



Islamic Civilisation

Muslim contributions to global
arts, culture and science



Four FREE public lectures in four unique venues
September - December 2012



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH
The Alwaleed Centre

Fragments of a lost past or evidence of a connected history: the role and concepts of Islamic art in a museum context

Dr Stefan Weber

Museum of Islamic Art in Berlin



The first few years of the 21st Century have witnessed an impressive re-evaluation of Islamic art and archaeology and cultural institutions across the globe have become increasingly important forums for public interest in Muslim cultures.

This lecture will discuss the new role to be played by museums. What are the stories embedded in the Islamic objects they exhibit and how can these stories be told?

Chaired by Professor Robert Hillenbrand, RSE Fellow and Honorary Professor at the University of Edinburgh.

Thursday 27th September 2012, 6pm
The Royal Society of Edinburgh: www.rse.org.uk

Medicine in the medieval Islamic world: between tradition and innovation

Prof Peter Pormann

University of Manchester



Islamic medicine is considered to be one of the most significant contributions of Islamic civilisation to the sciences, particularly during the Middle Ages when figures such as Al-Razi and Ibn Sina revolutionised approaches to medical theory and practice.

This lecture will discuss some of the key Muslim contributions to the development of medical science including anatomy, surgical instruments and procedures, herbal medicine, pharmacology, and the development of hospitals and medical training.

Chaired by Professor O. James Garden, Regius Professor of Clinical Surgery, University of Edinburgh.

Thursday 25th October 2012, 6pm
Royal College of Surgeons (King Khalid Building): www.rcsed.ac.uk

An introduction to Islamic astronomy

Dr Bruno Abdul Al-Haq Guiderdoni
Lyon National Observatory

Copernicus, Galileo, Newton - names we all recognise as historic giants of astronomy. But how many people have heard of Ibn al-Haytham, al-Khwarizmi or Ulugh Beg? We don't learn about them at school, but their influence is no less significant than their western counterparts.

What drove Muslims to make such extraordinary progress in the field of astronomy, and what is it about Islam that encouraged these visionaries to look up to the stars?

Chaired by Professor Andy Lawrence, Regius Professor of Astronomy at the University of Edinburgh.

Monday 19 November 2012, 7:30pm
Royal Observatory of Edinburgh: www.roe.ac.uk



Islamic carpets: connoisseurs, dealers and the formation of Islamic taste

Dr Yuka Kadoi
The Alwaleed Centre, University of Edinburgh

For the last 1300 years, Muslim craftsmen have worked in a variety of media, skilfully transforming ordinary objects into elaborate works of art. In particular, carpets have played a central role in the socio-economic and material life of the Islamic world.

This lecture will explore some key protagonists who helped cultivate the appreciation of Islamic carpets as works of art in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, such as collectors, scholars and art dealers.



Chaired by Andrew Haughton,
Manager of the Nomads Tent, Edinburgh.

Monday 3 December 2012, 6pm
The Nomads Tent: www.nomadstent.co.uk

How to book your free tickets:

All the lectures in this series are free to attend but ticketed. To book your free tickets, and for more information about the series, please click [HERE](#).

Who are we?

The Alwaleed Centre at the University of Edinburgh aims to encourage a better understanding of Islam through world-leading research and innovative outreach projects.

We organise a variety of seminars, events and conferences focusing on our three key themes:

- ~ Islamic Civilisation
- ~ Muslims in Britain
- ~ The Muslim world and the West

The Edinburgh Alwaleed Centre is part of a unique network of centres at leading universities in the UK, the USA and the Middle East, all working together to encourage better cross-cultural understanding between the the world of Islam and the west.

For more information, news and events please visit our website:

www.alwaleed.ed.ac.uk

You can also keep up-to-date with all Alwaleed Centre events and initiatives via Facebook and Twitter:



www.facebook.com/alwaleededinburgh



[@alwaleed_centre](https://twitter.com/alwaleed_centre)

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