



FIRST INTERNATIONAL JOINT SYMPOSIUM

*Qur'an Manuscripts of the 7th Century AH*

CRAFTSMANSHIP AND FORM

*Manuscripts*

*28 November to 2 December*

26 / 05 - 01 / 06 / 1446 AH

QATAR NATIONAL LIBRARY – DOHA

# Concept

In the 7th century AH, remarkable strides were undertaken across the arts and sciences. The inaugural conference in Djelfa, Algeria was convened six years ago to begin uncovering this rich heritage. Subsequent conferences in prominent cities—such as Istanbul and Bursa in Turkey, Granada in Spain, Tunis, and Cambridge in England—further advanced these efforts. In the years ahead, God willing, additional dimensions of this intellectual legacy will come to light.

However, conferences alone cannot encompass the depth and breadth of this endeavor. It is imperative to explore other channels that delve more profoundly into the intricate intellectual landscape of this vibrant and illustrious century. This requires tracing the subtle connections that interlace its scientific and civilizational fabric. To this end, we have resolved to complement the annual conference with symposia, each dedicated to a specific theme within the scientific, cultural, and civilizational framework of the century. This initiative aims not only to further the overarching objectives but also to address areas that may have been overlooked amid the vast scope of this epoch's intellectual achievements.

What better theme with which to inaugurate this series of symposia than the first Arabic-Islamic codex: the Noble Qur'an? The codex of the Noble Qur'an bears the Word of God which is the foundational source from which all Islamic sciences have sprung. Given that these sciences are the focal point of these 7th-century focused conferences, this symposium will concentrate on the manuscript as artifact. Our focus will be strictly codicological, examining its craftsmanship and formal properties—specifically, the traditions of its production and the artistry by which it is adorned.

## Where has the Craftsmanship and Aesthetics of the Noble Qur'an Reached?

Centuries have passed since the efforts of the Noble Companions to compile the Holy Qur'an during the lifetime of the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), culminating in the compilation of the Qur'an by the third caliph, Uthman ibn Affan (may Allah be pleased with him). Undoubtedly, during the 7th century, the codicological structure and appearance of the Qur'an manuscript evolved by the skill of Muslim craftsmen and matured with the rich cultural exchanges of the many peoples who embraced the religion of Allah en masse.

These devoted hands would show no less care for the manuscript carrying the words of Allah than for those books reserved for caliphs, kings, and nobility.

We are thus confronted with the pinnacle of Islamic manuscript-making, both in craftsmanship and form. The central question of this symposium is: Did the writing of Qur'an manuscripts truly reach its zenith of productive splendor in the seventh century? A splendor based on the availability of precious materials such as fine paper, high-quality inks, and gold pigments; on the development of exquisite tools like pens, rulers, and precious polishing stones; on the diversity of creative industries with their grand styles, shapes, and sizes; and on the distinction of calligraphic arts such as script, ornamentation, gilding, and binding. These elements greatly contributed to the transformation of Qur'an manuscripts towards a refinement of craftsmanship, a grandeur of art, and a massiveness of size, among other characteristics of the treasury manuscripts that distinguished this century. Suffice it to say that the collections of Mamluk Qur'ans preserved in the treasuries of Arabic and Islamic manuscripts worldwide attest to this. Regarding this matter, numerous questions arise, which a group of scholars and specialized manuscript experts will gather to study and explore their dimensions.

# Themes

## **Bibliographic Theme:**

### **The Heritage of the 7th- Century AH Qur'an Manuscripts and their cataloguing**

- The heritage that has reached us and its distribution among Arab and Islamic libraries around the world
- loss and disappearance of texts on the one hand; preservation and survival on the other.
- efforts made for cataloguing, digitization, and database design.

## **Codicological and Calligraphic Theme:**

### **The life of 7th- Century AH Qur'an Manuscripts and their internal structure:**

- Sources of production and geographical affiliations, and the implications of these religious, scientific, social, historical, and civilizational affiliations.
- The material structure (paper and leather) and the traditions of craftsmanship, and the extent of their connection to previous centuries.
- The lines, their types, characteristics, and their relations to their historical roots.
- The scribes and binders, their classes, biographies, works, and their presence in sources.
- The shapes, sizes, weights, and their functions, as well as the circumstances surrounding their production.
- Subsequent and modern efforts serving the life of the Qur'an manuscripts and their internal structures.

## **Aesthetic Theme:**

### **The Form of 7th- Century Qur'an Manuscripts and their Craftsmanship**

- The decoration of pages, characteristics of illuminations, colors, and the geographical dimensions.
- The construction of pages, distribution of content, linear formation, and the aesthetic implications of all this.
- The decorators, illuminators, and scribes, their classes, biographies, affiliations, and their works and presence in sources.
- Subsequent and modern efforts serving the image and its arts.

## Supervision Committee

Ms. Adiba Romero	Qatar Foundation	Qatar
Mr. Ismail Hakki Tavman	Sultan Ahmet Waqf	Istanbul, Turkey

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## Symposium Director

Prof. Dr. Mahmoud Ahmad Masri	Darul Makhtutat	Istanbul/ Syria
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## Symposium Rapporteur

Prof. Dr. Faisal Al-Hafian	Darul Makhtutat	Istanbul/ Syria
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## Symposium Coordinator

Eng. Ahmad Mahmoud Masri	Darul Makhtutat	Istanbul/ Syria
Mr. Tarek Al-Alabi	Qatar Foundation	Qatar

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## Organizing Committee

Dr. Mahmoud Zaki	Qatar National Library	Qatar
Dr. Bahjt Mouhamd Almoustafa	Darul Makhtutat	Syria
Dr. Mumin Alannan	Darul Makhtutat	Syria
Mr. Hazem Alshmale	Darul Makhtutat	Syria

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# Participants

Prof. Dr. Mahmoud Masri	Syria
Prof. Dr. Faisal Al-Hafian	Syria
Prof. Dr. Idham Hanash	Iraq
Prof. Dr. Iyad Salem Al-Samarrai	Iraq
Prof. Dr. Bashir Al-Hamiri	Yemen
Prof. Dr. Abdullah Al-Khateeb	Qatar
Prof. Dr. Abdul Samad Romero	Spain
Prof. Dr. Ghanem Quduri Al-Hamd	Iraq
Prof. Dr. Karim Ifraq	France
Prof. Dr. Mustafa Al-Toubi	Morocco
Dr. Bassam Al-Aghbar	Palestine
Dr. Mohamed Al-Dasouqi Kahila	Egypt
Dr. Mohamed Abdullah Al-Waili	Yemen
Dr. Mohamed Kamel Jad	UAE
Eng. Ibrahim Fakhro	Qatar
Eng. Ahmad Mahmoud Masri	Syria
Mr. Ahmad Wesam Shaker	KSA
Mr. Sultan Al-Shaibani	Oman
Mr. Abdul-Ati Al-Sharqawi	Egypt

# Program

Day 1

Thursday 28/11/2024

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## Opening Session (12:00 – 15:00)

Chair: Prof. Dr. Mahmoud Ahmad Masri,  
Fatih Sultan Mehmet Vakif University - Darul Makhtutat, Istanbul

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## A Word From Organizers and Sponsors:

His Excellency Dr. Hamad bin Abdulaziz Al-Kawari  
Minister of State and President of Qatar National Library

Mr. Ismail Hakki Tavman,  
President of the Sultan Ahmad Waqf, Istanbul

Prof. Dr. Mahmoud Ahmed Masri,  
General Director of the Darul Makhtutat, Istanbul

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## A Word From the Participants:

Dr. Mohamed Kamel Jad / Juma Al-Majid Center  
Scientific Centers

Prof. Dr. Şehmus Demir / Rector of Gaziantep  
Islamic Science and Technology University  
Universities

Prof. Dr. Idham Hanash / ISESCO  
International Organizations

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## A Word From the Guests of Honor:

Prof. Dr. Ghanem Quduri Al-Hamd, Iraq  
Eng. Ibrahim Fakhro / Qatar  
Prof. Dr. Bashir Al-Hamiri / Yemen

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## A Word From the Guests of Honor:

Prof. Dr. Faisal Al-Hafian  
Executive Director of Darul Makhtutat , Istanbul

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## Opening Lecture:

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| 01 | Manuscripts of the Qur'an attributed Yakut ibn Abdullah Al-Musta'simi: A Study of their Craftsmanship                  | Prof. Dr. Ghanem Quduri Al-Hamd | Iraq  |
| 02 | The Scripts Used in 7th Century Manuscripts of the Qur'an in their Historical Context                                  | Eng. Ibrahim Fakhro             | Qatar |
| 03 | The Munich Qur'an: The Ratio of the Number of Verses in the Surahs Based on Information about the Surah and Its Ending | Prof. Dr. Bashir Al-Hamiri      | Yemen |
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## Day 2

Friday 29/11/2024

### Session 2 (12:00 – 15:00): Bibliographic and Codicological Studies

Chair: Prof. Dr. Abdullah Al-Khateeb,  
Qatar University

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|----|---|----------------------------|--------------|
| 04 | The Aesthetic Codicology of 7th Century Qur'an Manuscripts and Beyond: An Epistemological Approach                          | Prof. Dr. Idham Hanash     | Iraq/Morocco |
| 05 | Qur'an Manuscripts of the 7th Century in the Islamic West: A Comparative Study of the writing support, structure and Script | Prof. Dr. Mustafa Al-Toubi | Morocco      |
| 06 | Examples of Manuscripts of the Qur'an from Jerusalem in the 7th Century: A Codicological Study                              | Dr. Bassam Al-Aghbar       | Palestine    |
| 07 | 7th Century Qur'an Manuscripts at the Jumaa Al-Majid Center for Culture and Heritage in Dubai: A Bibliographic Study        | Dr. Mohamed Kamel Jad      | UAE          |

## Day 3

Saturday 30/11/2024

### Session 3 (12:00 – 15:00): General Characteristics of the 7th Century Qur'an Manuscripts

Chair: Prof. Dr. Abdul Samad Romero, Azzagra Cultural Foundation in Granada

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| 08 | External Texts in 7th Century Qur'an Manuscripts between Travel Records and Codicological Cultural Exchange | Prof. Dr. Mahmoud Ahmad Masri | Syria/Turkey  |
| 09 | Page Layout in 7th Century Qur'an Manuscripts   | Prof. Dr. Faisal Al-Hafian    | Syria/Turkey  |
| 10 | Aesthetic and Decorative Characteristics of Qur'an Manuscript Covers in the 7th Century                     | Eng. Ahmad Mahmoud Masri      | Syria/Turkey  |
| 11 | Signs of Counting and Sectioning in 7th Century Qur'an Manuscripts: A Descriptive Study                     | Dr. Mohamed Abdullah Al-Waili | Yemen/Bahrain |



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### Session 4 (12:00 – 15:00): Qur'an Manuscripts from the 7th Century AH: Case Studies

Chair: Prof. Dr. Idham Hanish, The Islamic Educational,  
Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO)

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| 12 | The Manuscript of Seville copied in (624 AH):<br>A Descriptive Analytical Study                          | Prof. Dr. Iyad Salem Al-Samarrai                        | Iraq             |
| 13 | The Manuscript of Ibn Al-Ra'id (609 AH)  | Dr. Mohamed Al-Dasouqi Kahila                           | Egypt            |
| 14 | A Moroccan Manuscript preserved in the<br>British Library dated (652 AH): An Analytical Study            | Prof. Dr. Abdullah Al-Khateeb<br>Mr. Ahmed Wisam Shakir | Lebanon<br>Qatar |
| 15 | The Qur'an Manuscript of Yakut Al-Musta'simi<br>in the National Library of France: A Codicological Study | Prof. Dr. Karim Ifraq                                   | Morocco/France   |
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**Day 5**

**Monday 02/12/2024**

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**Fifth Session (Closing) (12:00 – 15:00)**

Chair: Prof. Dr. Faisal Al-Hafian,  
Darul Makhtutat , Istanbul

**Closing Lecture:**

16	Towards the Creation of a Database for 7th Century Qur'an Manuscripts	Mr. Abdul-Ati Al-Sharqawi	Egypt
17	A Mamluk Manuscript of one Quarter of the Qur'an from the Early Mamluk Era	Mr. Sultan Al-Shaibani	Oman

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**Closing Lecture:**

- A word from the Darul Makhtutat
  - A word from the Sultan Ahmed Waqf
  - A word from the Qatar National Library
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**Recommendations**

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**Signing of Agreements**

[www.sultanahmetvakfi.org](http://www.sultanahmetvakfi.org)

## Accompanying Program

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- Reception of the symposium on 27/11/2024 at 19:00

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- Visit to the Museum of Islamic Art on 28/11/2024 from 10:00 to 11:30

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- Opening ceremony of the symposium and honoring scholars on 28/11/2024 at 12:00

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- Visit to the Cultural Village / Katara on 29/11/2024 from 10:00 to 11:30

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- Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Arabic Manuscript Encyclopedia on 29/11/2024 at 18:00

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- Visit to the Qatar National Library on 30/11/2024 from 10:00 to 11:30

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- Visit to Hamad Bin Khalifa University on 1/12/2024 from 10:00 to 11:30

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- Visit to Qatar University on 2/12/2024 from 10:00 to 11:30

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- Exhibition of 7th Century Manuscripts from 28/11 to 02/12/2024

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[www.darulmakhtutat.org](http://www.darulmakhtutat.org)  
[www.sultanahmetvakfi.org](http://www.sultanahmetvakfi.org)