





DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear colleagues, friends, and family,

What is known as 'the museum world' is certainly a small one. Compared to other disciplines, it seems to be confined to a group of professionals that spares their time and effort to nurture the importance of the past and contemporary civilisations, presenting them as part of the attempt to educate. Even more so are those specialised in the arts and civilisation of the Muslim World. Today, we feel that we all need to unite, stretch our boundaries further, include and incorporate new regions, and welcome the Islamic arts and crafts of minority groups. In this respect, the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia opens its doors towards the east and west for future collaboration.

Citing our Prime Minister, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, as he toured the Albukhary Foundation Gallery of the Islamic World at the British Museum in London: it is with hard work and good values that nations develop, and what we learn from each other may be implemented in our museum world.

The past few months witnessed the diverse activities and exhibitions offered by the Museum, in-house and abroad. The International Museum Day 2019 was a great success with over 1,500 school children visiting the Museum and enjoying the cultural activities, while the Tadarus al-Qur'an recitations over the holy month of Ramadan gathered over 100 elderly women and men that made use of the serene atmosphere offered in every session. At the same time, preparations have been ongoing for several upcoming exhibitions.

Abroad, this season saw the culmination of the preparation for the "Inspired by the East: How Islamic Art Influenced the West" exhibition, scheduled to open on 10th October 2019 at the British Museum, London. This period also recalls our visit to the Tokyo National Museum and the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York to build up future collaborations.

It was indeed a busy period. But all in all, it was an effort that would certainly yield more fruitful experiences, to educate and share with our world.

Syed Mohamad Albukhary



An Ottoman rare charger plate produced at the Baba Nakkash workshop from Turkey, 15th century, collection of Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia.

EVENTS CALENDAR

18th OCTOBER 2018 – MID-AUGUST 2020

Travelling Exhibition:
The Arabesque at the British Museum,
London.



21st MARCH – 31st DECEMBER 2019



Special Exhibition:
Qajar Ceramics: Bridging Tradition &
Modernity

24th JUNE – 31st OCTOBER 2019

Exhibition:
Conservation: Craft or Science?



10th JULY – 15th OCTOBER 2019



Exhibition:
The Story of Coffee

10th October 2019 – 26th January 2020

Exhibition:
Orientalist Painting



21st NOVEMBER 2019 – 31st December 2019



Exhibition:
Abdullatif Alfozan Award for
Mosque Architecture (AFAMA)



PRIME TIME AT THE BRITISH MUSEUM



The Malaysian Prime Minister, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, made a second visit to the British Museum in June. His first viewing of the Albukhary Foundation Gallery of the Islamic World was last September, when it was less than half finished. As the gallery has now been open since October 2018, it is not only fully functioning but also attracting large and diverse crowds of visitors.

It is not surprising that the Prime Minister wanted to repeat his visit. The unfinished gallery presented a tantalising taster for what was to come. Now that the project has been fully realised, it is a leading attraction at one of the most visited museums in the world. Last year, almost six million visitors went to this corner of London to admire some of the finest works of art from around the world.

The Albukhary Foundation gallery has quickly become a highlight of any tour of the British Museum. It's not only the newest attraction, but also has some of the most educational and visually stunning displays of any museum around the world. The Malaysian PM could clearly see the difference – partly because the showcases themselves are a model of transparency.

Accompanying Tun Dr Mahathir on his visit were the Foreign Minister, Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah, and the Youth and Sports Minister, Syed Sadiq Abdul Rahman, along with the Malaysian High Commissioner to the UK, Datuk Mohamad Sadik Kethergany. Leading the tour was the British Museum Deputy Director, Jonathan

Williams. Mr Williams knows the gallery well as he attended numerous meetings during its planning and construction phase. The Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia also had an essential part to play, with Director Syed Mohamad Albukhary being instrumental in the development of this joint project between the two museums. Funded by the Yayasan Albukhary, the outcome shows what is possible when two committed cultural partners work together.

For the Malaysian Prime Minister, one of the highlights was the section of the new gallery that had been put together by the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia team. Dedicated to explaining the decorative nuances of the 'Arabesque', it was not only conceived and developed by the IAMM, the exhibits were also brought over from Kuala Lumpur. Merging seamlessly with the rest of the gallery, it is a part of London with the flavour of Malaysia – minus the food. Tun Dr Mahathir savoured the experience and was evidently pleased to see a further Malaysia-UK collaboration in this part of the gallery. A video showing the workings of Arabesque design is the product of the IAMM's close association with the Prince's School of Traditional Arts. Based in London, this institution was developed by Prince Charles, the heir to the British throne, as part of his commitment to international harmony and cultural understanding. The IAMM has a long history of working with this premier school, which specialises in Islamic art among its undertakings to world heritage.



Another area of the gallery that the Malaysian Prime Minister was keen to explore is the section dedicated to the Islamic art of Southeast Asia. This is a widely overlooked field, despite the British Museum having an excellent collection of regional stalwarts such as keris, sireh sets and calligraphic batik. More unusual is the metal suit of armour from the southern Philippine island of Moro.

From the Pacific in the east to the Atlantic in the west, the entire range of Islamic art is represented in this large gallery that has been rebuilt from the floor upwards. The glory of Muslim craftsmanship has been revived with elaborate mashrabiyya window screens and hardwood seats to go with them. Not that the Prime Minister needed a rest; he kept on going around the huge space without any let-up. The many press members who were present seemed to be showing more exertion keeping up with him.

The British Museum does not close galleries to the public, even for VIP tours, which meant there were many onlookers taking an interest. As Tun Dr Mahathir is something of a household name — and face — in the UK, there were plenty who were able to identify him. There were also a number of Malaysians who had a chance to see their Prime Minister inspecting the Albukhary Foundation Gallery of the Islamic World, the nation's most prominent cultural export to the UK. It's also among the finest ambassadors of Islamic heritage in the Western world. This will be followed up in October with an exhibition, also at the British Museum, which examines the relationship over 500 years between the Islamic world and the West. Looking at the past should inspire those



in the present to bring the world closer together, rather than building barriers between East and West. 'Inspired by the East: how Islamic art influence the West' opens on 10th October.

Please visit links below for news & media coverage about the event:

<https://www.nst.com.my/news/nation/2019/06/496676/watch-dr-m-visits-londons-albukhary-gallery-becomes-centre-attention>

<https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2019/06/16/dr-mahathir-visits-albukhary-foundation-gallery-at-british-museum/1762562>

<https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2019/06/17/mahathir-explores-islamic-heritage/>



TIPU SULTAN'S ENDURING DEFEAT



At a time when the UK should be trying its hardest to export anything that the rest of the world wants, it is holding back on some of the wares that arouse the most global interest. The argument for hoarding what the government-appointed Reviewing Committee for the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest calls “national treasures” hinges on the ‘Waverley Criteria’. If a would-be export meets any of these three criteria, it might be detained in Britain:

1. Is the item closely connected with our [British] history and national life?
2. Is it of outstanding aesthetic importance?
3. Is it of outstanding significance for the study of some particular branch of art, learning or history?

The prized item featured in the photograph here was bought by the IAMM and is being kept in the UK. Made in India in 1793-94, it was a favourite sporting gun of Tipu Sultan, a name that always causes amusement among bahasa Melayu speakers.

The ruler of Mysore may not always have spoken the truth, but he was undoubtedly a fearsome opponent of the British in India. When he died at the Siege of Seringapatam in 1799, the victors gleefully raided his palace. This gun was considered special enough to be presented to Lord Cornwallis, the governor

general of Bengal who had defeated Tipu Sultan in an earlier war. Cornwallis is also connected with Malaysia, through the name of the fort in Georgetown, Penang. The other local connection is that the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia bought these ‘spoils of war’ in 2015. Four years later the gun is still languishing in the UK. Why? Not because it passed Waverley Criterion 1, which was always a shady proposition.

The detention of Tipu Sultan’s gun is a result of its meeting Criteria 2 and 3. In other words, it looks nice and would make an interesting study specimen; two hundred years in the UK being insufficient time for such activity. As for its appearance, this is unquestionably a fine-looking gun. Do British taxpayers really want to assign many million ringgit for a firearm? At a museum of Islamic art it would at least be in the right environment to show the prodigious technology developed by a Muslim ruler. Malaysia also happens to be a lot closer to where the gun came from and has a large South Indian population, courtesy of the British.

CONSERVATION: CRAFT OR SCIENCE?

Special Exhibition, Gallery 1, 24th June – 31st October 2019



Since the appearance of the *homo faber* (the human, conscious acting and “making”) in human history, objects of use, need and desire have been manufactured. Undergoing their life-cycle – like a human but usually of longer duration – these objects have been used, abused, chipped, dented, stained and changed their appearance. Sometimes they have merely aged; on other occasions they have been damaged beyond recognition.

Craft products have constantly needed to be repaired and mended, or re-furbished, for further use. Objects that we now classify as ‘works of art’, or perhaps master crafts, needed to be kept presentable and functional. The concept of ‘art pour l’art’ (art for art’s sake) has less-ancient precedents. Going back further in time, the forerunners of Conservation existed as a special service of more, or less, skilled craftsmen and women. Repair, refurbishment, making something usable and pleasing again, has been conducted throughout history.

A change in methods and approaches took place in a specific year. In 1888, the first Conservation Laboratory was established, based on scientific knowledge, in Berlin, Germany. Other countries in the western world soon followed the new approach. For Southeast Asia, the first Conservation and Research Centre, also acting as a combined working and training facility in

Restoration/Conservation, was established in Malaysia in 2004 at the IAMM.

The present exhibition at the IAMM highlights the various levels involved in restoring/conserving an artefact. These include collaborative work within and outside the department, ethics in conservation and decision making, scientific analysis and material testing – implemented as a multi-disciplinary, inter-professional organised activity, based on scientific facts and knowledge*.

** Science is the intellectual and practical activity encompassing the systematic study of the structure and behaviour of the physical and natural world through observation and experiment.*

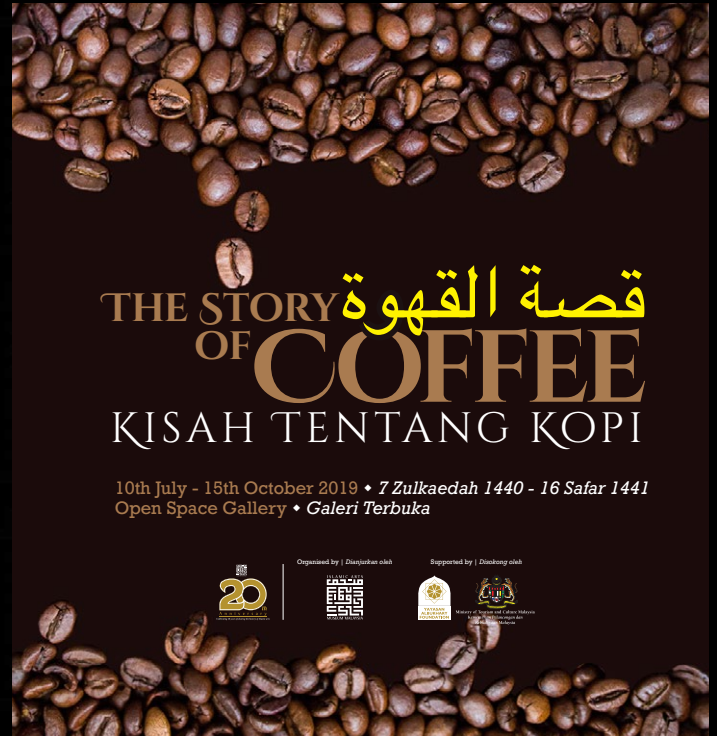
... a branch of knowledge or study dealing with a body of facts or truths systematically arranged and showing the operation of general laws, e.g. the mathematical sciences. systematic knowledge of the physical or material world gained through observation and experimentation. any of the branches of natural or physical science [– and CONSERVATION].

Oxford Dictionary



قصة القهوة (THE STORY OF COFFEE) PHOTO EXHIBITION

The Story of Coffee is an eagerly awaited event. This photo exhibition explores coffee as the world's most popular drink, a phenomenon that has sparked a range of inspiration, opportunities, debates and conflicts over the past 600 years. Despite the widespread admiration that exists for this drink, it is not so widely known that it has been prohibited several times. Through culture and curiosity, unique coffee traditions from different historical coffee regions are shown: to give the audience a 'cup' of Muslim hospitality in honouring one's guests is part of the tradition, along with controversies in some regions. Strolling through the exhibition, visitors can imbibe the ambience of the coffee house and go back to a time when this magical bitter bean reached the peak of its glory. A range of exciting programmes includes Turkish-coffee demonstrations, coffee tasting, coffee painting, and coffee cosmetics! Among the exhibition's aims is to increase our appreciation of this intangible cultural heritage. The event is concurrent with International Coffee Day, which is celebrated worldwide annually on 1st October.



IAMM WON 2019 EXPERTS' CHOICE AWARD



We are pleased to announce that IAMM has been selected to be among the recipients of the 2019 Experts' Choice Award from TripExpert. Now in its fourth year, Experts' Choice recognises endorsements by leading publications, such as travel guides, magazines and newspapers. The 2019 awards are based on more than 1.5 million reviews. Fewer than 2 percent of attractions worldwide receive the award. With tributes from reviewers such as Lonely Planet, Fodor's and Afar Magazine, IAMM is featured on TripExpert.com as one of **the best attractions in Kuala Lumpur**. IAMM is also among the recipients of the TripExpert's Best of Kuala Lumpur award. According to expert reviewers, it is among the top attractions in Kuala Lumpur.



TADARUS AL-QUR'AN 2019

Date : 27th April – 25th May, 2019

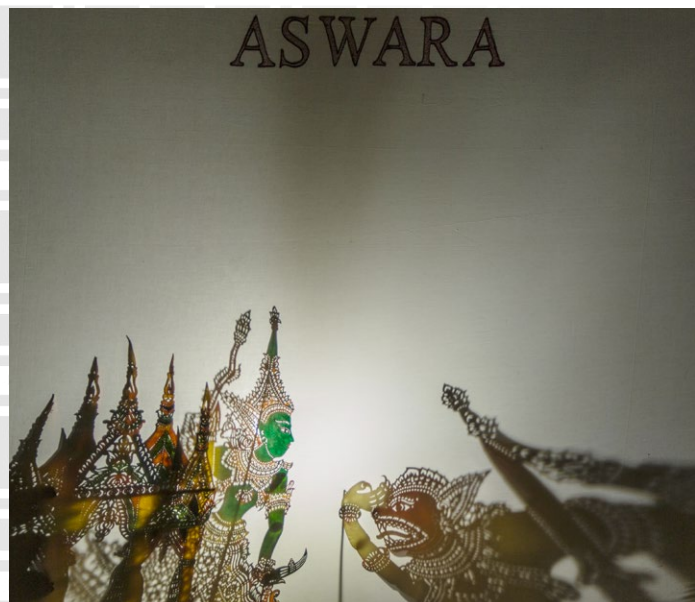
Venue : Special Gallery 1, IAMM

This year's Ramadhan witnessed a remarkable number of participation since it opened on 27th April 2019. A total of 108 participants consisting of members of the public attended the glorious programme with an average of 100 attendees for each session. Participants were feasted with recitation of the thirty (30) chapters from the Qur'an led by 7 authoritative experts from Kuala Lumpur and Selangor. In addition to fasting and Sunnah prayer of *Taraweeh*, reciting the Qur'an is one of the most highly anticipated worship imposed on all Muslims during the holy month of Ramadhan as it is the only month where each and every deed of ours will be mounted up. Participants were very pleased with the execution of the programme this year and they expressed their joy as they were able complete the recitation of thirty (30) chapters from the Qur'an. The speech delivered Mr. Zalhazmi Mohd Safian from Education Department marked the end of the programme for 2019.

INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY 2019

Date : 18th June, 2019 (Tuesday)

Venue : Open Space Gallery (Inverted Dome Pavilion), IAMM



Since 1978, museums around the world have celebrated the annual International Museum Day (IMD) on 18th May. This year, IAMM decided to postpone the date to the following month of June (18th June) out of deference for the holy month of Ramadhan. This year's theme focuses on "Museums as Cultural Hubs: The future of tradition". Various activities were prepared for visitors, such as: Rediscover Keris, Hand-blocked Batik Mini Exhibition and Demonstration, Vintage Photography, RIMBA Interactive Games Challenge, Pop-up Vintage Museum, Syrian Cultural Booth, Rice, Colour and Pattern activity, Caring for Your Old Collection (*Free Conservation Consultation), Henna Drawing Corner, Caricature Drawing Corner, Ceramics Corner, Traditional Games, *Ikatan Kain Sampin* Demonstration, Arabic Calligraphy Demonstration, *Jawi* Demonstration, and also *Caklempong* and *Traditional Wayang Kulit* Performance. Schools and members of the public, especially those staying around the Klang Valley, participated in the event as there was no charge imposed. The museum received a very encouraging welcome from visitors towards the activities. The event recorded an astounding number of about 1,500 visitors from its opening at 9.30 am until the curtain call at 5.30 pm.



THE BIRTH OF PERSIAN MINIATURE PAINTING: A new approach to Mina'i Ware ceramics by Dr. Richard Piran McClary (University of York)

Date : 11th July, 2019 (Thursday)

Venue : Education Workshop, IAMM

Mina'i wares are among the best-known but least-understood types of medieval Islamic ceramics. This lecture will re-examine the corpus of known wares and present a new and comprehensive classification system. This will provide the framework for the main part of the lecture, which will address the development of Persian miniature painting through the prism of polychrome overglaze ceramics from Iran. The lecture concludes with an overview of the process by which Mina'i wares became known in the early 20th century, which saw them become almost ubiquitous in exhibitions and publications by the middle of the 20th century. This lecture will be conducted by Dr Richard Piran McClary, a lecturer in Islamic Art and Architecture at the University of York.



EDUCATION PROGRAMME LINE-UP

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE
EXHIBITION CONSERVATION: CRAFT OR SCIENCE?



Conservation Workshops

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| The Microscope Lab | 4 September 2019 |
| Traditional Paint Making: Theory and Practice | 18 September 2019 |
| Four Flap Enclosure and Encapsulation | 2 October 2019 |
| Caring for Your Textile | 23 October 2019 |

*Details of the workshop will be announced later.

Meet the Conservators

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Metal Unit | 1 August 2019 |
| Paper Unit | 8 August 2019 |
| Ceramic Unit | 15 August 2019 |
| Analytical Unit | 22 August 2019 |
| Painting Unit | 29 August 2019 |
| Textile Unit | 5 September 2019 |
| Mounting Unit | 12 September 2019 |

Open Laboratory Corridor

| | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Painting Unit | 1 October 2019 |
| Paper Unit | 8 October 2019 |
| Analytical Unit | 9 October 2019 |
| Textile Unit | 15 October 2019 |
| Ceramic Unit | 22 October 2019 |
| Metal Unit | 29 October 2019 |

Organized by and supported by

Disclaimer: Activities stated above are subject to change.

EDUCATION PROGRAMME LINE-UP In Conjunction with the exhibition Conservation : Craft or Science?

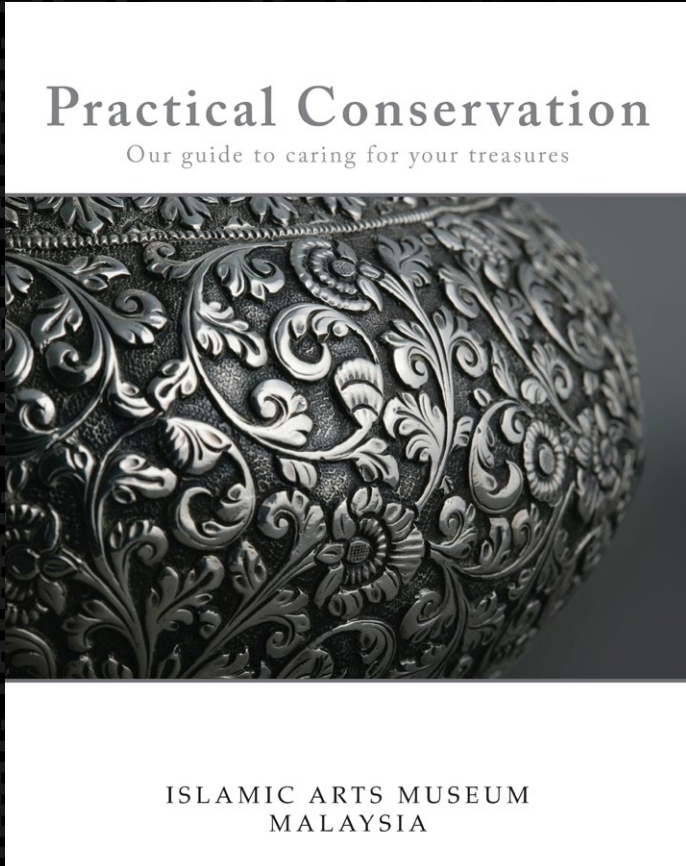
Date : June – October, 2019

In conjunction with the IAMM Conservation and Research Centre 15th anniversary celebration, the Conservation Department is conducting a special exhibition, highlighting the development of the laboratories and the work that has been done there. Visitors will have a hands-on experience, witnessing conservation cases and their resolution, in the form of objects and the documentation of solving their problems. In addition to that, there will also be guided tours by the professionals to various labs in the department. Only during this period will the labs be open for visitors, in order to give them insights into all the Conservation units. Visitors will also get to attend workshops and interactive sessions with the conservators themselves, as well as receiving first-hand explanation and full information on everything they want to know about conservation. Do come by and join in a fruitful and memorable experience.



IAMM
PUBLICATION

PRACTICAL CONSERVATION: *Our guide to caring for your treasures*



Author : Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia
Price : RM24.50 (NP: RM49.00)
Size : 19.05 cm x 24.13 cm
Year : 2009
ISBN No : 9-789834-469634
Pages : 199

Different climates present different conservation challenges. Tropical conditions are among the most challenging of all. Although collectors care about their artefacts as much as museums do, they do not usually have the facilities to treat them as they deserve. With Practical Conservation, IAMM aims to bring the expertise of its conservators to a wider audience. This easy-to-read book guides collectors in caring for their own collections. Whatever the setting or the type of artefact, prevention is better than cure. The techniques that have been outlined in Practical Conservation are a combination of common sense and acquired conservation knowledge. The approach is aimed specially at collectables that are housed in a tropical climate. There are many books on conservation available, but most are relevant to temperate surroundings. With Asia becoming home to an increasing number of collections, it is more essential than ever for owners in this part of the world to understand their artefacts and learn how to care for them.

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