be directed to: Gabriela Zoller,

Assistant to the Director, Division of Historical and Museum Services, The College of Physicians of Philadelphia, 19 South 22nd Street, Philadelphia PA 19103. E-mail: gzoller@collphyphil.org

Visionary Anatomies: A symposium at the National Library of Medicine

In conjunction with *Dream Anatomy*, an exhibition of imaginative and evocative representations of the anatomical body, the National Library of Medicine is hosting *Visionary Anatomies*, an afternoon symposium, with a dinner reception to follow on June 12, 2003 at Lister Hill Auditorium, National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health 8600 Rockville Pike, Bldg. 38A Bethesda, MD 20894.

Anatomical showmanship goes back to anatomy's origins as a scientific discipline. For centuries, anatomy contained a theatrical element that was amazing, but troubling. Today, we are seeing a revival of anatomical spectacle. The work of anatomist Gunther von Hagens, Damien Hirst and other artists, and a host of popular films and television shows featuring graphic images of the body and its interior, have sparked new debates about the meaning, uses, ethics and history of anatomical display. *Visionary Anatomies* will bring together anatomists, cultural historians, physicians, museum professionals, and historians of medicine and science to discuss historical, cultural and scientific perspectives on the vital issues that attend the art and science of anatomy and anatomical presentation, past and present.

For detail see the website: www.nlm.nih.gov/dreamanatomy/da_events.html

30th Symposium of the International Committee for the History of Technology

The 30th Symposium of the International Committee for the History of Technology (ICOHTEC -2003) will be held during August 21-26, 2003 at St. Petersburg Polytechnic University and the Institute of the History of Science and Technology of Russian Academy of Sciences. The general theme for the Symposium is Technology, Society and Nature in the History of Civilization. Sessions or papers on topics unconnected with the general theme are also possible.

Please send all proposals for sessions and papers to the Program Committee by Email: Barton Hacker, Chair of the Program Committee.

Email: hackerb@si.edu Otherwise they may be sent via regular mail, postmarked by 1 March 2003, to: Barton Hacker, 150 12th Street, N.E., Washington, DC 20002, USA. The deadline is 1 March 2003. Information about acceptance of proposals will be posted by 20th March 2003.

NIMH and NINDB Intramural Research in the 1950s

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) History Office, the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), and the NIH's Biomedical Research History Interest Group (BRHIG) will sponsor an all-day symposium entitled, "*NIMH and NINDB Intramural Research in the 1950s*," on Friday, April 11th, 2003. The symposium will highlight the historic work of the NIMH and NINDB (today NINDS), Intramural Programs during their first decade of research at the NIH will be held during 8:30am-5:30pm in the National Institutes of Health Stokes Laboratories (Building 50) in Bethesda, Maryland.

The symposium will consist of four panels (representing the Basic and Clinical Investigations programs of each Institute), each comprising three speakers/talks, followed by 45-minute open discussions (moderated by historian Dr. Gerald Grob) with former and current NIMH and NINDB/S scientists. Speakers and discussants will provide personal recollections about broad scientific ideas and debates of the time, organizational structures at NIH that supported or hindered research, and what caused lines of research to shift from one direction to another. It is hoped the event will generate a substantial body of documentation (e.g., historic photos, documents, laboratory notebooks, artifacts, instruments, correspondence, memos) for the work at NIMH and NINDB during this period.

All talks and public discussions will be web cast (<http://videocast.nih.gov>) and recorded, and a proceedings volume will be produced. Please contact Dr. Ingrid Farreras at 301-496-3118 or farrera@od.nih.gov to register. Registration is free of charge but required due to space limitations.

For more information about the Office of NIH History please visit the Office's

web site at <http://www.nih.gov/od/museum>. For more information about the BRHIG and upcoming BRHIG talks, please visit the BRHIG web site at <http://www.nih.gov/sigs/brhig>.

The line-up for the 'Drugs and Empires' conference

The line-up for the "Drugs and Empires" conference, slated to be held on 10/11 April 2003 in Glasgow at the University of Strathclyde, is now available online. Please see <http://www.strath.ac.uk/Departments/History/jmills/drugs.htm> for details. The event, which has received financial support from the British Academy and the Wellcome Trust, is a multi-disciplinary, international meeting with speakers from Asia, Africa and the Americas attending together with those from across the UK.

For details contact, Dr James Mills, Department of History, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow.

An International Conference on Food and Drink

"Feast, Fast or Famine", an International Conference on Food and Drink will be held in Byzantium during July 11-13, 2003 at Adelaide, Australia. Registration and accommodation details for the conference are now available on the conference website: http://www.mcauley.acu.edu.au/aabs/aabs_2003.htm. For details contact, Dr Han Baltussen, The Treasurer, AABS Conf, Centre for European Studies and General Linguistics, University of Adelaide, SA 5005. Deadline for submission of abstracts was 15 March 2003, to be sent to: wendy.mayer@adelaide.edu.au or Dr Wendy Mayer, 52 Walter Street, North Adelaide SA 5006, Australia

New Approaches To Ancient Science

A Three-Year Colloquium of the American Philological Association is to be organized by Tiberiu Popa (University of Pittsburgh) and Philip Thibodeau (DePauw University). It will be held at the 135th Annual Meeting of the American Philological Association, San Francisco on January 2004.

This three-year colloquium aims to shed new light on ancient science, enable established and emerging scholars to share views with one another, and give this exciting field more prominence among classicists. It is hoped to spur a large audience to a greater appreciation of the power and sophistication as well as the often-telling limitations, of ancient scientific theories. The organizers

invite researchers from a wide range of disciplines: classics, history and philosophy of science, political and economic history, archaeology, to examine ancient science from their own varied perspectives.

In its second year, the colloquium will center on 'earth sciences' in antiquity (geography, geology, meteorology), a field that has witnessed renewed interest over the past few decades. Fascinating new lines of investigation have shed light on everything from the reception and critique of meteorological theories in antiquity to techniques used in cartography and stereographic projection, yet there is still much work that needs to be done. Contributors are requested to submit papers, which fall under at least one of the following rubrics:

1. The balancing of 'practical' and 'theoretic' approaches; 'rich'.
2. Descriptions of phenomena vs. reductive theories; use of instrumentation;
3. The accuracy of ancient measurements.
4. The unity or heteroclitic character of the separate earth sciences.
5. The contesting of mythological interpretations of meteorological phenomena.
6. Debates over the division of the earth's surface into zones;
7. Cultural/religious vs. scientific determinants in the drawing of local and regional boundaries the 'chemistry' of material change above, below, and on the earth's surface the discovery of geologic time; cataclysmic and gradualist accounts of geologic change
8. Histories, maps, inscriptions, and didactic poems as vehicles for the presentation and diffusion of knowledge in these fields
9. The evolution of the concept of meteorology; its relation to physics, metaphysics and cosmology.
10. The legacy of classical earth sciences in later Christian and Muslim milieus.

Abstracts of no more than 800 words were to be sent by February 15, 2003 to Tiberiu Popa (tmpst26@pitt.edu or University of Pittsburgh, Department of Classics, 1518 Cathedral of Learning, Pittsburgh, PA 15260). Email and hard-copy contributions are equally welcome. For more information, please visit the website at www.pitt.edu/~tmpst26/APA2003.html.

NEW POST/APPOINTMENT/FELLOWSHIP Position of a Lecturer in the Institute of History of Medicine

The Institute of the History of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Giessen near Frankfurt, Germany (<http://www.med.uni-giessen.de/histor/index.html>) is about to launch a new research programme in the history of late 19th and 20th century medicine and invites applications for a position of a lecturer (wissenschaftlicher Angestellter), a five year-appointment starting in April or May 2003. The Giessen Institute offers opportunities for close collaborations with an active research programme in the history department on Cultures of Memory (<http://www.uni-giessen.de/erinnerungskulturen/>), as well as with the Behring Library (<http://www.med.uni-marburg.de/d-einrichtungen/geschichtemedizin/>) in the neighbouring university town of Marburg.

Prospective candidates are expected to conduct an active programme of Research in the history of late 19th and/or 20th century medicine or biomedical science, and must be qualified to teach courses in these areas. The candidate should speak German and English fluently. A first degree in medicine or one of the biomedical sciences is favourable, but not obligatory. Salary will be according to BAT, level II a, the approximate equivalent of an American assistant professor, or a British lecturer.

For informal enquiries and expressions of interest send e-mail to Prof. Volker Roelcke, Institut fuer Medizin- und Wissenschaftsgeschichte, Universitaet zu Luebeck, Koenigstrasse 42, D-23552 Luebeck, e-mail: roelcke@imwg.mu-luebeck.de. Web: <http://www.imwg.mu-luebeck.de/txt/members/roelcke/roelcke.htm>

PhD Studentship Opportunity in the History of Medical Technologies

The Manchester Wellcome Unit, in association with the Thackray Medical Museum Leeds, has the opportunity to apply to the Wellcome Trust for a PhD Award in the history of modern medical technologies. The aim is that a student benefits from the combined strengths of the Manchester Unit in the history of modern medical technologies and the Thackray collections of surgical instruments, prostheses, hearing aids, and the medical supply trades.

Applicants should have a Masters in history of medicine, or a related field. Further training courses are available in the Wellcome Unit and in its parent department - the Centre for the History of Science, Technology and Medicine. There is a very tight deadline with this studentship, so applications must be in by 4 April 2003. Informal enquiries and requests for further particulars should be made to Professor Michael Worboys (michael.worboys@man.ac.uk, or write to the Secretary, Wellcome Unit for the History of Medicine, Mathematics Building, The University, Manchester, M13 9PL. Tel: 0161 275 5850 FAX: 0161 275 5699 Email: chstm@man.ac.uk

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowships

The next available deadline for proposals for National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowships is May 1, 2003. These Fellowships support six to twelve months of individual research with stipends of \$24,000 or \$40,000 depending on the length of tenure. Eligible applicants are United States citizens and also foreign nationals who have been in residence in the United States for the three years immediately prior to the May 1, 2003 deadline.

Fellowships support individuals pursuing advanced research in the humanities that contributes to scholarly knowledge or to the general public's understanding of the humanities. Applicants may be faculty or staff members of colleges or universities, or of primary or secondary schools, or independent scholars or writers. Fellowships provide support for projects that can be completed during the tenure of the award, as well as for work that is part of a long-term endeavor. Recipients usually produce scholarly articles, monographs on specialized subjects, books on broad topics, archaeological site reports, translations, editions, or other scholarly tools.

Fellowship awards cannot be used for:

1. Studying teaching methods or theories.
2. Surveying courses and programs.
3. Preparing institutional curricula.
4. Works in the creative or performing arts—painting, writing fiction or poetry, dance performance, etc.
5. Projects that seek to promote a particular political, philosophical, religious, or ideological point of view projects that

advocate a particular program of social action Special Initiatives

Applicants who would like their projects to be considered under one of the following special initiatives should so indicate in the project narrative. Those responding to "We the People" should also check the box on the cover sheet.

Humanities and Healthcare Projects exploring subjects such as the history of healthcare and public health, medical ethics, disability studies, and interdisciplinary approaches to health-related humanities topics are eligible for joint support from NEH and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

Guidelines are available on line at <http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/fellowships.html> or <http://www.neh.gov/grants/guidelines/fellowships.html>. Questions can be addressed to e-mail: fellowships@neh.gov or contact: Daniel P. Jones, Senior Program Officer, Division of Research Programs, Room 318, National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, DC 20506. NEH Web site: <http://www.neh.gov>

Postdoctoral Fellowships

The Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, announces four two-year Postdoctoral Fellowships (1 September 2003 - 31 August 2005) in connection with the research project "Knowledge and Belief" (Department of Prof. Lorraine Daston). A brief description of the project and information about the Institute can be found at www.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de/KNOWLEDGE outstanding applicants of all nationalities and disciplinary backgrounds may apply. The colloquium language is English.

Applicants must have been awarded their doctorates before commencing the fellowship and be no further than five years beyond their Ph.D.s at the time of application. The stipend for applicants from abroad is 1900 to 2300 Euro per month, depending on the duration of previous scientific work. Women are encouraged to apply. Qualifications being equal, precedence will be given to candidates with disabilities.

Applications consisting of a curriculum vitae including publication list, a brief research proposal (maximum 750 words) which may be written in German, French or English and with two letters of reference should

be sent to Max Planck Institute for the History of Science Abt. Personal / kb Wilhelmstraße 44 10117 Berlin, Germany

Junior Research Scholar

The Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, seeks an outstanding junior scholar to participate in the research project "Knowledge and Belief" (organizers: Lorraine Daston and Fernando Vidal) as a Research Scholar (wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter) for a three-year appointment beginning 1 September 2003. For a description of the project, see www.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de/KNOWLEDGE/

Applicants should have completed their Ph.D. in the history of science or a related field and should have shown professional promise through publications and conference participation. Applications in all specialties are welcome, but the research proposal should be clearly related to the project.

The position is BAT II-O, the approximate equivalent of an American assistant professor, British lecturer, or French maître de conférences. Salary depends on age, marital status etc. The average amount is about 1800 Euro after taxes. Funds for research-related expenses, including travel, are available.

The Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (est. 1994) is an international, interdisciplinary research institute operating under the auspices of the German Max Planck Society. Information about the Institute and its projects and personnel may be found at www.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de. Further questions may be addressed to Jochen Schneider, Research coordinator, jsr@mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de. Women are encouraged to apply. Qualifications being equal, precedence will be given to candidates with disabilities.

Applications should include current curriculum vitae, publication list, brief research proposal (maximum 750 words), and two letters of recommendation (may be sent separately), to be sent no later than 28 February 2003 to Max Planck Institute for the History of Science Abt. Personal/WiMill Wilhelmstraße 44 10117 Berlin Germany.

Schuman Prize for Graduate Students
All graduate students in the history of science are encouraged to enter the Henry

and Ida Schuman Prize competition. Initiated in 1958, the Schuman Prize is the second oldest prize offered by the History of Science Society, and past winners are among the more distinguished scholars in the history of science and medicine. The prize carries a \$500 (US) award and up to \$500 reimbursement in travel expenses to help the winner attend the HSS annual meeting, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, 20-23 November 2003.

The Prize is awarded for the best original essay by a graduate student on the history of science and its cultural influences. Essays on medical topics are not eligible unless they deal with the relations between medicine and the natural sciences. Entries must not have been previously published and must be original, thoroughly documented, and submitted in English or accompanied by an English translation. Essays may not exceed 8,000 words, exclusive of footnotes, and should conform to the Chicago Manual of Style, 14th edition. In the past, many Schuman essays have been published in Isis.

Students must submit documentation of graduate student status (copy of photo id or letter from your department) and three copies of the essay to Robert J. Malone, Executive Director, History of Science Society, Box 351330, 236 Johnson Hall, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195-1330, URL: <http://www.hssonline.org> E-mail: hssexec@u.washington.edu. The essays are judged without knowledge of their authorship; hard copy submissions should have the authors name and institution printed on a detachable cover sheet. No other identifying information should appear in the essay. Students may also submit an electronic copy of their paper as an e-mail attachment (Word document or in rich text format) to info@hssonline.org. Submissions must be received by 1 April 2003.

DOCUMENTATIONS

The Great Library of Āyatullāh Al-'Uzmā Mar'ashī Najafī

Introduction

Books and libraries are the base stones of the foundation of Islamic Culture and Civilization, and they are also adored in Islam as religion. Among the holy prophets, Prophet Mohammad (p. b. u. h.) was bestowed with the miracle of the Book of Quran. Noteworthy is the first word of the first Quranic verse revealed to the Prophet: "Read", in Arabic *iqra* 'BI'.

Traditionally, the Arabs and later Iranians had paid a lot of attention to Book Writing and also to Knowledge or Science in general, since learning to read and to write was considered as a religious duty. According to one saying (*Hadith*) of Prophet Mohammad learned men and women should be considered as of higher status than even the martyrs, although in early Islamic times the Prophet needed most his soldiers. Consequently acquisition of science ('Ilm) was the most important reason of Moslems' attention towards books and libraries.

For instance, Hazrat Imâm 'Alî (p. b. u. h.) bequeathed to his son also in the same vein, namely: "Studying works and history of ancestors is the same as living with them all the time and by this, and in this way alone, one may imbibe all of their experiences free of charge". According to another of his sayings: "Books are places for recreation of scholars".

Islamic nobles had expressed the same idea about books and their effective role in the transmission of knowledge or science and culture: A Book is the best saving and treasure; the best company and credit. There is no teacher more useful and harmless than a book. A Book is a garden in your arms. By reading a book monthly, one can learn more than a great man could learn in his own lifetime.

Right from early centuries of Islam, a lot of learned men began translating and editing books on Islamic sciences in general, and wrote essays, and compiled excellent collections in different fields of human knowledge. Consequently thousands of libraries were established in mosques, schools, hospitals and shrines of Islamic nobles and holy men. This development got its highest priority at the end of 9th and beginning of 10th centuries A. D., as the translation movement in Baghdad during Abbasid Caliphate was started and grew enormously. At that point of time in some of the libraries, not only there were hundreds and thousands of books but they acted also as academic centres, where hundreds of scholars as teachers, researchers and authors were working. Ibn Nadim, the author of the famous catalogue of books of his times, *Al-Fihrist*, has reported some of those scientific efforts and listed a huge number of translators and authors as well as titles of their books. In fact, his catalogue was the first Islamic bibliography. Evidently he was followed by a number of such cataloguers during the whole Islamic Middle Ages.

Āyatullāh Mar'ashī Library

In the above-mentioned historical perspective one may appreciate the efforts of Āyatullāh al-'Uzmā Sayyed Shahābuddin al-Husaini Mar'ashī Najafī (1897-1990), father of the current President of Mar'ashī Library, Hujjatul Islam Dr. Sayed Mahmood Mar'ashī. Āyatullāh Mar'ashī Najafī founded this library, which is one of the greatest libraries of Islamic countries.

Āyatullāh Mar'ashī Najafī was one of the foremost scholars of religious sciences: Islamic theology and jurisprudence, Hadīth literature, also of astronomy, mathematics, medicine etc. He got his 'degree' of Ijtihād in a short time and was recognised as an expert of religious studies and teaching. Later he was bestowed with the title of the Grand Āyatullāh. To note is that he taught in Hawza in Qum for more than 67 years, thereby having thousands of followers in Iran and neighbouring Islamic countries. Āyatullāh Mar'ashī Najafī has to his credit about 20 scholarly books concerning Islamic theology. He died on Aug. 29, 1990, at the ripe age of 93 years.

While he was still studying in Holy Najaf, Āyatullāh Mar'ashī Najafī started collecting manuscripts of Arabic and Persian books, also printed publications out of his very meagre pocket expenses, and by travelling through out Iran in 1921. Since soon a space problem for keeping the books arose, he had to present in the first instance 278 volumes of his handwritten books to the *Ma'qūl and Manqūl Library* of the College of Theology (Tehran University). Later he presented a substantial holding of his manuscripts and printed books — about 1000 volume — to the libraries of *Astān-i Quds* in Mashhad, Shrines of *Hazrat Māsūmah* in Qum, *Shāh Chirāgh* in Shiraz, *Huzrat 'Abdul Azīm* in Shahr Rey and Feziyah School in Qum.

After the foundation of one of the four great academic schools in Qum, the *Mar'ashiy-i School*, in the year 1965, Āyatullāh Mar'ashī Najafī started first a small library in two rooms of that School. It was then possible for him to transfer some of the manuscripts and printed books to this newly established. It was then possible for him to transfer some of the manuscripts and printed books to this newly established library. Exerting lots of efforts, Āyatullāh Mar'ashī Najafī succeeded in extending that Library a number of times, namely, by adding to it plots of 1000 sq. m in 1970, 500 sq. m. in 1979 and thus to a total of 2400 sq. m. in 1989. Finally, the Library was shifted to its present new building on June

13. 1990. To-date the Library total area is 21 000 sq. m. with seven storeys.

After his passing away, his illustrious eldest son, Dr. Sayed Mahmood Mar'ashi, took over the Presidentship of the Mar'ashi Library; before that time he has been acting as the Director of the library since 1967. He has been concentrating primarily on the extension of library- technical facilities which may be summarised as follows.

1. As one of the foremost cataloguers of Iran, Dr. Sayed Mahmood has got compiled a multi-volume catalogue of the manuscripts, available in the Mar'ashi Library. To-date 30 volumes indexing 12000 manuscripts have been printed. This is in fact the crowning achievement of the Mar'ashi Library. However, another 60 volumes of catalogue of manuscripts are planned for the future.

2. The Secretariat of the Mar'ashi Library looks after the correspondence with the national and international community of scholars, and is in contact also with about 400 international libraries, educational and cultural centres through out the world.

3. The Service Division of the Mar'ashi Library caters specifically to the foreign and also national guests in all possible ways, and reports about their visits in *Mir'ath-i Shāhāh*, a periodical of the Mar'ashi Library. This journal (in Persian) is devoted to source material (manuscripts) research. Till today 24 issues have been published.

4. The Library has a number of divisions, namely, for manuscripts and documents research, cataloguing, reprography or micrography, modern laboratory for preserving manuscripts and documents, publication and translation divisions etc.

5. This Library is also acting as an important "Centre for Cultural and Academic Activities". To realize this objective, a number of Halls have been constructed. Besides the reading halls, namely, *Howza Hall* for theology students and *Ibn Sina Hall* for scholars with a capacity of 750 seats, two other halls are noteworthy, *Khwājah Nasiruddin Tusi Hall* with a capacity of 200 seats is meant for national and international conferences/congresses, while *Sheikh Mufid*

Hall is used for local meetings and research seminars.

6. A unique feature of the Mar'ashi Library is its division for looking after female students and the lady-researchers. Fridays and Sundays are fixed for *ladies only*, to use the Library facilities, although any lady researcher can come to the Library on any other day also with the special permission of the Director.

7. The Library possesses also a computer centre for its readers to use.

Conclusion

Finally, we may add that that The Great Library of Āyatullāh Al-'Uzmā Mar'ashī Najafī is in fact a unique institution in every sense. It possesses all modern amenities including computer and Internet facilities. On the top of it has a priceless primary source material of which the scholars all the world over should take cognisance. We may mention only the following: Manuscripts on parchments in old Abyssinian script, of Psalms' Prayers, of Holy Qur'ān in Moorish script (4th c. A.H./ 11th c. A.D); the earliest text of the Collection of Hazrat 'Ali's Sayings and Sermons (*Nahjul Balāgha*) dated 469 A.H. / 977 A.D., to name just a few.

We may also add that a *unique* manuscript copy of the *Zij-i Nāsiri*, the astronomical mathematical tables, by Mahmūd bin 'Umar and dedicated to Nasiruddin Mahmūd bin Sultān Shamsuddin Iltutmish (reigned in Delhi 1246-1265), is extant in the Mar'ashi Library. This is the earliest *Zij* written in India in Persian and predates even Nasiruddin Tusi's *Zij-i Ikhāni* (circa 1270). Such unique manuscripts and autographs, together with astrolabes, coins, keys etc. have also been preserved in this Great Library.

Undoubtedly all scholars of Islamic civilization and culture, who are interested in the Islamic Heritage, are indebted enormously to Āyatullāh Mar'ashi Najafī for his untiring efforts to establish this Library and Centre for Islamic Cultural Heritage. May God rest his soul in peace.

The author acknowledges the assistance provided in collecting the material by the staff of Zillur Rahman Library of Ibn Sina Academy (Aligarh).

S. M. Razaullah Ansari (Aligarh)

NISA is an official quarterly newsletter of Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences - a non governmental, non political and non profit trust.

The news items should be sent at least four weeks prior to publication, and whenever possible through e-mail or disk (Microsoft Word or Page Maker 6.5), accompanied by a hard copy.

Please send all Newsletter correspondence to:

EDITOR, NISA

Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences
Tijara House, Dodhpur, Aligarh - 202 002 India.
E-mail: editor_nisa@rediffmail.com

Publisher:

Publication Division, IAMMS
Tijara House, Dodhpur, Aligarh - 202 002 India.
Phone: +91-571-2400452
E-mail: rahmansz@sancharnet.in

Copies are free to members of the Academy, also available for \$15.00/Rs. 100 per annum to non-members and institutions.

Membership form can be downloaded from the website of Ibn Sina Academy:
www.ibnsinaacademy.com

New Executive Council of IAMMS:

In consonance with the articles 5 – 10 of the Bye Laws of IAMMS, the president of the Academy, Prof. S. Zillur Rahman, has appointed the following Office Bearers and members of the Executive Council of the Academy for a period of three years.

Office Bearers:

Vice-Presidents:

Prof. Ather H. Siddiqi (Aligarh)
Prof. Mehdi Mohaghegh (Tehran)

Secretary:

Prof. S. M. Razaullah Ansari (Aligarh)

Joint Secretary:

Dr. Abdul Latif (Aligarh)

Treasurer:

Dr. S. Ziaur Rahman (Aligarh)

Members of the Executive Council:

Dr. R. P. Kumar (New Delhi)
Dr. Syed Irfan Habib (New Delhi)
Prof. Jameel Ahmad (New Delhi)
Prof. Yasin Mazhar Siddiqui (Aligarh)
Prof. Anis A. Ansari (New Delhi)
Prof. M. Sabir (Kuwait)
Dr. Khalid Siddiqui (New Delhi)
Prof. Nafees Baig (Aligarh)
Dr. Hamidullah Bhat (New Delhi)
Dr. Masood Hasan (Aligarh)
Dr. Abdur Rahim Qidwai (Aligarh)

Printed at: Litho Colour Printers, Aligarh, India



Prof. Syed Zillur Rahman, President IAMMS, Aligarh, delivering the welcome address during a ceremony held in honor of delegates from Iran



Prof. S. Zillur Rahman handing over the citation plaque to Aqai M. Marashi (Qum, Iran) while Mr. Nuseem Ahmad, V.C., standing besides

Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences

ALIGARH, INDIA