



Newsletter

of Ibn Sina Academy

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Mausoleum of Shaikh Abu Ali Ibn Sina

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IAMMS ACTIVITIES

Books releasing ceremony

Two books Zikr-e Saman Azaran by Abidullah Ghazi and Rakht-e Safar by Shafiq Anjum were released on April 11, 2004 by Mr. Naseem Ahmad, Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh at the library hall of Ibn Sina Academy

VC's Note in the Visitors Book

"Ibn Sina Academy does not give an impression that it is a one-man effort. But, the fact is that Prof. Zillur Rahman is not only its founder director, but the perceiver of the concept; and whatever is there; it is the result of his initiative and efforts. The latest addition is the Museum of the Academy, which is a sincere attempt to depict the Muslim heritage of India over the ages. Within a short period the Academy has become the epicenter of literary discourses. I congratulate Prof. Zillur Rahman Saheb for his efforts".

Sd./- Naseem Ahmad, Vice-Chancellor,
Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, Dated
11.4.2004.

Visit of Delegates

Department of Persian, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh organised an International Seminar on Indo-Iran Relations from April 6-8, 2004. Prof. Azarmi Dukht Safavi was the director of the seminar while Prof. S. M. Tariq Hasan was the convener. In the evening of the inaugural day, delegates of the seminar paid a visit to the Ibn Sina Academy.

Condolence Meeting

A condolence meeting was held on 30.4.2004 in the library hall of Ibn Sina Academy on the sad demise of Mr. S. Afzal Hussain Tabassum (1921-2004). Members and executive committee of the Academy paid a tribute and

observed two minutes silence. Mr. Tabassum Hussain was a noted philanthropist and strong promoter for maintaining a peculiar erudite literary culture in the city of Aligarh. He made several models of anatomical human body by clay mud and plaster of paris for Agra Medical College (Agra). Some of these models are still preserved at Aligarh Muslim University and Ibn Sina Academy Museum (Aligarh). [See his brief biography at page 12].

Meeting with the Director, National Council for Promotion of Urdu Languages

Dr. Hamidullah Bhat, Director, National Council for Promotion of Urdu Languages (NCPUL), Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India, called on the President of Ibn Sina Academy on 27.4.2004 and held a meeting for future collaboration with Ibn Sina Academy and NCPUL. He promised that a project on the translation of medical books for Unani courses could be considered very favorably. The project has now been approved and the Academy is grateful for the same.

Correspondence:

To,
Professor S. Hussain Nasr
3023 W. Belmont Avenue
Chicago IL 60618, USA

"Dear Professor Nasr, we are familiar with you through your penmanship on Islam, its culture and spiritualism. Recently I met one of your senior colleagues in Iran in a seminar. I retired as professor of Unani Medicine of the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) and I am running an institute: Ibn Sina Academy. Most of the members of the Academy are retired professors of AMU from almost all academic fields.

One such professor is Mohammad Yasin Ansari who headed the department of Civil Engineering for almost forty years. He also

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headed the faculty and the College of Engineering for a very long time.

Professor Ansari is studying the basics and technology of Islamic Architecture for almost 20 years. Besides architecture he has developed a reasonably good knowledge of the Holy Quran, *hadith* and of Islamic history and Muslim culture.

In recent years he has completed writing three books (i) Basic Principles of Islamic architecture, which deals with its geometry, its background of Quran, calligraphy and similar aspects (in English), (ii) *Jamaliat-e-Qurani* and Islamic architecture from Engineering point of view (in Urdu) and (iii) Dimensional analysis of Sufism (in English).

The main feature of these three books is the Engineering aspect of the subject matter. They will be published soon. The works mentioned above were done through our Academy.

It may not be out of place to mention, as admitted by Prof. Ansari, that he borrowed the basic ideas from your book *Islamic Art and Spirituality*. Actually he developed his ideas using his expertise of Civil Engineering and his strong mathematical leaning. During his constant study and strenuous hard work, he came across two references of Ibn al- Arabi namely (i) *Inshaa al-Dawaair wal-jadawwal* and (ii) *Kitab al-Dawaair wal-Ashkaal*.

Since he is a member of this Academy, I am obliged to help him. May I request you to locate these manuscripts (preferably English translation) and arrange to send a Xerox copy of the same by registered post at an early date.

Yours sincerely, Prof. Zillur Rahman"

Website of Ibn Sina Academy

The website of Ibn Sina Academy has been linked with European Society of Ethnopharmacology:

1. <http://ethnopharma.free.fr/links1.htm#aassociations>
2. <http://ayurveda.france.free.fr/liens/sites.htm>

The above information was sent to Prof. S. M. Razaullah Ansari (Gen. Secretary, IAMMS) by the president of the European Society of Ethnopharmacology, Dr. Guy MAZARS, via e-mail dated May 30, 2004. The excerpt of the letter is as follows:

"Dear Prof. Ansari, on 14th May between 8 and 9 PM, and on 15th May between 8 and 9 PM, I was awaiting a call from Dr. S. Ziaur Rahman. I wonder whether he came to France to attend the conference of International Society for Neurochemistry. (Dr. S. Ziaur Rahman was supposed to contact him by telephone on the above dates as mentioned in the e-mail during his visit to France). I went through the website of the Ibn Sina Academy and found it very interesting and informative. You have included the website of our European Society of Ethnopharmacology and our Site on Ayurveda in your Weblinks. Thank you very much. You might have noticed that, in turn, we have included the address of your Academy in the links sections of our websites.

Looking forward to a regular exchange of information, and with all best wishes,

Guy Mazars"

The address of the President, European Society of Ethnopharmacology is: Institut d'Histoire des Sciences, Université Louis Pasteur, 7, rue de l'Université, 67000 Strasbourg - France.

E-mail: guy.mazars@ihs-ulp.u-strasbg.fr

The websites of the European Society of Ethnopharmacology are:

- <http://ethnopharma.free.fr>
- <http://ethnomedecine.free.fr>
- <http://ayurveda.france.free.fr>

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Individual Activities of Members of IAMMS

Prof. S. Zillur Rahman (President, Ibn Sina Academy) has been invited to attend the following two conferences in Iran.

1) Ibn-i Sina Colloquim, Bu-Ali Sina University, Hamadan, 22-24 August 2004.

2) 3rd International colloquium, "Health, Environment and Natural Products: HENP", Mashhad, 25-28th September 2004.

Prof. S.M. Razaullah Ansari (Secretary of the IAMMS) has been invited to attend the 5th International Conference on Oriental Astronomy, to be held in Chiang Mai (Thailand), during October 3-8, 2004. He is the only delegate from India. He will be reading there a paper on "The First Book in Indo-Persian on Mathematical Astronomy—A Case Study for the Genuine Reception of Modern Astronomy in the 19th Century India".

Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman (Lecturer in the Department of Pharmacology, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh / India) attended the International Society for Neurochemistry (ISN) Conference on Changes in Neuronal Gene Expression and CNS Drug Responses at the Palace of Popes in Avignon, France from 13 - 16 May 2004. Dr. Rahman was also selected among the young researchers and was awarded ISN Fellowship, which is a prestigious award of International Society for Neurochemistry and is given to a few young scientists in the field of Neurosciences (also see at page 13).

He is nominated as the Member of State Council (Alternate), Indian Medical Association (IMA) Aligarh Branch for the session 2004 - 2005. He also edited *Journal of Pharmacovigilance and Drug Safety* (Inaugural Issue, June 2004) and *Newsletter of Society of Pharmacovigilance, India* (Issue 2), which are the official publications of the Society of Pharmacovigilance, India (SOPI).

Publications of the Members

1. **Hakim S. Zillur Rahman.** Hindustan Mein Tibb Ki Farsi Tasnifat, *Contribution of Persian Language and Literature to the Composite Culture of India*, Ed. Azarmi Dukhat Safavi, Department of Persian, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, 2004, p. 80-92.
2. **S. Zillur Rahman.** Hakim Ahsan Ullah Khan, *Urdu Adab* (Quarterly), Anjuman Taraqqi Urdu (Hind), New Delhi, No. 323, January-March, 2004: 87-128.
3. **S. Zillur Rahman.** Ibn Sina, *ASAS Urdu Reader* (A syllabus text book for 8th standard), Ed. Nurul Hasan Naqvi, Academy of South Asian Studies (ASAS), Aligarh, 2004: 21-25.
4. **S. Zillur Rahman.** Mohd Ahmad Sabzwari, *Nuqush-i Bhopal*, Ed. by Dr. Razia Hamid, Bab-al Ilm Publications, New Delhi, 2004, p. 433-448.
5. **Abdul Latif, S. Ziaur Rahman & K. C. Singhal.** Adverse Drug Reactions of an Herbal Drug due to Mis-identification: A Case Report. *J Pharmacovigilance Drug Safety* 2004; 1: 16-18
6. **S. Ziaur Rahman.** Were the "Dark Ages" Really Dark?. *Grey Matter* (The Co-curricular Journal of JNMC), AMU, Aligarh, 2003: 7-10.
7. **S. Ziaur Rahman.** Hadi Hasan - An Introduction to His Life & Contributions, *The Hadl* (Millennium Special Edition), Ed. Tauheed Ahmad, Hasan Hall Magazine, 2002-2003: 1-3
8. **Rahman S. Ziaur & Khan Rahat Ali** Is nimesulide safe in a cardiovascular-Compromised patient? *Indian J Pharmacol* 2004; 36:252-253.
9. **Rahat Ali Khan & S. Ziaur Rahman.** Nimesulide Induced Coronary Artery Insufficiency - A Case Report. *J Pharmacovigilance Drug Safety* 2004; 1: 11-13
10. **Rahat Ali Khan & S. Ziaur Rahman.** A Case Report on Nimesulide and Its Relation with Angina. *J Pharmacovigilance Drug Safety* 2004; 1: 19-21

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Forthcoming Conferences / Seminars

5th International Conference on Oriental Astronomy (ICOA-5)

This Conference is scheduled to take place in Chiang Mai (Thailand), Oct.3-8, 2004. The earlier Conferences of this series have taken place in Seoul (Korea), Yingtun (China), Fukuoka (Japan) and the fourth in Nanyang (China). ICOA is in fact a brain child of Prof. I.S. Nha (Seoul), who organized the first Conference. The main objective of instituting this series is: "The study of the Astronomy in the Orient is essential in order to obtain a global view of the development of astronomy through the ages".

Alternatives, Animal Welfare and the Curriculum – A Training Seminar and Workshop (Under the auspices of InterNICHE in conjunction with WSPA)

A full day training seminar and workshop in 10 cities across India to train senior teachers and others from medicine, veterinary medicine and zoology in a range of progressive teaching approaches is being organized.

International trainers and Indian academicians such as Nick Jukes (Coordinator, InterNICHE, UK), John Callaghan and Janice Cox (WSPA, UK), Dr. Abdul Rahman (Commonwealth Veterinary Association, Bangalore), Prof. J. Ramkrishna (I-CARE, Chennai), Prof. R. Raveendran (JIPMER, Pondicherry), Dr. Prakash V. Diwan (IICT, Hyderabad) will train delegates in modern educational tools and approaches such as the latest CAL, advanced training simulators, manikins, films, videos, models, multimedia computer simulation, ethically sourced cadaver & tissues, clinical work with animal patients and self-experimentation apparatus. These alternatives, developed by teachers in leading universities from across the world, have been specially chosen for the training to effectively meet the teaching objectives of practical courses within the various Indian

curricula. Delegates will also be trained in the new *Concepts in Animal Welfare Curriculum* from WSAP and the University of Bristol (UK), designed to support animal welfare and good science within all fields that involve animals.

This workshop will be relevant to those working with animals in the teaching of Anesthesia and Critical Care, Anatomy, Biochemistry, Clinical Skills and Surgery, Pathology, Pharmacology and Physiology, as well as Ethics and Animal Welfare

Venues and Dates: Mumbai, Baroda, Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, Delhi, Chandigarh, Lucknow and Nagpur, to be held between August 16th – September 1st 2004. For further details on dates and venues refer to the forthcoming 2nd Announcement. Any one interested in attending the training, may write to Dr Shiranee Pereira, "Alternatives, Animal Welfare and the Curriculum", No 13/1, Third Seaward Road, Valmiki Nagar, Thiruvanniyur, Chennai – 600041.
E-mail : <interniche_india@hotmail.com>

Candidates will be selected and registration will be free. 50 delegates will be selected per venue. All delegates will receive a certificate of attendance, and prizes will be awarded to three selected participants. Financial support for travel by train to your nearest venue is available.

InterNICHE is the International Network for Humane Education (www.interniche.org) while WSPA is the World Society for the Protection of Animals (www.wspa.org.uk)

Seminar and Workshop on Alternatives (WWF, Bengal State Branch, Kolkata)

A full day training seminar and workshop on alternatives to live animal experiments, animal welfare and the curriculum will be held at Indian Science Congress Association (14 Dr. Bireswari Guha Street, Kolkata) on Monday, 30th

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August, 2004 from 9:00 a.m. onwards, said World Wide Fund for Nature – India (West Bengal State Office) at its press release. Such seminars are being organized in nine other cities across India; see the details in the previous item.

International trainers and Indian academicians will train delegates in modern educational tools and approaches such as the latest CAL, advanced training simulators, mannequins and self-experimentation apparatus. These alternatives, developed by teachers in leading universities from across the world, have been specially chosen for the training to effectively meet the teaching objectives of practical courses within the various Indian curricula. Delegates will also be trained in the new Concepts in Animal Welfare curriculum from WSAP and the University of Bristol (UK), designed to support animal welfare and good science within all fields that involve animals.

This workshop is relevant to those working with animals in the teaching of Anesthesia and Critical Care, Anatomy, Biochemistry, Clinical Skills and Surgery, Pathology, Pharmacology and Physiology, as well as Ethics and Animal Welfare.

Mr. Nick Jukes (Coordinator, InterNICHE, UK), Dr. Syed Ziaur Rahman (JNMC, AMU, Aligarh), Dr. Sathyanarayan (Chennai) and Prof. V. Ramakrishna (I-CARE, Chennai) will be delivering lectures.

Society of the History of Technology Meeting

A meeting of the Society of the History of Technology (SHOT) is slated to be held in Amsterdam from October 7-10, 2004. For panel discussion on technology of the hospital with more specific emphasis on "surgical spaces", contact: Dr. Gerard J. Fitzgerald at Dibner Institute for the History of Science and Technology Massachusetts Institute of Technology. E-mail: gjf@mit.edu

National Seminar on Hifzan-e-Sehat

The problem of Health all over the world especially in the Third World Countries is becoming alarming every day and it requires serious efforts. It is necessary to provide a historical perspective to bring about the contribution in the field of Hifzan-e Sehat wa Samaji Tibb (Hygiene and Public Health). The national seminar on Hifzan-e Sehat will provide a forum for eminent scholars to discuss various issues. The Department of Hifzan-e Sehat Wa Samaji Tibb, (Faculty of Unani Medicine, Ajmal Khan Tibbia College, Aligarh Muslim University) invites academic experts, environmentalist, research scholars and Unani physicians to attend the seminar from 5th to 6th October 2004.

For further details, contact: Prof. Afzal Ahmad, Director, National Seminar on Hifzan-e-Sehat & Chairman, Department of Hifzan-e Sehat Wa Samaji Tibb, Ajmal Khan Tibbia College, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh 202002, India. Phone: +91-571-2400302 (W) / 2408012 (R).

The Philosophy of Ibn Rushd

The Department of Philosophy, Aligarh Muslim University (Aligarh, India) is going to organize a seminar on Philosophy of Ibn Rushd from October 7-9, 2004

Ibn Rushd is the most famous and probably also the most versatile philosopher in the tradition of Islamic thought as flourished in the late medieval times. While credited for having rehabilitated philosophy in the Muslim World, he also enjoyed a great following in the circles of Christian philosopher-theologians of the West around thirteenth century and onwards. As a bearer of Aristotelian legacy he can even be said to have facilitated Europe's transition from its medieval dogmatism to its rationalist present.

The objective of the Seminar on the Philosophy of Ibn Rushd is to recapture and

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revive the rationalist spirit of Islam, which is, by all appearances, presently in a state of slumber.

Scholars are invited to write papers on any topic of their choice relating to the themes mentioned below. The papers should be well researched, highlighting some less familiar aspects of Ibn Rushd's Philosophy. Thoughtful, original contributions may also be made on issues that have a bearing on the subject.

1. Ibn Rushd and the rationalist legacy in Islam
2. Religion and Philosophy: harmony and conflict
3. Ibn Rushd's contribution to Islamic hermeneutics
4. Ghazali and Ibn Rushd
5. Ibn Rushd and the West Ethical Political Philosophy of Ibn Rushd
6. Relevance of Ibn Rushd to modern world

Scholars invited for presentation of papers will be paid ACII rail fare and provided full local hospitality. Likewise, International participants will also be offered in-country ACII rail fare besides hospitality.

Key dates:

Abstract Submission: 11.7.04

Full Paper Submission: 16.7.04

Selected Paper Information: 1.09.04

The manuscript should be submitted in two copies accompanied by a floppy disk or may be e-mailed as attachment typed on word document. For more details, contact: Prof. Jafalul-Haq (Director); Dr. Preeti Sayeed (Secretary); Dr. Tasadduq Husain (Convener). E-mail: ibnrushd_seminar@yahoo.com

The Rise and Fall of the Ceramic Spittoon - A Loan Exhibition Stockspring Antiques
"The Rise and Fall of the Ceramic Spittoon" is the title of the exhibition to be held by

Stockspring Antiques, London W8, from 28 September - 9 October 2004. The Evening seminar is on Thursday 7 October 2004.

It is a loan exhibition of 60 pieces from a private collection of ceramic spittoons. This is the first exhibition of such spittoons in the United Kingdom and it places them in their social and medical context.

The development of the ceramic spittoon reflects the social history of Europe, especially relating to tobacco usage and chest diseases such as tuberculosis. During the 17th-18th centuries many spittoons were made to be 'hand held' for personal use and by the second half of the 19th century they were seen in also public spaces and public houses. However in the early 20th century there was a realization of the importance of infectious diseases and a subsequent decline in public spitting, consequently spittoons disappeared from view.

The collection concentrates on European spittoons and includes porcelain and pottery examples, the range of shape and decoration reflecting their contemporary design and origin. Interestingly, most spittoons manufactured in England are decorated in blue and white, whereas contemporary European examples are decorated in both polychrome and blue and white.

The Stockspring Antiques Exhibition tells the story of the ceramic spittoon and is accompanied by an illustrated catalogue and a seminar. The details of the exhibition are:-

"The Rise and Fall of the Ceramic Spittoon"
28 September - 9 October 2004, Stockspring Antiques, 114 Kensington Church Street, London W8 4BH

Email: stockspring@antique-porcelain.co.uk

Web: www.antique-porcelain.co.uk

Tel. & fax: (+44) 020 7727 7995

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**Indic Health Conference II Ayurveda:
Modern and Global Identities**

On Friday 2 and Saturday 3 July 2004 the Dharam Hinduja Institute of Indic Research (DHIIR), based at the Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge, will host its 8th International Conference. The conference will discuss the history and development of Modern and Global Ayurveda as the second part of a larger project, the Indic Health and Medicine Research Programme (IHMRP), which has been the focus of DHIIR research since October 2000.

An international network of scholars, practitioners and experts will present their research at the Ayurveda conference. Their presentations will cover a wide range of methodological points of view, discussing the case of Modern and Global Ayurveda from historical, textual, anthropological, socio-political, economic, biomedical and pharmacological perspectives.

'Modern Ayurveda' is here understood to start with the processes of professionalisation and institutionalization brought about in India by what has been called the 19th century revivalism of Ayurveda. 'Global Ayurveda', on the other hand, refers to the more cosmopolitan and geographically widespread processes of popularization and acculturation. Early East-West exchanges (16th c. onward) were largely limited to the pharmaceutical and botanical sciences and disregarded ayurvedic epistemology. Pharmaceutical interests still form a powerful force in the politics of Ayurveda today and shape both Indian and international perceptions of ayurvedic resources. In contrast, the more recent wave of international interest in Indic forms of knowledge tends to include elements of religio-philosophical speculation and of 'spirituality', in many cases aimed at developing 'holistic' lifestyles. Such borrowings, however, often substantially altered or developed through the process of

transmission, are not always properly acknowledged.

Ayurvedic approaches to health and wellbeing are just beginning to become recognized and, to a lesser extent, integrated in the context of modern medical sciences and healthcare. Assimilation at the level of complementary or integrative forms of medicine and self-care has however been more widespread, and this phenomenon deserves scholarly attention as symptomatic of needs and aspirations felt by a sizeable number of individuals in developed communities worldwide. For up to date information on the conference please see <http://www.divinity.cam.ac.uk/CARTS/dhiir/indic/conf04.html>

For information on the IHMRP as well as the DHIIR's work in general, please refer to <http://www.divinity.cam.ac.uk/CARTS/dhiir/>

Conference Venue:
Faculty of Divinity University of Cambridge
West Road, Cambridge CB3 9BS U.K.

Time and Astronomy in Past Cultures

Department of Historical Anthropology at the Institute of Archaeology, Warsaw University, together with Torun Planetarium is organizing a symposium entitled "Time and astronomy in past cultures", in memory of Professor

Andrzej Wiercinski (1930–2003), pioneer Polish researcher of astronomy in culture. The symposium will take place from March 30th – April 1st, 2005 under the auspices of Société Européenne pour l'Astronomie dans la Culture (SEAC, cf. www.iac.es/SEAC/SEAC.html) in Torun, the city where Nikolaus Copernicus was born at the Old Town: the planetarium, Copernicus' House and the City Hall (cf.

The aim of the symposium is to provoke an interdisciplinary discussion about the time reckoning and astronomical tools of time measuring and calendars in past cultures, with

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special focus on ancient civilizations of Old and New World. Proposed (but not obligatory) topics are: 1) calendars and calendar festivals, 2) solar vs. lunar calendars and their arrangement, 3) time reckoning and historical perspective. For details visit the site:

www.um.torun.pl/torun/baza/pierwsza_en.php

For correspondence contact: Dr. Arkadiusz Soltysiak, Department of Historical Anthropology, Institute of Archaeology, Warsaw University, ul. Krakowskie Przedmieście 26/28, 00-927 Warszawa, Poland. E-mail A.Soltysiak@uw.edu.pl

Lectures:

Manipulative Medicine

Prof. Russell Shaffrey will discuss the history of the treatments proffered by therapists, bonesetters, osteopaths, surgeons and physicians, from their origins in antiquity to the present day on Sunday September 12th at 2pm at The Old Operating Theatre, Museum and Herb Garret, 9a St Thomas' Street, London, SE1 9RY.

Admission: £4.25 adult, £3.25 concession, £2.50 child, £11.00 family

OTHER NEWS ITEMS

Newsletters & Journals

African Mathematical Union Commission on the History of Mathematics in Africa (AMUCHMA) – Newsletter -29

Issue (29) of the AMUCHMA newsletter on the history of mathematics in Africa is available at the following website:

www.math.buffalo.edu/mad/AMU/amuchma_online.html

Commission of the History of Ancient and Medieval Astronomy, Newsletter, Vol. 2, No.2, June (2004)

The Newsletter is available on the Commission's web site: <http://chama.ifi.ucl.ac.be> It can be got also

from Prof. Anne Tihon (tihon@ori.ucl.ac.be), the Secretary of the Commission.

Microchips track books in Vatican library

Keeping bookshelves tidy is at the best of times a chore. But when the bookshelves stretch 30 miles, it becomes something rather worse. Custodian of the Vatican library, fed up with having to spend a month a year putting wayward items from their collection of 1.6m volumes and manuscripts back where they belong, are tagging them with microchips.

"The way things are now, if a book is not in its right place, it's as good as lost", said Ambrogio Piazzoni, the deputy prefect of the library. With the introduction of the so-called RF-ID (radio frequency identification) technology, that trouble should rapidly become a thing of the past. "You just walk in front of a shelf and you can immediately see on the screen a list of all the books and their contents," Dr. Piazzoni told the Italian news agency, Ansa. "If a book is missing, or in the wrong place, the computer signals the fact with an alarm sound." RF-ID technology is widely used in warehousing and retailing. But this is thought to be the first time it has been used on such a scale in a library. The tags contain in a transponder with a digital memory chip, which is given a unique electronic code, activated by a hand-held device, which can read data from the chip. The dangers of not knowing what is where were highlighted in 1996 when a professor from Ohio State University was jailed for 14 months after admitting that he had stolen pages torn from a Vatican manuscript once owned by the 14th-century poet Petrarch. The library includes the oldest known complete Bible, Petrarch's notes for his two greatest works and a copy of the first book to be printed: *The Gutenberg Bible*. The book collection includes no fewer than 8,200 "incunabula", works published before 1501 using moveable type. But less than a third of its manuscripts have been catalogued, though the process began over 100 years ago.

- The Guardian News Agency

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"Arka" Reversing the Aging Process – A Project

"ARKA" is a research project of S.A.I.I.E.R (Sri Aurobindo International Institute of Educational Research). "Arka" as translated by Sri Aurobindo means "the illumining ray", also means in Sanskrit sun, ray of light, sunflower, crystal and the number 12.

Arka aims to be a self-sufficient centre for seniors, who aspire to continue leading an active integral life in spite of any possible physical and psychical changes that might occur with age. It aims to be a model for whole of India in trying to provide care for people appropriate to their age and to demonstrate that it is possible to improve their quality of life by fulfilling their special needs.

Approximately 8 kilometers north of Pondicherry, and 160 km south of Chennai, Auroville is situated in a predominantly rural area of the Villupuram district of Tamil Nadu, South India. Overlooking the Bay of Bengal, and spread over an area of 20 square kilometer, the township consists of nearly 90 settlements of varying sizes with a population of 1800 people drawn from more than 36 countries in the world. Of this figure, Indians constitute 33% out of which 22% is drawn from the local villages. Arka is situated on the Crown road opposite to Surrender community just bordering the Mahalakshmi Park of the Matrimandir.

ARKA is at the moment entirely dependent on donations and financial help from all well-wishers.

The official website of the ARKA project is: www.auroville.org/society/arka.htm

The above information is provided by Maria Grazia Garilli, New Creation, Auroville 605 101, Tamil Nadu India
E-mail: mariagrazia@auroville.org.in

Scholarships / Jobs

Freelance researcher / cataloguer to work on the Art Gallery & Museum's collections of archives and artifacts related to spa treatments

For renewed health and happiness, a research project has been set up, which documents the treatments at the Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa.

Project Outline

The aim of the project is to research records relating to spa treatments at the Royal Pump Rooms, to use the resulting research to document the museum's spa related collections and to create interpretative text for the public. This project has been supported by MLA West Midlands: the Regional Council for Museums, Libraries and Archives.

Key tasks

- To research archives held by the Art Gallery & Museum at the Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Library and Warwickshire County Record Office. These comprise newspaper cuttings, visitor books, patient records, guidebooks, ephemera, photographs and oral history recordings. The majority of the material dates from the 20th century.
- To directly input this data on the history of the spa treatments into a computer.
- To use the research with the aim to form a comprehensive social and economic history of the Royal Pump Rooms, its Leamington spa treatments and equipment.
- To update the documentation of the Museum's collections of ephemera, photographs and objects relating to spa treatments on Modes for Windows using the research gathered.
- To write interpretative texts summarizing each treatment and the equipment it used. This information will be used to improve intellectual access to the collections and building.

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Time plan

35 days of research between mid September 2004 and the end of February 2005. This may be part-time or full-time and hours may be flexible by negotiation with the Art Gallery & Museum

Fee: £1968.75 for 35 days at 7 1/2 hours a day (262.5 hours). This sum is inclusive of all expenses except for a small allowance for travel expenses from the Museum to the County Record Office and for photocopying there.

Please Note

- This is a freelance post.
- You are responsible for your own National Insurance and Tax contributions.
- You must provide evidence of your self-employed tax status.
- Confidential Information received during the course of your contract is not to be revealed to outside parties.
- The copyright in any material produced lies with the Art Gallery & Museum, The Royal Pump Rooms and Warwick District Council.

Essential Person Specification: Experience and Skills

- Experience of researching and interpreting historical documents.
- An understanding of the history of the 19th and 20th centuries
- Familiarity with collections management.
- Object handling skills.
- Typing speed of at least 30 plus words a minute.
- Good word processing skills.
- Ability to assess important and relevant facts within historical material.
- Good organizational and time management.
- High level of accuracy and attention to detail.

Desirable

- Experience in documenting museum objects especially using Modes for Windows
- Writing interpretative text for museums
- Knowledge of the history of medicine and in particular spa treatments.

Qualifications

Desirable

- A degree or MA in History – preferably in 19th and 20th century history or the history of medicine.
- A postgraduate qualification in Museum studies.

How to Apply

To apply for this contract, please send the following information by 6th September to: Alison Plumridge, Art Gallery & Museum, The Royal Pump Rooms, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV32 4AA.

- Curriculum Vitae including 2 referees
- An outline of how you meet the requirements of the post (Maximum 2 sides of A4).
- Covering letter.

For further information and or an informal discussion please contact: Alison Plumridge, Senior Curatorial Officer, Art Gallery & Museum, Royal Pump Rooms, The Parade, Leamington Spa, CV32 4AA. Tel 01926 742701

Medical History Essay Contest for Medical Students:

The College of Physicians of Philadelphia, Francis C. Wood Institute for the History of Medicine Section on Medical History is organizing "Medical History Essay Contest for Medical Students"

The Krumbhaar Award: Dr. Edward Bell Krumbhaar, M.D. (1882-1966) was a distinguished pathologist and cardiac physiologist, as well as one of Philadelphia's

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leading historians of medicine. A founder of both the Section on Medical History of the College of Physicians and the American Association of the History of Medicine (AAHM), Dr. Krumbhaar also served as President of the College and of the AAHM. He was a polyglot, publishing English translations of works originally in French, German and Italian. Besides his own work, he is perhaps best remembered by historians for his revised translation of Arturo Castiglioni's *History of Medicine* (1941).

In February 1957, the Section on Medical History of the College of Physicians awarded the first Krumbhaar Award. The Wood Institute for the History of Medicine and the Section on Medical History have revived this award and herewith announce the 2004-2005 medical student essay contest.

Eligibility: Contestants must currently be students in a medical or osteopathic school in eastern Pennsylvania or New Jersey. Those awarded the M.D. or D.O. degree in May or June 2004 are eligible. Students with advanced degrees in history, other humanities, sociology, or anthropology will be judged in a separate pool.

Conditions: Essays must be based on *new* original research in primary sources. We encourage use of the museum and library collections at the College of Physicians. College Library and Mütter Museum staff will assist in reference capacities, but will not perform research or help edit the essays before submission. Entries will be due on April 1, 2005; winners to be announced at a date to be announced in the spring of 2004.

Prizes: First prize will be \$300. More than one prize will be awarded at the discretion of the judges. Winning essayists may be invited to submit their papers to *Transactions & Studies of the College of Physicians*. The winner(s) will be invited to the spring 2004

College Night, where they will participate in an awards ceremony. The Wood Institute Director, with consent of the College President, will appoint a committee of four judges that includes at least three College Fellows. The Director will serve on the committee and vote only in case of a tie.

For further information, please contact Margaret Patton, Assistant to the Director, Division of Museum and Historical Services, the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, 19 South 22nd Street, Philadelphia PA 19103.
E-mail: mpatton@collphyphil.org

OBITUARIES

Mr. Syed Afzal Husain Tabassum

Mr. Syed Afzal Husain Tabassum was born on March 5, 1921 at Atrauli (District Aligarh) in a family of *Zamindari*. His great grandfather Mr. Syed Tahavur Ali was a freedom fighter and was hanged to death. Britishers trapped his Aarazi (Land) and due to that the whole family members then moved to Agra. In Agra, a firm was established for manufacturing of scientific models at Sui Katra near Hospital Road. That was the time when the scientific models were imported from Germany and England. The only firms in India at that time were in Hyderabad and Agra. Sui Katra (Agra) was the third firm established by this family. Mr. S. Afzal Tabassum structured models of human anatomy by plaster of paris. To take advantage of his expertise, he was appointed at Agra Medical College, where he was supposed to prepare anatomical models directly from dissected and preserved human body. He left the job for better option and did diploma course in museology from Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), Aligarh. In early 1960s he was appointed in the department of Botany at AMU and retired from there as Museum Curator in 1981. His hand-made models were purchased both for Ajmal Khan Tibbiya College and Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College Museums. Department of

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Anatomy of both colleges particularly arranged these models. Professor D. Kumar, (Chairman Department of Anatomy, JNMC) who incidentally was a graduate of Agra Medical College (Agra) was a great fan of his models.

He remained engaged in several social works. His love for the language of Urdu is depicted when we see his contribution in establishment of Jamia Urdu at Agra and Urdu Board at Aligarh. He did Urdu poetry especially '*Shragoi*'. His pen-name was 'Tabassum'. He worked on *shragoi* as or separate topic in Urdu poetry. He translated many manuscripts in Urdu from Persian and Arabic. He was appointed secretary of Sampradaic Virodhic Committee and Waqf Board in Aligarh. He was active member of the Uplift Society and Technical Staff Association of AMU. He worked on compiling facts and figures for history of Aligarh and collected many *kathats* and hand-written notes from different places. He died on April 25, 2004 at Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, AMU, Aligarh.

Georges de Morsier

Georges de Morsier was a neurologist who lived in Collonge-Bellerive, close to Geneva. He was born on February 25, 1894 at Paris (France) and died on January 9, 1982.

He is always known because he gave the name of "syndrome of Charles Bonnet" to the "visual hallucinations, which appear among old men whereas the other cerebral functions are intact". Georges de Morsier created in 1936 this eponymic denomination in remembering the very precise description, made in 1760, by the philosopher and Swiss naturalist Charles Bonnet (1720-1793), of the eye trouble of his grandfather.

See his eponyms on:

www.whonamedit.com/doctor.cfm/2233.html

Short Communication:

Avignon - The capital of Christianity during the middle Ages

S. Ziaur Rahman*

My flight Aeroflot took me at Charles de Gaulle (CDG) International Airport of France in Paris via Moscow. From Airport CDG, I traveled to Avignon by train TGV along with my other friends: Dr. Chandra Shekhar Patil (Neuro-pharmacology Division, University Institute of Pharmaceutical Science, Panjab University, Chandigarh), Dr. S. Shukla (of ITRC, Lucknow) and Dr. Anita Suram (of CFTRI, Mysore). Below is a short description of the city of Avignon.

Inhabited since Neolithic times, then a Roman city, Avignon was an important trading centre in the 12th century, due in part to its famous bridge, the only crossing point on the southern Rhine at the time. During the 14th century, with the arrival of the Popes, Avignon experienced incredible growth and prosperity. Nine successive Popes built the famous Palace of the Popes and transformed the urban landscape. Avignon was the capital of the Christian world, *Altera Roma*, with flourishing religious, diplomatic, artistic and commercial activity. Even after the Popes returned to Rome, Avignon continued to thrive, governed by the Legates and Vice-Legates during the 17th and 18th centuries. The nobles and the bourgeois classes prospered from the flourishing trade and built sumptuous private mansions. During the 19th and 20th centuries, the city grew beyond its ramparts, strengthening its position as a commercial and cultural crossroads.

The Palace of Popes at present is the symbol of the Church's influence over the Western world during the 14th century. Starting in 1335 and built in less than 20 years (), the Palace is primarily the work of two Popes, Benedict XII and his successor, Clement VI. Today, their

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work is the biggest existing Gothic palace in the world.

A legendary bridge, which is also called **Avignon Bridge**, was built during the 12th century and was the only crossing point along the Rhine River, the natural boundary between the Kingdom of France and the Holy Roman Germanic Empire. Legend has it that the young shepherd Benezet heard divine voices instructing him to build the bridge. The bridge was destroyed by Louis VIII during the Albigensian Crusade, and was then rebuilt in the late 13th century. Raging floodwaters damaged it, and it was definitively abandoned in the 17th century. Today, there remain only 4 of the original 22 arches, and a lovely Romanesque chapel dedicated to the bridge's patron-saint.

Villeneuve-lez-Avignon. After the construction of Benezet Bridge, Villeneuve-lez-Avignon became a choice location for the residences of members of the Pontifical Court. Cardinals built sumptuous "livrees" or palaces. In the 14th century, Pope Innocent VI founded the Chartreuse Monastery, Val de Benediction, in Villeneuve. This was the largest Chartreuse monastery in Europe, and spread at the foot of the massive Fort Saint Andre. The Philip the Fair Tower, originally the other end of the bridge, stood in the kingdom of France and marked the entrance to the city of Villeneuve.

UNESCO has ranked the unique architectural setting in Avignon as Heritage for Humanity. This covers the Rocher des Doms, which overlooks Avignon and the Rhine valley, the Saint Benezet Bridge, the ramparts, the Petit Palais, the Doms Cathedral and the mighty walls and towers of the Palace of the Popes.

Proud of its long-standing traditions, Avignon invites to discover its arts and crafts, the shops the lively streets, and the shady squares lined with outdoor cafes. Avignon is like nothing better than to share with the art of

living in Provence. Avignon's location is ideal for discovering the rich cultural heritage and beautiful landscapes that Provence has to offer. From Avignon, one can easily visit the majestic slopes of Mont Ventoux, the cool waters of the Sorgues, the Luberon with its ochre sands and perched villages, the vast lands of Camargue. The world's greatest theatre festival – the Avignon Festival – is the world reference for live theatre, which was founded by Jean Vilar. Every July, artists and audiences from the world over come together, creating a unique cultural atmosphere that vibrates throughout the city.

*** Visited Avignon on May, 2004 with the courtesy of ISN Fellowship.**

Donations received by the Ibn Sina Academy shall be exempt under section 80G of the Income Tax Act 1961. Personal cheques or DDs may be made payable to "Treasurer, Ibn Sina Academy" and sent to the Academy at the following address: Treasurer, Ibn Sina Academy, Tijara House, Dohpur, Aligarh 202002 (UP), India.

The Academy is an independent trust registered under Indian Trusts Act, 1882. The primary aim and objective of the Academy is to promote research studies of the works of physicians and scientists belonging to medieval period and to encourage and sponsor original research in the fields of history of medieval medicine and sciences. The trust has a rich collection of rare books including manuscripts on medieval medicine and sciences along with other subjects of Urdu literature; i.e. Ghalibiat, Aligarh & Sir Syed. The trust has an ambitious programme to establish a medical & cultural museum, expansion of present library and research division of medieval sciences.

The public in general and philanthropists in particular are requested for generous contribution for the development, growth and running of the Academy.



Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences

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I wish to become a member of the Ibn Sina Academy of Medieval Medicine & Sciences. I have read the objectives & Byelaws of the academy and agree to abide by it.

1. Name:

2. Educational Qualifications:

3. Addresses:

(i) Office with phone #

(ii) Residence with phone #

(iii) E-mail:

4. Are you actively engaged in work concerning history of medicine & sciences:

5. Field of specialization:

6. Type of membership desired:

Life 1500/- Student 700/- Ordinary (annual) 100/-

Date:

Signature:

Note: (1) The admission fee of Rupees Fifty only shall be chargeable at the initial admittance to the academy. The subscription for Life membership is Rs. 1500/- only and student life membership is Rs. 700/-. An ordinary membership subscription is Rs.100/-, valid for calendar year and shall become due on the 1st January each year.

(2) All the payments be made either in cash, or a demand draft in favour of 'TREASURER IAMMS' and should be sent along with this form completely filled and mailed to the treasurer. Please add Rs. 30/- for outstation cheques.

Treasurer, IAMMS
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