

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.

BARBARA MICHALAK - PIKULSKA

**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

she investigated attitudes of the Illuminationists towards metempsychosis. The recent tendencies of Arabic literary criticism with special reference to the literary review *al-Adab* are the main goals of study "The new Course of *Magallat al-adab* since 1992 and the changed perspectives in Arabic literary Criticism" by Dr Monica Ruocco from the University in Rome.

Professor Mikhail Rodoniov from St. Petersburg presented a paper "Zamil: Call-Song of South Arabian Tribes" which is based on the field-data collected by the author in 1991 and 1994 among the Sayban, Humum and some other tribes of the Hadramawt plateaux and valleys in South Arabia. Dr Bayan Rayhanova from the University of Sofia gave a speech: "Specific Features of the Syrian Short Story in the Eighties" where she presented Syrian novelists of those times.

The aim of the study presented in the paper "An Arabic Newspaper and its Poets in New York around 1915" by Dr Cornelis Nijland was the poetry published in the newspaper *Al-Sa'ih* during the first years of its existence.

The paper entitled "The Christians' surreptitious return to GAL. Problems of a confessional approach to writing the history of Arabic literature" by Professor Hilary Kilpatrick examined Brockelmann's decision to exclude from "*Geschichte der arabischen Literatur*" works by Christian and Jewish authors.

Professor Carmela Baffioni gave a speech "The madina al-fadila in al-Farabi and in the Ihwan al-Safa'a comparison" where she discussed the question of the mutual influence of al-Farabi and the Ihwan al-Safa', and their views about the madina al-fadila especially on the line of Y. Marquet's contributions on the subject. The aim of Prof. Baffioni study was to demonstrate that al-Farabi's "political" doctrines, so often related to Plato's Republic, are much better understood when they are placed within the "isma'ili context of the Ihwan al-Safa'.

Professor Dionisius Albertus Agius delivered a brilliant lecture "Medieval Qalhat: Travellers, Dhows and Stone Anchors in south-east Oman" focused on some important historical highlights of the medieval and past-medieval accounts, the types of vessels mentioned in connection with the Gulf and the Indian Ocean and what local fishermen and seamen had to say about types and functions of traditional dhows and anchors that were used in the recent past.

Finally, the paper "The Khatim al-Anbiya' Doctrine and its influence upon Arabic historical thought" by Simeon Evstatiev was devoted to the Islamic idea history. His paper deals with the issue of the relationship between Arabic historical thought and Islam trying to follow some of the most significant dimensions of the Khatim al-Anbiya' doctrine and its influence upon the transition in Arabic historical consciousness after the birth of Islam and development of idea of history of Islam.

Professor Urbain Vermeulen from the Leuven University was elected as a new President of Union Europeenne des Arabisants et Islamisants. It was decided that next Congress of U.E.A.I. will be organised in Leeds, in Great Britain in the year 2000.

FELIPE SEN

FIRST EGYPTOLOGICAL MEETING AT THE AUTONOMOUS UNIVERSITY OF MADRID

The 1st Egyptological Meeting at the Autonomous University of Madrid was held at the University on 1-3 April 1998. Its aim was to gather Spanish scholars dealing with Egyptology. There are many Spaniards interested in the subject lately. Almost every University has several professors working on it, as do various private societies (Asociación Española de Egiptología, Asociación Española de Orientalistas, Fundació Arqueològica Clos). The Meeting was divided into the following sections: Texts and Philology, History, Archaeology, Art and Iconography, Religion, New Technology, Society, Economics and Administration, Graeco-Roman Egypt, Varia. The number of communications was over 60 and there were about 100 participants. Nothing new or spectacular was produced. Every scholar presented his or her working field. The efforts are scattered, so we need to collect the valuable information produced in every corner of Spain and put it together. Owing to the conference we will be able to know each other and combine our contributions to Egyptology. A. J. Quevedo from Aula Coptica Barcinonensis presented the ambitious programme of Coptic publications and teaching. F. Sen from the Spanish Association of Egyptology offered a general view of Egyptian roots in Hebrew words. The new vision of Egyptian origins and its relationship to African ideas on realm, kingship and religion was shown by the young scholar J. Cervelló from the Insititute of Ancient Near East Studies. M. Díaz de Cerio and Y. Puig del Vall from the Fundació Arquelògica Clos offered the results of recent excavations at Dyebe Barkal. Mrs. M. López Grande from the Autonomous University of Madrid presented Egyptian iconography and writing as a way to teach people. M. A. Molinero from the La Laguna University offered a special study of the Cannibal Hymn and cannibalism. Mrs. C. Sevilla presented a special study of the title *hmt-ntr*. Mrs.