

BARBARA MICHALAK-PIKULSKA

**35TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ASIAN
AND NORTH AFRICAN STUDIES, BUDAPEST 7-12 JULY 1997**

35th International Congress of Asian and North African Studies was held in Hungarian capital Budapest between 7 and 12 July 1997. The Congress was organized by The Korosi Csoma Society and The Eotvos Lorand University in cooperation with The Budapest University of Economics and The Central European University.

The Conference was attended by 1.500 orientalists and scientists from around the world. Opening ceremony was inaugurated by the Hungarian President Arpad Goncz. Many international prominent people such as President of the Republic of Indonesia Soeharto, Crown Prince of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan El Hassan bin Talal, Prince Takahito Mikasa of Japan, Indian vice-president K. R. Narayanan, Minister Sa'ud Al-Faisal of Saudi Arabia and other dignitaries arrived to take part in this Congress. Professor Gy. Hazai from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences was the President of this Conference. Scholars from all over the world were debating in eight sections: I. Orient and Asia in Antiquity, II. Near and Middle East and North Africa, III. The Caucasus, IV. Central Asia and related areas, V. South Asia, VI. South East Asia, VII. East Asia, VIII. Recent History and Present of Asia and North Africa. Over one thousand papers were delivered during this Congress.

Poland was represented by five scholars: Prof. Krystyna Skarżyńska-Bocheńska from the Warsaw University who presented the paper: "Adonis. Errance et la patrie". Prof. Ewa Machut-Mendecka from Warsaw who delivered the lecture "The Warring Sheherezade - Tradition and Folklore in the Iraqi Drama". Warsaw was also represented by Prof. Edward Tyjarski who presented the paper: "Some more remarks on Arabic and Persian Loan Words in Armeno-Kipchak". Dr. Barbara Michalak-Pikulska representing the Cracovian Jagiellonian University gave the speech untitled: "The Symbols

in the Art of Kuwaiti Artist Thurayya Al-Baqsmi", and Prof. Hassan Ali Jamsheer from the Łódź University, who presented a paper: "Great Arab Modernist Thinkers of the 20th Century".

Meetings and lectures continued for one week, as scientists and orientalists exchanged opinions and views on many interesting subjects. The Congress was accompanied by several symposia and exhibitions.

Next Congress will be organized by Canada in Montreal in the year 2000.

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**XIX CONGRESS OF UNION EUROPEENNE DES ARABISANTS
ET ISLAMISANTS, HALLE - GERMANY,
AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 3, 1998.**

XIXth Congress of Arabists and Islamists organised by the Union Europeenne des Arabisants et Islamisants was held in Halle - Germany from August 30 to September 3, 1998. The general theme of this congress was "Change and Transition". Professor Stefan Leder was the head of organising committee and Professor Wilferd Madelung from the Oxford University was the chairman of this Congress.

There were 91 papers presented during the Congress by scholars from all over Europe, hence lectures, discussions and debates were divided into three sections. All the papers will be published in the Congress Proceedings in the year 2000.

Poland was represented by Dr Barbara Michalak-Pikulska from the Jagiellonian University in Cracow and by Professor Krystyna Skarżyńska-Bocheńska, Professor Ewa Machut-Mendecka, Dr Marek M. Dziekan from the Warsaw University.

Dr Barbara Michalak-Pikulska delivered a lecture on "Social, historical and political subjects in modern Omani short story". Professor Krystyna Skarżyńska-Bocheńska presented a brilliant paper: "L'amour et la mort dans la poesie d'Adonis", Professor Ewa Machut-Mendecka talked on: "Witchcraft and sorcery in the prose of Ibrahim Al-Koni" and the paper presented by Dr Marek M. Dziekan was entitled: "Einige Bemerkungen uber die islamisch Literatur der polnisch-litauischen Tataren".

Since it is impossible to summarise in this article all the papers presented, only selected ones, showing the scope of topics are worthy to be introduced. Professor Sabine Schmidke from the Bonn University presented a paper "The Doctrine of the Transmigration of Soul according to al-Suhrawardi and his Followers", where