

she investigated attitudes of the Illuminationists towards metempsychosis. The recent tendencies of Arabic literary criticism with special reference to the literary review al-Adad 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.

M. C. Pérez-Die the new Curator from the Spanish National Archaeological Museum presented the Champollion Project at the Museum. A. Barahona from the Complutense University offered a study of Musicology in Ancient Egypt and progress in this field. F. Martín Valentín from the Spanish Egyptological Association presented the Theban period of the Amenhotep IV. The Meeting was organized jointly by the Faculty of Ancient History of the Autonomous University of Madrid and University of Alcalá de Henares.

FELIPE SEN

XXXV ANNUAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SPANISH ORIENTALISTS AND IV SYMPOSIUM ON ORIENTAL CULTURES

The Spanish Orientalist Society held its annual Assembly in the city of Cuenca (Central Spain) during 1-3 May 1998. The convening of the Assembly there was made possible by the generous support of the City Corporation of Cuenca. The topics of the Assembly ranged over a vast area, from Arabic Spain to China. There were several communications dealing with the Arab world, especially its rich Spanish branch, Hurrians, Hittites, the Gospel of Thomas. There were some young scholars among the members of the Assembly, who presented their contributions to the Spanish Oriental research. J. P. Monferrer spoke on books and churches in the Muslim East. J. C. Oliva presented his view on the Hurrian-Semitic mixing of cultures at Alalah. The special Spanish team (J. Gil, J. M. González Salazar, Mrs. I. Prieto, Mrs. P. Pardo Mata) excavating in Turkey, presented various aspects of their work: several ancient city settlements, some aspects of Hittite literature, a new vision of its historical evolution. F. Sen made a simple exposition of the Gospel of Thomas from Nag Hammadi, with recent research and its consequences. G. López Sastre explained his interesting vision of Chinese ideas about Confucianism and Taoism in reference to politics. J. Ríosalido, as a member of the the Organizing Committee of the II Interreligious Meeting at Alcalá de Henares, encouraged participants of the Assembly to join the Meeting with a view to unifying the efforts of the three main religions of the Book, Christians, Jews and Muslims. Almost all the communications will be published in the Annual Bulletin of the Spanish Orientalist Association.

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JACEK RYDZEWSKI

EXPOSITION "TOUTANKHAMON DES STEPPES DE L'UKRAINE" DANS LE MUSÉE ARCHÉOLOGIQUE DE CRACOVIE

Dans la période depuis la mi-mars jusqu'à la mi-septembre 1999, le Musée Archéologique de Cracovie a présenté une exposition qui a éveillé un vif intérêt parmi le public aussi bien que dans le milieu des archéologues polonais. L'exposition permettait aux visiteurs de découvrir les résultats des fouilles effectuées dans les années 1995-1998 dans le village Ryżanówka en Ukraine, situé à une distance d'environ 150 km au Sud de Kiev, par une équipe d'archéologues polonais et ukrainiens, composée de représentants de l'Institut d'Archéologie de l'Université Jagellonne (UJ), de l'Institut d'Archéologie auprès de l'Académie Nationale des Sciences (NAN) en Ukraine, et du Musée Archéologique de Cracovie. Suite aux fouilles, nous avons découvert et exploré un tombeau intact de chef de guerre scythe, dissimulé sous un immense kourgane, datant du début du deuxième quart du 3ème siècle av. J.-Ch. Les résultats de nos recherches ont été proclamés la découverte de l'année 1996, les revues scientifiques et de vulgarisation internationales les plus reconnues (*Archaeology*, *National Geographic*), sans parler de la presse et de la télévision en Pologne et en Ukraine, ont publié des descriptions détaillées des fouilles.

En quoi consiste le caractère exceptionnel des découvertes faites à Ryżanówka, et par conséquent le caractère exceptionnel de notre exposition? L'attrait qu'elle a eu sur le public polonais est facilement compréhensible, les facteurs qui en décident sont: l'exotisme de la découverte elle-même et des coutumes funéraires scythes ainsi que la richesse et la qualité artistique des pièces présentées. Toutefois, il convient de souligner ici que les trouvailles de Ryżanówka constituent également une sensation pour les spécialistes, surtout en Russie et en Ukraine où la civilisation scythe fait depuis longtemps l'objet de nombreux fouilles et programmes de recherche, parfois conçus sur une grande échelle, et le nombre des kourganes explorés atteint plusieurs centaines. Il est assez rare pourtant que ce soient de grands