Table of Contents

Letter from the Chairman ........................................... 1
About Al-Furqan .................................................... 2
The Centers of Al-Furqan ............................................ 3
Recent Activities ..................................................... 5
External Relations ................................................... 5
Collaboration between Al-Furqan and Al-Azhari ............ 5
Recent Visits .......................................................... 6
Al-Furqan and International Book Fairs ....................... 6
Lectures .............................................................. 7
Interest in Maqāsid Expression ................................... 7
Omission in Legislation and Obligation ....................... 8
Projects and Achievements ........................................ 9
Gazi Husayn Bey Library Project ................................ 9
Institute for Oriental Studies, Sarajevo ...................... 10
The Lion’s of Noble Jerusalem ................................... 10
The Historical Archive of Sarajevo ............................ 12
World Survey ....................................................... 12
Bibliography of Maqāsid al-Shari‘ah ............................ 13
Encyclopedia of Makkah and Madinah ....................... 14
Al-Furqan Library ................................................... 16
Profile ................................................................ 17
Recent Publications ............................................... 18
Book Review .......................................................... 19
Flashback Events ..................................................... 19
Belgium Queen’s visit .............................................. 19
Honours ............................................................... 20
Past Awards .......................................................... 20
Libraries’ Profiles .................................................... 21
Staemy van Nije Library ........................................... 21
National Library and Archives of Egypt .................... 25
In Memoriam .......................................................... 26
Iraj Ashfar ............................................................. 26
Shaikh Faisal Mansouri .......................................... 27
Juan Vernet ........................................................... 27

After some interruption, Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation is pleased to publish the tenth edition of its Newsletter, through which we maintain our relationship with our readers all over the world.

Our Newsletter is your source of information about the Foundation and your gateway to the activities, projects and publications that we nurture, and through which we put our vision into practice.

Three centers have now come under the umbrella of Al-Furqan Foundation: the Manuscripts Centre, the Maqāsid Centre and the Encyclopedia of Makkah and Madinah Centre.

One of the Foundation’s core commitments is to publish new critical editions on the science, culture and history that is found in Islamic manuscripts.

We are continuing our work in this field, responding to developing circumstances in the human cultural heritage in general and the Islamic cultural heritage in particular.

In this issue of the Newsletter you can learn about our current activities as well as the most significant achievements of the Foundation since it was first launched in 1988.

In this issue we would like to express our gratitude to all those scholars, innovative academic researchers and prominent editors who have provided their services to Al-Furqan and to the field of Islamic heritage over the years, as well as for their valuable work in collecting, cataloguing, preserving, editing, attributing, studying and publishing the fruits of this heritage for the benefit of all humanity.

It also gives me pleasure to announce the appointment of our new Managing Director, Sali Shahsvar, who has been entrusted with sustaining the Foundation’s existing efforts and leading it in its new endeavors, I hope you will join me in wishing him every success in the future in carrying forward this noble mission.

We hope to maintain our communication through the Newsletter on bi-annual basis, possibly increasing its frequency at a later stage.

Al-Furqan Foundation’s management, consultants, experts, staff and supporters all look forward to continuing their work towards fulfilling its aspirations in many different academic fields to preserve the Islamic cultural and scientific heritage, confident that the pursuit of such knowledge is beneficial to all humanity.

Almor Zaki Yamani
Founder and Chairman
Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation
About Al-Furqan

*Al-Furqan: An Introduction*

Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation is a nonprofit foundation registered in the United Kingdom, number: 2292628. It was established in London in 1988 by the Yamani Cultural and Charitable Foundation. Shaikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani is the founder of both of these foundations.

*Al-Furqan’s Vision*

To be a leading foundation in preserving and studying the Islamic written heritage.

*Al-Furqan’s Mission*

To identify, initiate, assist, sponsor and promote research in the field of Islamic heritage.

*Aims and objectives*

- Identify, describe and publish existing collections of the Islamic written heritage in various parts of the world.
- Initiate, assist, sponsor and promote research in the field of Islamic heritage.
- Assist in the preservation and restoration of the Islamic written heritage.
- Raise awareness of the richness of the Islamic heritage, its role and importance.

*The Foundation realizes these strategic aims through:

- Surveying and preserving Islamic manuscript collections.
- Cataloguing previously uncatalogued Islamic manuscripts.
- Publishing new critical editions of Islamic manuscripts of particular significance.
- Publishing bibliographical references in the field of Islamic Manuscripts as well as *maqāsid* (philosophy of Islamic jurisprudence).
- Compiling the Encyclopedia of the two holy cities (Makkah and Madinah).
- Running training courses on various aspects of Islamic heritage, such as cataloguing and preservation of manuscripts and understanding of the *maqāsid*.
- Holding conferences, symposia, and lectures to stimulate research and discussions on topics related to the field of Manuscripts and *maqāsid*, as well as other aspects of the Islamic heritage.
- Establishing a reference library with the main research tools necessary for the study of Islamic manuscripts and *maqāsid*.
- Creating an online platform/database for online catalogues and other bibliographical works, in addition to enable the scholars, researchers and students of the Islamic civilisation and heritage all over the world to communicate with the Library rapidly and easily.

*The Boards of Al-Furqan*

*The Board of Directors*

The Board of Directors is the highest body in Al-Furqan, which consists of the Chairman and members.

*The International Advisory Board*

The International Advisory Board is a body of outstanding academics and scholars in the field of the Islamic written heritage, such as: history, history of science, codicology, paligraphy, Islamic history, Islamic sciences, etc.

*The Board of Experts*

The Board of Experts is a decision-making body, with a role to:
- Review the activities of the foundation on a yearly basis and provide the appropriate directions.
- Elaborate on and discuss themes for projects to be adopted by the Foundation on a yearly basis.
- Inspect projects and scholarly works submitted to the foundation for financing and publishing and issuing decisions as to its acceptance, request for modifications, or rejection.

*Al-Furqan’s Motto*

“Glorious Past, Brighter Future”

---

*The Centers of Al-Furqan*

*Introduction*

Al-Furqan Foundation was established initially with the aim to document and preserve the Islamic written heritage, principally through its work in surveying, imaging, cataloguing, editing, studying and publishing Islamic manuscripts. But, with time, its scope of activity has expanded, and it has become an umbrella Foundation, consisting of three centres:

1. The Manuscripts Centre

The Manuscripts Centre aims to document and preserve the Islamic written heritage through surveying, imaging, cataloguing, editing, and publishing Islamic manuscripts, which constitute a significant part of the Islamic heritage.

The Centre focuses on identifying and describing existing collections of Islamic manuscripts in various parts of the world as well as supporting and initiating research in the field of Islamic manuscripts. It assists in the preservation, cataloguing and restoration of Islamic manuscripts, and establishes a visual record and archive at the Foundation’s premises using the most efficient methods of information storage and retrieval. In addition, it edits and publishes Islamic manuscripts of particular scientific or historical significance.

*The Centre’s Boards*

*Chairman*

H.E. Ahmed Zaki Yamani

*Board of Experts*

Professor Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu
Professor Mohammad Adnan al-Balkhi
Professor Ibrahim Chaboub
Professor Abdullah al-Ghunaim
Professor François Déroche
Professor Mohammad Haytham al-Khayat

*International Advisory Board*

Professor Naser Eddin al-Assad
Professor Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu
Professor Enes Karić
2. The Maqṣūdī Centre

The Maqṣūdī Centre concentrates on the study of the philosophy of Islamic law and its objectives. The Centre aims at reviving the knowledge of maqṣūdī (objectives) of Islamic law in order to develop the process of ijtihād (free reasoning) and the renewal of Islamic fiqh (jurisprudence), its usul (fundamental theory) and Islamic thought, which should be practised by scholars.

This revival depends primarily on a comprehensive understanding of maqṣūdī and their prioritization in practice. The correctness of rulings that are reached through ijtihād depends on the correctness of this understanding. The Centre aims to broaden the horizons of knowledge for students of Islamic studies and encourages studies and research which contribute to the Islamic philosophy of law.

The Centre supports new research in the theories of priorities, utility, and universal principles of Islamic law, and it calls upon scholars and Islamic institutes of fiqh to illustrate the link between the Islamic texts, fiqh, and maqṣūdī. The Maqṣūdī Centre establishes a comprehensive maqṣūdī encyclopaedia as it collects relevant literature and manuscripts, classifying and indexing them, and making them available for scholars and researchers in all domains of Islamic studies.

The Centre’s Boards

Chairman
H.E. Ahmed Zakī Yamani

Board of Experts
Shaikh Dr. Abdul-Malik bin Duhaish
Professor Nasseruddin al-Assad
Professor Abdul-Wahab Abu-Sulaiman
Professor Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu
Professor Jan Just Witkam
Professor Robert McHenry
Dr. Tayyib Al-Tiktaq
Professor Sayyid Mohammad
Professor Kazem Boyouardi

Academic Board
Professor Abdul-Wahab Abu-Sulaiman
Professor Abdul-Latif bin Abdullah bin Duhaish
Professor Gazi Bin Obaid Madani
Professor Abbas Sallie Tashkandy
Professor Omar Hassan Falata
Dr. Md’raj Noor Mirza
Dr. Asem Hamdan Ali
Dr. Mohammad Abdel-Kareem bin Abeer
Dr. Abdul-Rahman Salimain al-Mazini
Dr. Abdullah Salih Ahmed Shawwosh
Dr. Youssef Ahmed Fawwara
Dr. Adnan Muhammad al-Sharief

3. The Mawsoa Centre

The Mawsoa’s main goal is to acknowledge Makkah and Madinah’s scientific and cultural roles and their historic significance. It identifies subjects related to the two cities and supports researchers, academics, scholars, and specialists to submit works and research papers about the two cities for review and evaluation to be included in the Encyclopaedia of Makkah and Madinah, published by the Centre itself.

The Centre provides scientific material and information to students and researchers to promote research and to preserve the cultural and scientific heritage of the two holy cities.

The Centre’s Boards

Chairman
H.E. Ahmed Zakī Yamani

Board of Experts
Shaikh Dr. Abdul-Malik bin Duhaish
Professor Nasseruddin al-Assad
Professor Abdul-Wahab Abu-Sulaiman
Professor Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu
Professor Jan Just Witkam
Professor Robert McHenry
Dr. Tayyib Al-Tiktaq
Professor Sayyid Mohammad
Professor Kazem Boyouardi

Academic Board
Professor Abdul-Wahab Abu-Sulaiman
Professor Abdul-Latif bin Abdullah bin Duhaish
Professor Gazi Bin Obaid Madani
Professor Abbas Sallie Tashkandy
Professor Omar Hassan Falata
Dr. Md’raj Noor Mirza
Dr. Asem Hamdan Ali
Dr. Mohammad Abdel-Kareem bin Abeer
Dr. Abdul-Rahman Salimain al-Mazini
Dr. Abdullah Salih Ahmed Shawwosh
Dr. Youssef Ahmed Fawwara
Dr. Adnan Muhammad al-Sharief

International Advisory Board
Shaikh Yusuf al-Qaradawi
Shaikh Abdullah bin Bayah

Recent Activities

External Relations

Collaboration between Al-Furqān Foundation and Al-Azhar in Cairo

Al-Furqān’s Managing Director, Salī Shabibī, and the Head of its Projects and Publications Department, Mohammed Driouche, visited Al-Azhar in Cairo on 24th September 2011 to discuss possible collaboration between the two foundations in the field of preservation of the Islamic heritage.

The meeting took place in the headquarters of Al-Azhar Al-Sharif, where the Grand Imam, Dr Ahmed El-Tayyeb, President of Al-Azhar, his personal consultant, Dr Mohamed El-Sulaimani, Professor Ayman Fouad Sayyid, Director of the Centre for Critical Editing at Al-Azhar, and the spokesman of Al-Azhar met with Al-Furqān’s delegates.

After a brief presentation, in which the guest delegation summarised Al-Furqān’s most significant works and activities over the years, the Grand Imam, Dr El-Tayyeb expressed his great admiration for the efforts that Al-Furqān courts across a wide variety of fields, academic and otherwise, to revive the Islamic heritage.

Dr El-Tayyeb also emphasised how keen he was to encourage mutual co-operation between the two institutions. The two parties went on to discuss what forms this co-operation might take, which projects would be suitable and how they could be organised, as well as looking at wider issues such as the exchange of scientific expertise in the field of preservation, especially in matters relating to the written heritage of Islam.

At the end of the meeting, both parties resolved to sign a memorandum of understanding for joint co-operation between the two institutions as soon as possible, emphasising collaboration in organising joint conferences, workshops, seminars, training courses and common lectures in the fields of manuscripts and maqṣūdī.
Al-Furqān and International Book Fairs

Al-Furqān Foundation has a well-established tradition of participating in international book fairs. Beginning from its establishment, Al-Furqān has been active in many fields; its participation in international book fairs has been invaluable in providing it with a window through which the wider world can identify with its objectives and its accomplishments.

Since 1998 the Foundation has taken advantage of the opportunities provided by book fairs to communicate directly with the researchers, intellectuals and academics who share its aims and help it to realise its goals in the fields of preservation and publishing studies on Islamic manuscripts as well as books on maqāsid, while fostering its relationships with other readers who have a more general interest in its manuscript editions and other publications.

Over the last 23 years, Al-Furqān has taken part in approximately 20 international fairs throughout the world, concentrating its efforts on fairs held in Arab-speaking countries, for example, the Cairo International Book Fair, the Sharjah International Book Fair, the Algiers International Book Fair and the Casablanca Book Fair.

At all such fairs the Foundation has showcased its many publications, almost 180 publications in all, including catalogues of collections of Islamic manuscripts in leading libraries, manuscript studies, bibliographic and scientific publications and the proceedings of Al-Furqān’s academic conferences and symposiums.

In general the fairs have stimulated a strong interest in the Foundation’s publications among individual researchers and academics as well as representatives of cultural and scientific institutions. To maximise its presence at some fairs, strengthening the bonds between the organisation and those interested in its work, the Foundation has not simply restricted itself to displaying its publications, but has also organised series of public lectures and seminars on various aspects of Islamic heritage and civilisation.

Lectures

‘Interest in the Maqāsid Expression - Functional Method’
lecture by Dr Mohamed Kamal Imam

Al-Furqān Foundation organised a lecture at the thirtieth session of the Sharjah International Book Fair, where Dr Mohamed Kamal Imam, a member of the Board of Experts of the Maqāsid Centre at the Foundation spoke on ‘Interest in the maqāsid expression - functional method’, which took place on Friday 18th November 2011.

Dr Imam was introduced by Professor Majed Abdullah Bochlebi, Secretary General of the Sharjah Islamic Forum, who also provided an overview of the lecture and a short biography about the writer.

Dr Imam discussed the significance of maqāsid (objectives) in the modern world when people are constantly faced with challenging situations, matters which are not covered by existing laws and therefore necessitate jurisprudential reasoning in the light of maqāsid al-Shari’ā (the objectives of Islamic law).

He stated that maqāsid was a part of usul (the principles of law) which also includes theories of evidence and rulings. Maqāsid is central to the study of law: its main purpose being to realise a quest for goodness, a consequence of man’s identity as a being whose needs and status were derived from his role as God’s successor on earth.

According to Dr Imam, such interests should be defined as the interests of man as a whole, rather than those of a particular individual or community. At the end of the lecture, Dr Imam contributed with an analytical intervention on the subject.

Book Signing Ceremony

Due to the importance of this lecture’s topic, Al-Furqān published it in a book entitled ‘Interest in the maqāsid expression - functional method’ and it organised a signing ceremony at the fair. The ceremony was well attended and provided an opportunity for the Foundation to meet with its readers.
Al-Furqān Foundation organised another lecture on 20th November 2011, entitled ‘Omission in Legislation and Obligation’ by Professor Abdel-Wahab Abu-Sulaiman, a member of the Board of Experts of the Maqāsid Centre at the Foundation.

Professor Abu-Sulaiman discussed the reasons for the omission of some legal questions in Islam and referred to the scholars’ opinions on the question why Allah and his Messenger chose not to address some matters directly.

Several studies have already dealt with jurisprudence and the principles lying behind the practice of ‘omission’. Definitions have varied, of which Professor Abu-Sulaiman mentioned the following: ‘Omission is permissible where there is no ruling by the Prophet Muhammad that can be applied to a new event’.

Many other issues were discussed during the lecture, emphasising the fact that the Islamic community is currently living in an era in which it is faced with situations it had not previously encountered.

In his lecture Professor Abu-Sulaiman also tackled the maqāsid (purposes) in omission. He mentioned that it was well known that the Prophet Muhammad had rulings which weren’t applied on his community. Moreover, whenever the Prophet Muhammad set aside any legislative matters it was evident that he wanted such matters to be examined by learned members of the community.

The subject therefore has huge implications for political and cultural life such as upholding of human rights, maintaining just systems of government, guaranteeing acquired rights and ensuring that the Muslim community is allowed the freedom to regulate its affairs.

In conclusion, Professor Abu-Sulaiman reiterated that societies change with time and standards

Projects & Achievements

Gazi Husrev Beg Library Project

Collaboration between the Library and the Foundation

During the Bosnian war, the Gazi Husrev Beg Library lost more than 3,000 manuscripts. After the war had ended, Al-Furqān Foundation was able to step in and help the library to catalogue and digitise all its manuscripts.

The key objective of the project was to preserve tens of thousands of historical documents, including those relating to intangible properties and records of the Shari’ah court in Sarajevo, dating from the fifteen century to the mid-twentieth century.

The outcome of this huge project was the publication of 17 volumes, of around 10,000 manuscripts and collections (majāmī’), a project that was crowned this year.

In addition to this crucial conservation and cataloguing endeavour, Al-Furqān supported an imaging project and now holds images of all the manuscripts of the Gazi Husrev Beg Library, protecting them from loss or destruction and conserving this priceless resource to make it available for researchers worldwide.

The Foundation also supplied the library with modern bookshelves and bookcases for the storage of manuscripts and printed books, together with the up-to-date electronic equipment that enabled the scanning and preservation of the manuscripts in a digital and sustainable form.

The fruitful co-operation between Al-Furqān Foundation and the Gazi Husrev Beg Library can inspire us and give us hope for the future of the preservation of the Islamic manuscript heritage.

The Library’s Treasures

The catalogued manuscript collections cover a wide variety of fields and sciences, such as mathematics, medicine, politics, philosophy, astronomy, Quranic sciences, commentaries on the Qur’an (Tafsir), traditions of the Prophet (Hadith), Islamic
jurisprudence and ethics. Many of these works were written in the Bosnian language, but in Arabic script. The collections include works by prominent Arab, Persian, Ottoman and Bosnian authors.

In January 2002 Al-Furqan honoured the Bosnian cataloguers working on this project in appreciation of their dedicated efforts to preserve the Islamic cultural and scientific heritage in Bosnia.

Institute for Oriental Studies, Sarajevo

Background

When it was established in 1950, rare and significant collections were transferred to the Institute for Oriental Studies in Sarajevo from many prominent institutions, such as the National Museum Library, and consequently the Institute’s collection grew to become a rich manuscript collections in the Balkans.

Following the Bosnian war, however, the Institute’s collections were in a terrible condition: its premises, research library and complete manuscript collections were deliberately bombed in 1992 and more than 5,210 manuscripts codices and other irreplaceable historic materials were burnt to ashes.

Since 1995 efforts have been made to build up the collection again, buying manuscripts and accepting collections from individuals and institutions from Bosnia and further afield.

Providing Access to Knowledge

In response to the scale of the difficulties faced by the Institute, the Foundation initiated a project to catalogue the rescued collections, a project that resulted in the publication of a huge volume named The Catalogue of Arabic, Turkish, Persian and Bosnian Manuscripts of the Institute for Oriental Studies in Sarajevo, which was published in 2011.

The catalogue collections are from a variety of disciplines including law, theology, astrology, geography and politics.

The Liwā’ of Noble Jerusalem

The Significance of the Project

Jerusalem has institutions that hold significant Islamic and cultural collections of manuscripts of a great historical and universal value that belong to all mankind. The Foundation has therefore prioritised its work to record and catalogue collections of these valuable holdings. The Foundation has catalogued significant documents selected from the documents and public papers of the Ottoman state and published them under the title of The Liwā’ of Noble Jerusalem.

This work prepared by Professor Mohammad Adnan al-Bakht, is a unique and innovative study of the Ottoman texts, complete with Arabic translations. A total of five volumes in the series has already been published under the auspices of the Foundation, while a sixth volume is being prepared for publication in the near future. Significant efforts have been made to make this key source available in an accessible format. Through such publications, Al-Furqan intends to provide researchers and readers with a wealth of information collected from materials in the rich sources contained in the Ottoman registers.

It is self evident that these cultural treasures have great historic and cultural significance, due to the status of the Holy City for the whole of humanity. The publications enable researchers and readers to have first-hand access to this material in its original form.

The Volumes’ Important Content

The publications provide an insight into the social geography of Jerusalem and its constituent areas from the sixteenth century, in addition to informing the reader about the city’s economy and legal structure. For example, there are details of trade, administrative divisions, endowments and property, units of area, measurement, weights and so on.

There are also details of the type of currencies used in different periods and even the names of the shops in the cities of Hebron and Jerusalem. The section on Jerusalem was compiled with reference to the larger Ottoman register which also holds records for Safad and Gaza.

The volumes contain an extensive analytical study of the register’s contents which, among other topics, includes data on population sizes in every town and village, the names of scholars and eminent families who lived in urban centres. The registers have records of the types of crops grown, livestock kept, the areas serviced by agricultural markets and the ways the areas were administered.

The data are supported by maps which show the location of streets, city walls, schools, mosques and water reservoirs. These records also detail the amounts of revenue resulting from Ayni’id, Mamluk and Ottoman endowments which were used to fund buildings and educational establishments for students, scientists and scholars.

In the course of the Liwā project a number of legal texts from the courts in Jerusalem have been translated from Ottoman Turkish to Arabic. Some were also translated into French.

Collaborative Efforts

This project was implemented with the cooperation of the Turkish Prime Minister’s Archives (Başbakanlık Osmanlı Arşivi), IRCICA (the Research Center for Islamic History, Art and Culture in Istanbul), the University of Jordan’s Library and its Center for Documents and Manuscripts, the History of Levant Committee at the University of Jordan and the Directorate of Land in Ankara.

The work contains the full Ottoman text of the manuscript and an edited version of the contents (with an Arabic translation) of the oldest Ottoman census registers (Tapu Defteri) of the district of Jerusalem for the years 932-4 AH (1525-8 AD), as preserved in the Ottoman section of the Turkish Prime Minister’s Archives.

A prominent academic team has worked on the project in Istanbul, Ankara and Amman. Its members made a detailed study of a wealth of relevant books and documents, examining manuscripts, printed references and other material written at the beginning of the Ottoman period. The editors have bravely many challenges throughout their work, not the least of which was the complex script of the original register (defter).
The Historical Archive of Sarajevo

Established in 1950, the Historical Archive of Sarajevo is comprised of collections which grew gradually, augmented by purchases and donations made by both institutions and individuals, until it represents today a rich manuscript collections in the Balkans.

The volumes in their collection contain manuscripts on Islamic jurisprudence, medicine, politics and natural sciences, some of which are distinguished by exceptionally beautiful calligraphy and ornamentation, written between the fifteenth and twentieth centuries.

The Foundation’s Contribution

The Foundation has sponsored the cataloguing of manuscripts in the Historical Archive of Sarajevo, which has resulted in the publication of a two-volume catalogue of all the manuscripts and work on a third volume that is in progress.

Approximately 2700 manuscripts have been catalogued, among which are precious collections of Arabic, Ottoman Turkish, Persian and Bosnian manuscripts, including all kinds of Ottoman administration documents, registers (defters), personal and family collections and printed books, which have been preserved for scholars and researchers alike.

Methodologically speaking, the manuscripts were catalogued in accordance with the method used in the Gazi Husrev Beg Library’s catalogues published by the Foundation. Care was taken to include in the description of manuscripts, the date of their composition or transcription and to convey their scholarly significance, rarity and visual appearance.

World Survey

History of the project

In 1989 the Foundation set up a research project to investigate as comprehensively as possible the collections of Islamic manuscripts existing worldwide. Scholars were identified and commissioned to carry out the survey in 106 countries. The project resulted in The World Survey of Islamic Manuscripts which is the most wide-ranging survey to date, both in terms of the countries and the languages covered.

The objective of this project was to conduct an up-to-date and comprehensive survey of these collections. The Survey aimed at filling gaps left by previous bibliographies and similar works, and at the same time worked to bring together and update most of information included in them. It offers a guide to collections of Islamic manuscripts and details of how to access them.

Description of the World Survey

The Survey included description of hitherto unknown collections in African countries such as Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Comoro Islands, Ethiopia and Gambia. European countries whose collections were being described for the first time were also included, for example, Albania, Cyprus, Greece, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Far East countries were also included in the Survey such as New Zealand, Philippines, Japan, China and Thailand.

There was no restriction on the number of languages in which the manuscripts were written in the knowledge that the largest numbers of manuscripts were written in Arabic, followed by Persian and Turkish. The Survey includes descriptions of collections of manuscripts written in Urdu, Hindi, Punjabi, Swahili and Kurdish. It also includes private and public collections and provides information on the content of the collections surveyed, for example, the subjects covered, the languages in which they were written, the approximate dates of the manuscripts, the significance of the collections and their rarity.

The Survey required considerable funding and was implemented in collaboration with competent scholars and institutes.

Bibliography for Maqāsid al Shari’ah

Until the present day no comprehensive bibliography has been available in the field of maqāsid al Shari’ah, (the objectives of Islamic law).

In addition to the many other books that the Centre has published so far, the most important to date is the Bible for Maqāsid Al Shari’ah, Monographs, Theses and Articles, providing references and abstracts of about 3,300 titles; 8 volumes of which have been published so far.

This Bible prepared by Dr Mohamed Kamal Iman, concentrates on new research on the theories of priorities, utility, consequences and universal principles of Islamic law. It constitutes a comprehensive guide to the subject throughout
history and across geographical boundaries, as the
guide spans different regions and languages,
attempting to account for what was written on
the subject in different languages.

In scholastic terms, the guide embraces all known
schools, institutes and developments in Islamic law,
from Sunni to Shi‘i, from Al-Azhar to Al-Zaytuna.
Source materials include books, manuscripts, theses,
conferences proceedings and refereed articles.

Each item in the volumes is presented in the form of
a standard bibliographical entry, followed by a
summary of its main chapters, sections and features.
The guide is the first volume dedicated to Maqāsid
in the thirteenth Islamic century and the first
modern book on maqāsid in the twentieth century.

Encyclopaedia of Makkah and Madinah

The project of the Encyclopaedia of Makkah and
Madinah, which is housed in Jeddah, at the
Encyclopaedia of Makkah and Madinah Centre, is a
far-reaching and ambitious project which has already
produced five volumes and has plans for many more
publications.

The Encyclopaedia’s main aim is to acknowledge the
two cities’ scientific and cultural roles and to
demonstrate their historical significance by
highlighting their role in spreading knowledge to
different geographical regions. The Encyclopaedia
identifies subjects related to Makkah and Madinah
and it provides facts and analysis to students,
scholars and those members of the public interested
in that topic. In addition it supports researchers,
academics, scholars and specialists to submit works
and research papers about the two cities.

The Encyclopaedia Project’s Background

A reference library has been established to support
the work of compiling the Encyclopaedia. The
collection includes books, articles, studies, historical
references and theses on Makkah and Madinah. The
Centre also holds a collection of documents, texts,
journals, microfilms and audio-visual material on the
two cities.

The project works through an eminent Council of
Consultants, specialised committees and executives
from different institutions, backgrounds and
countries, including Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Lebanon,
Turkey, Jordan, Netherlands and the UK. Scholars
from Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Egypt and Turkey have
contributed to research on a variety of topics. The
Centre also publishes a multilingual bibliography of
published works and references.

The Encyclopaedia’s main aim is to acknowledge the two cities’ scientific and cultural roles as well
as their historical significance.
Al-Furqan Library

Founded in 1991, this reference library facilitates research in support of the Foundation’s mission.

The Library constitutes a unique resource centre for Islamic literature, holding major bibliographical tools and catalogues of Islamic manuscripts from a variety of scholarly institutions and academic libraries in countries all over the world.

It also has microfilms and CD-ROMs of several thousands of manuscripts in Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Bosnian and Indonesian languages as well as manuscripts held in the Makkah al-Mukaramah Library and Gazi Husrev Beg Library collections.

The Library’s collections include over 15,000 printed Islamic manuscript catalogues from over 70 countries. The library collection includes multilingual dictionaries, Arabic biographical dictionaries and encyclopaedia, covering the classical period to the present time.

The Library holds over 15,000 printed Islamic manuscripts catalogues from 74 countries.

The Library is only a reference library and students and researchers are welcome to use the facilities provided. The library’s holdings are arranged and organised according to the Library of Congress Classification (LCC), while its collection catalogues of Islamic manuscripts is classified by country.

The Library’s Online Services

The Library is developing in response to technological changes. It is working towards making its catalogues available online via its website and through the coming online database of Islamic Manuscripts resources.

It aims to disseminate the output of its projects on an online subscription database, which will allow for cross-search of online resources, including the Foundation’s printed publications.

This facility will integrate three collections together to enable cross-searching: the World Survey content in languages (Arabic and English), the Library’s database and the foundation printed catalogues. Thus, this facility will connect the content of the Foundation’s World Survey to the Library’s rich bibliographic references.

Profile

Sheikh Abdullah bin Bayyah

Sheikh Abdullah bin Mahfudh bin Bayyah is a member of Al-Furqan Maqāsid Centre’s International Advisory Council and a Deputy Head of the International Union of Muslim Scholars. He is one of the foremost scholars of the Islamic world and was ranked amongst the 50 most influential Muslims by the Jordan-based Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Centre from 2009 consequently for three years.

His Background

Bin Bayyah was born in 1935 in Mauritania, he studied legal judgments and law at university in Tunisia and was trained in the Tunisian courts in 1961. An outstanding student, he was ranked first in a group of twelve judges who presented a research paper in juristic method and law. He continued his studies in Mauritanian centers of learning, especially in the school of his father who was the head of the Conference of Mauritanian Scholars. All traditional sacred sciences were taught in the school, including jurisprudence, legal methodology, language, rhetoric, the Qur’an and the Hadith.

Bin Bayyah’s work and writings have contributed to the understanding of many important current social, legal and religious issues and they cover a wide range of topics. His published works include Terrorism: a Diagnosis and Solutions, The Discourse of Security in Islam and the Culture of Tolerance and Harmony, Fatwas and Reflections, A Clarification on the Various Legal Opinions Pertaining to Financial Transactions and The Benefits of Endowments.

His Experience and Responsibilities

As he became renowned for his experience, knowledge and wisdom, Bin Bayyah was entrusted with many senior positions in the Mauritania government. He was Vice President to the first President of Mauritania, Minister of Justice, Minister of Education, Minister of State for Human Resources and Deputy Prime Minister and First Minister for Islamic Affairs and Education. He was also Deputy President of the Court of Appeal, a judge at the High Court, Head of Shariah Affairs at the Ministry of Justice and a Member of the Cabinet and the Permanent Committee of the ruling Mauritanian People’s Party. He currently teaches at King Abdul Aziz University in Saudi Arabia.

In addition, Bin Bayyah has held many senior positions outside his homeland: he was Director of the Global Center for Renewal and Guidance in the UK and Deputy President of the International Association of Muslim Scholars in Lebanon. He is currently a member of many prominent institutions, for example, the European Council for Fatwa and Research in Dublin, the Association of Indian Jurists, the Council of Jurists at OIC, the Muslim League’s International High Council of Mosques in Saudi Arabia, the International Aid Organisation of Kuwait and the Royal Aal al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought in Jordan.

He has contributed to many significant conferences such as the summit held in Morocco which first established the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, the African Arab Summit Conference in Cairo and the French-Speaking Lawyers Conference in France. In addition, he oversaw the first African conference for the Muslim League in Mauritania. In recognition of his stature and immense contribution to Islamic studies, Bin Bayyah has been awarded many prizes such as the King Abdul Aziz Medal with Distinction, the Jordanian Medal First Degree, The Degree of the Organization of Islamic Conference with Distinction and the Chinguetti Prize for the Category of Islamic Studies for his book, A Dialogue from Afer: on human rights, among others.
Manuscripts Centre's Publications
The Earth and its Sciences in Islamic Manuscripts, Proceedings of the Fifth Conference of Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation (English version).

Taphies Deformes of the Law' of Noble Jerusalem, Vol. 6 by Professor Mohammad Adnan Bakhti and Dr. Noutan Raja al-Sawariyyah.

Catalogue of National Library of Bosnia by Professor M. Uthman Lavic.

Catalogue of Manuscripts in the Historical Archive, Sarajevo by Mr. Hassan Popara.

Dar al-Kutub Catalogue, 4 volumes by Professor Al-Sattar Al-Halwaji.

The book of Qur'anic Verses' Number (agreed and disputed) according to Makh, Madani, Rofi, Rabi and Shari, by Professor Mohammad al-Tabarani.

Forthcoming Publications
Quasid al-Maqsad and Manakij Ullama al-Maqsad by Professor Kamal Imam.

Forthcoming Publications
Qasidat al-Maqsa'id and Manakij Ullama al-Maqsa'id by Professor Kamal Imam.

Al-Maqsa'id wa tawadhat al-Dhahira al-Siqasiyya by Dr. Sayf Abdul Fatih.


Manual of Al-Maqsad Course 2011 on Tahir ibn Ashur.

Mawsawa Centre's Publications
Encyclopaedia of Mehak al-Musanswerah & Madina al-Mansowerah Vols 4 and 5 by Professor Abbas Salih Tashqandi.

Ibn al-Hayal of al-Ijzari by Professor Salim al-Hassani and Professor Mohammed Abatouy.

Maqsad Centre's Publications
Bibliography of Maqsid al-Sa'uri's Vols 7 and 8 by Professor Mohamad Kamal Imam.

The Public Interest in the Term of The Purposes of Islamic Law by Professor Mohamad Kamal Imam.

Omission in Legislation and Obligation by Professor Abdul-Wahab Abu Sulaiman.

‘Catalogue of the Arabic, Turkish, Persian and Bosnian Manuscripts in the Institute for Oriental Studies Sarajevo’; book review by IRCICA

Prepared by Leja Gacic, Sarajevo, Orientalist Institute, 2009, 246 pp., 16 pl. (in Arabic), Al-Furqan Islamic Heritage Foundation, Pub. No. 120, Catalogues of Islamic Manuscript Series, No. 62.

The manuscript collection of the Institute for Oriental Studies in Sarajevo was destroyed when the Institute's library was set on fire in 1992 during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The manuscript collection of the Institute for Oriental Studies in Sarajevo was destroyed when the Institute's library was set on fire in 1992 during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In these ways, and also through supplementing its holdings through purchases and gifts by individuals and institutions, the collection was re-instituted after 1995. The collection comprises manuscripts from all scientific and theological disciplines, among them: Qur'anic manuscripts, Hadith (traditions of the Prophet Mohammad), law, ritual rules, theology, prayers, mysticism, Islamic philosophy, logic, sciences, calendars, astrology, occultism, history, geography, politics, grammar, lexicographical works, fine arts and musical literature, poetry and manuscripts by local authors. The titles of these works are recorded in Arabic script with their Roman transliterations, and untitled works are classified according to their content.

At the end of the catalogue are various indices: of titles in Arabic script and their Roman transliterations, of authors, of copyists, of owners and donors, of geographical names, other names, of catalogue numbers and call numbers. These indices inform and facilitate the task of researchers. The final product is remarkable, distinguished by its laudatory aims and the diligence with which it has been prepared.

Addresses of Distribution of Al-Furqan Publications

United Kingdom
22A Old Court Place
London W8 4PL, England - UK
Tel: +44 (0) 20 3122 1530
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7937 2540
E-mail: info@alfurquan.com

Egypt
20 Ibrahim Nagy St., Zaker Hussain Road, Nasr City, 11528 Cairo - Egypt
Tel: + (202) 24721609
Fax: + (202) 24721609
E-mail: cairo.office@alfurquan.com

Saudi Arabia
Muhay Ad Din Nadhir Street, Al Hamra District, Jeddah, 25212
Tel: +966 (0) 2670522
E-mail: info@alfurquan.com

A memorable visit by Queen Fabiola of Belgium

On 11th April 2000, Queen Fabiola of Belgium visited Al-Furqan Foundation's premises in London, where Her Majesty spent the day.

The Queen visited the library and reviewed the Foundation's publications. She was accompanied by Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Foundation's Chairman and she met with members of staff, discussing with them the Foundation's projects and achievements.

www.alfurquan.com
Honours

Salah al-Din al-Munajjid

A reception was held on 26th October 2002, at Eagle House, the former headquarters of Al-Furqan, to mark the publication of the Foundation’s Essays in Honour of Professor Salah al-Din al-Munajjid. The reception was attended by Professor al-Munajjid and his family, members of Al-Furqan’s International Advisory Board, its Board of Experts and other distinguished guests. Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the Foundation’s Chairman, presented the first copy of the book to Professor al-Munajjid.

Past Awards

Professor Ramazan Şesen

Professor Ramazan Şesen was the first scholar to receive the Al-Furqan Foundation’s Award in recognition of his important work in the study of Islamic history and particularly for his contribution to the cataloguing of manuscripts in Arabic, Turkish and Persian. The award had been established by a decision of the Foundation’s Board of Experts in 1996 to recognise exceptional work in the study and/or cataloguing of Islamic manuscripts.

The award was presented to Professor Şesen by the Chairman on 11th May 2000. Professor Şesen has headed the Department of Manuscripts at the International Research Center for Islamic Culture and Art (IRCICA) in Istanbul since 1982. In his address at the award ceremony, Professor Şesen spoke of the importance of the book in Islamic civilisation as being a medium for the transmission of knowledge and as an object of art, and discussed the historical circumstances that have led to the survival of so many Islamic manuscripts to the present day.

Ghazi Husrev Beg Library

On 24th January 2002, Al-Furqan Foundation hosted a ceremony in Eagle House, its former London headquarters, to honour the scholars who had catalogued the collection of the Ghazi Husrev Beg Library in Sarajevo. An award for ‘Distinguished Work in the Field of Islamic Manuscripts’ was presented to them in appreciation of their valuable efforts to protect Islamic manuscripts and their work in cataloguing the Library’s collection of Arabic, Turkish, Bosnian and Persian manuscripts. The scholars honoured were: Dr Mustafa Jahic (Director of the Library), Zejin Fajic, Dr Fehim Nametak, Haso Popara and the late Kasim Dobraca, compiler of the first two volumes of the Library’s catalogue.

The Foundation’s Chairman, Sheikh Yamani spoke about Islamic manuscripts in Bosnia and praised the work of Dr Jahic and his team of scholars. Professor Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu then talked about the Islamic heritage in the Balkans, the cultural significance of the Ghazi Husrev Beg Library and the efforts being made there to protect manuscripts through cataloguing and imaging projects. Sheikh Yamani proceeded to present the award to Dr Mustafa Jahic, and to his colleagues who attended the celebration.

Ihsan Abbas

The Foundation’s ‘Award for Service to the Written Heritage of Islam’ for the year 2002 was presented to Professor Ihsan Abbas. Professor Abbas was cited for his penetrating critical insight into Islamic studies, his exemplary translations from and into Arabic, the high standards he had achieved in editing several seminal texts of Muslim culture, and, ultimately, his pioneering work in establishing the basis of the modern Arabic library.

The Award ceremony was held at the University of Jordan, courtesy of its Chancellor, Professor Abd-Allah al-Muswa. The Foundation was represented by Professor Ibrahim Chabboch, Director of al-Majma’ al-Malaki li-Buhuth al-Haddarah al-Islamiyah (the Al Bayt Foundation) and a member of the Manuscript’s Centre’s Board of Experts within Al-Furqan.

Süleymaniye Library and Al-Furqan Foundation

The Library’s History

Süleymaniye Library in Istanbul is the richest library of Islamic manuscripts in the world. Established as a modern library in 1916, it traces its roots to the time of Süleyman the Magnificent, when the library was founded as part of an educational system within the complex of the Süleymaniye Mosque.

The Library’s main mission in modern times is the preservation of manuscripts. In this field it has been a pioneer among Turkish research libraries. It also has played a pioneering role in the development of manuscript science. The Library became the first library in Turkey to provide microfilm, photocopying and research services. In addition it has many other significant departments such as Digitisation department and Manuscripts, Rare Books Restoration and Research Centre. Part of the Library’s holdings has been well preserved, as the Library has developed its technical infrastructure.

Damaged manuscripts and books are being repaired and conserved while unique and valuable collections that include calligraphy, illumination and miniatures and rare books have been transferred to microfilm. So far, 65,000 books and manuscripts have been digitised. The Library has its own book restoration workshop and there are preparations afoot to build a book restoration centre in the library of Istanbul University. The Library also offers courses on classical binding, book restoration and marbling.

Unique Collections

The Library’s holdings include an array of manuscripts devoted to Islamic and Ottoman history. Approximately 140 foundation libraries and private collections have been brought together under the auspices of the Süleymaniye Library; the size of its book holdings has increased enormously. Currently, the Library also
In addition, Al-Furqan provided a specialist postgraduate course in cataloguing of Islamic manuscripts for librarians who had not yet had the benefit of such instruction. Following the successful conclusion of the courses, certificates were presented to the trainees. At the award ceremony, the Director of Süleymaniye Library commented that the library saw it as its duty to collaborate with institutions like Al-Furqan to help it realise its projects and activities.

Second Training Course
The Foundation organised a second training course in cataloguing manuscripts at Süleymaniye Library from 13th to 29th September 2010, which was attended by 54 participants, 14 of whom were selected as cataloguers. Various criteria were taken into account in the selection of cataloguers, such as their experience in the cataloguing field and their level of proficiency in Arabic. The Foundation provided training to the group in the use of electronic cataloguing databases.

The Al-Furqan Foundation Standard Cataloguing Card was adopted as a basis for cataloguing the Library’s manuscripts and its subsidiary libraries. The catalogues finished the first phase of the project, the Ayasofya collection of manuscripts, within eight months, a collection of some 9,000 manuscripts. Once the editing process is complete, the catalogue will be published in 12 volumes.

The National Library and Archives of Egypt (Dâr al-Kutub) and Al-Furqan

History of Dâr al-Kutub
Established in 1870, Dâr al-Kutub was the first national library to be established in the Middle East. Previously known as Al-Kutubkhana al-Khedewey, the library assumed a different role after the renaissance intellectual Refa'a al-Tahtawi advocated the establishment of a national library in Egypt, under the supervision of Ali Mubarak, Minister of Education and Public Works.

Rare collections in Arabic and Ottoman Turkish were transferred from the first National Archives, which had been established in 1828 by Mohammed Ali Pasha, the then Governor of Egypt. This collection currently constitutes the National Archives department at the library. Manuscripts and books were collected from government offices, private libraries, mosques and endowment treasuries. As the holdings increased, the library moved twice to different locations: in 1904 then finally in 1971.

The Library’s Structure
Dâr al-Kutub comprises various research centres including:
- The Editing and Publishing Arabic Manuscripts Centre which is tasked with editing and publishing Islamic manuscripts in Egypt and abroad.
- The Restoration, Conservation and Microfilm Centre which is responsible for the preservation of manuscripts and rare publications in libraries, museums and storage areas, which has Investigation, Restoration and Microphotography sub-divisions and a specialised library.
- The Bibliographical and Computer Centre which manages automation processes and the preparation of bibliographical works and indices:
  - The Documents and Contemporary History of Egypt Centre which surveys documents on the contemporary history of Egypt, whether they are produced in Egypt or abroad.
  - The Children’s Literature Documentation and Research Centre which provides reference and bibliographic support in the field of child’s media and which serves as a resource for the authors, publishers, librarians and scholars of children’s books.
Within the framework of UNESCO’s Memory of the World programme, the Regional Information Technology and Software Engineering Centre at the Library has developed a CD-ROM entitled ‘Dār al-Kutub Manuscripts, Arab and Muslim Contributions to the World’s Scientific Heritage’. It includes material on manuscripts and bibliographies of contributions in different fields i.e. mathematics, astronomy, medicine, engineering and chemistry, UNESCO also supports the preparation of the Index Translationis, Supervising Network Systems, Storing. The library conducts professional training courses to develop its employees’ skills in developing new projects.

**The Library and Al-Furqān**

Because of the valuable collections that the Library has, Al-Furqān Foundation initiated a big project of cataloguing its heritage, since it is the largest centre for manuscripts in Egypt, knowing that the Library holds about 35,000 collections of manuscripts, as well as microfilms in Arabic, Ottoman Turkish and Persian. This is in addition to deeds of endowment from the Fatimid, Ayyubid, Mamluck and Ottoman periods, and large, richly illuminated copies of the Qur’an by famous calligraphers, as well as original works by Imam al-Shafī‘ī and other documents that date back to the 3rd century, plus 10,000 volumes and 3,000 papyri in Arabic and Greek, which date back to the year 22 AH.

By taking a significant role in cataloguing Dār al-Kutub’s heritage, the Al-Furqan Foundation has conducted an analytical cataloguing project for a collection of around 4,156 manuscripts. Until now all data has been entered into the library’s database and four volumes have been published, one for the main library’s holdings and the other ones for each of the affiliated libraries.

---

**In Memoriam**

Iraj Afshar

Iraj Afshar, an Iranian scholar, researcher and one of the most famous Iranian historians, was a member of Al-Furqan Manuscripts Centre’s Board of Experts. Professor Afshar held the position of consulting editor of Encyclopaedia Iranica at Columbia University, and was an Emeritus Professor of University of Tehran, and a member of the Advisory Council of the Iranian Studies Journal. He was also the chief bibliographer of Persian books at Harvard University, a Professor at the University of Bern and one of the founding members of the Iranian Society of Philosophy and Human Sciences under UNESCO.

Famed as the most knowledgeable bibliographer in the Persian language, he played a significant role in the development of Iranology across the world. He worked as the editor of the Iranology journal Sökhan, and a variety of other publications, including Farhang-e Iranizan and Ayandeh. He wrote many books on Iran and its history, including the three-volume یاد سیوهی which contains comprehensive descriptions of the monuments in the ancient city in southern Iran. Professor Afshar has left a heritage of more than 300 works for students, researchers and scholars in the field of Iranian culture. The University of Edinburgh had decided to offer Professor Afshar an honorary doctorate in September 2011, but he passed away in March at the age of 86 before the honour could be bestowed on him.

---

Shaiikh Faisal Mawlawi

Shaiikh Faisal Mawlawi was a member of Al-Furqan Maqasid Centre’s International Advisory Board and a leading scholar who played an important role in modernising Islamic jurisprudence. Throughout the course of his life he held many prominent positions, for example being Vice President of the European Council for Fatwa and Research, in whose establishment he was involved in Dublin in 1998, under the leadership of Shaiikh Dr Yusuf Al-Qaradawi.

**His Education and Positions**

In 1967 Shaiikh Mawlawi obtained a bachelor’s degree in law from Lebanon University and went on to gain a bachelor’s degree in Islamic Law from Damascus University’s Faculty of Shar’ah in 1968, after which he became a judge in the Shar’ah Court in Beirut. He subsequently obtained a diploma in advanced studies from Sorbonne University in Paris. In later life he collaborated in establishing the Islamic Association and the European College for Islamic Studies in Paris. He was Chairmain of the Islamic Education Society in Lebanon and the President of Da‘wa House and Advocates from its establishment in 1990, as well as serving as a member of the Management Committee of the Islamic National Conference. Shaiikh Mawlawi was a judge in the Islamic Courts of First Instance in Rayhaya, Tripoli and Beirut, before being appointed as advisor to the Supreme Shar’ah Court in Beirut in 1988, a post he held until his resignation in 1996. He obtained the rank of Judge of Honour under Presidential Decree no. 5337 on 23rd May 2001. From 1980 until 1985 he lived in Europe, serving as Chaplain to the Union of Islamic Organisations in France, an organisation dedicated to European Muslims, from 1986 until the time of his death.

Shaiikh Mawlawi died on May the 5th 2011 in Tripoli in Lebanon, the city of his birth in 1941. Shaiikh Rasheed Kabbani, Mufti of Lebanon paid tribute to the Shaiikh, praising him for his sincerity and his dedication to duty: he was one of the greatest scholars in Lebanon and the Islamic world, having made valuable intellectual and cultural contributions to his field by dint of his intellect and application.

---

Juan Vernet

The Foundation lost a great friend and supporter with the death of Juan Vernet, who was a member of Al-Furqan’s Manuscripts Centre’s International Advisory Council and one of the greatest Spanish historians, and a renowned specialist in Arab science. His interests encompassed the evolution of science, especially astronomy and map-making during the Middle Ages, the Renaissance and Muslim civilisation. Vernet was the Professor of the History of Arab Sciences at the University of Barcelona but his work covered many historical periods and countries, ranging from a biography of the Prophet Muhammad to a history of nineteenth-century Algeria.

**His Contributions**

Professor Vernet contributed articles to many journals and magazines and was the author of several biographies of Spanish and Arab scientists in the Dictionary of Scientific Biography. In all he wrote approximately 40 scholarly books and 300 articles, in addition to his renditions of ‘The 1001 Nights’. Vernet was awarded many prizes for his intellectual and scientific contributions, such as the Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture for 2004. He was also recognised by UNESCO Director General, Koichiro Matsuura, following recommendations made by an international jury that met at the organisation’s headquarters. The jury highlighted his individual efforts to reaffirm the role played by Arab culture in Spanish culture. He worked with many libraries in cataloguing projects and was one of the main promoters of studies of Arab medieval science, especially in the field of astronomy. Among the other awards he received were the Narcís Monturiol medal and the Alexandre Koyré medal.

Juan Vernet was born in 1923 in Barcelona and died in July 2011. It is with great sadness that we share the news of his death which is a huge loss, not just to Al-Furqan, but to his students, colleagues and the global science community. We are grateful to him for all his endeavours and his contributions to science and humanity.