Annual Function of IMPMS  
Baser Shehr Ahmed M.D.

The first annual function of IMPMS was held on April 26th, 2009. The major theme of the annual function was to introduce the goals and objectives of IMPMS to the DFW community leaders and honor ambassador Ahsani for his community services. With the grace of God the function was a great success. We had a gathering of almost hundred people representing various organizations. All members of the executive committee of the IMPMS wholeheartedly supported the event and worked very hard to make this a successful event. I sincerely appreciate the devotion and commitment of all the members who helped in organizing this event.

Ambassador Ahsani received a well deserved recognition by the organization of which he was a founding member and president. He will continue to serve as president emeritus and the organization will benefit from his vast experience and international contacts. All the participants of the function greatly admired his sincerity and commitment for the betterment of Muslims in the DFW area. He is specially remembered for bringing the political awareness in this area. He served as president chairman, election judge and delegate to the democratic convention. His interest in medieval scholars goes back to 1991 when he organized an international conference on Muslim Spain’s contribution to the world civilization in Lahore, Pakistan. He continued to pursue his interest in medieval scholars in this country and organized several conferences as chairperson and co-chairperson in DFW area as well as in international convention on medieval scholars in Michigan State University.

Goals and Objective of IMPMS

During the Medieval period, which became known as the Dark Ages in Europe, Islamic civilization was at its apex. Beginning in the 8th century, Muslim scholars from the Abbasid Empire in the East to Andalusia in the West produced original achievements in many fields of learning. This knowledge not only inspired the great civilization that flourished in the parts of Eurasia and Africa within the Muslim domain; it was also passed on, especially through Islamic Spain, to Europe to become the foundation for Europe’s Renaissance and Reformation. Ms. Carly Fiorina, former Chair and C.E.O. of Hewlett Packard so eloquently mentioned about the Muslim contribution to the world of science as follows: “It was driven more than anything by invention. Its architects designed buildings that defied gravity. Its mathematicians created the algebra and algorithms that would enable the building of computers and the creation of encryption. Its doctors examined the human body and found new cures for disease. Its astronomers looked into the heavens, named the stars, and paved the way for space travel and exploration.”

Present-day academic curricula, especially in the West, devote little if any attention to the achievements of the Islamic World over a period of many centuries. It is more than time that younger generations throughout the world be made familiar with the essential linkages between classical medieval cultures, on the one hand, and modern civilizations, on the other.

The major goal of the Institute of Medieval & Post Medieval Studies (I M P M S) is to contribute towards generating a climate of mutual understanding and respect among people, at both the academic and the public levels.

To disseminate the information about Islamic civilization’s contribution to the world civilization through presentations of lectures and seminars to students and teachers at all levels from Middle School to University. To establish a library of books, manuscripts, and other learning resources of and about major Medieval and Post-Medieval Muslim scholars in the Islamic World.

To publish monographs and special papers based on these studies, to organize major national and international seminars, workshops, colloquia and conferences to make better known the contribution of these scholars to various discipline as well as their influence on the Western scholars, in sciences, humanities and art and to create web sites carrying these learning resources, including video conferences, for ongoing discussions on these subjects.

We thank sponsors of Annual function
Mr. Zaffar Tabani, Dr. Ahkhter Shah, Mr. Shawn Bhagat, MCC for Human Services, Institute of Islamic Learning in Metroplex, Islamic Center of Carrollton - Darul Eman Arlington.
Mr. Edward Thomas visited Lahore

Mr. Edward shed some light on his recent trip to Lahore, Pakistan. His last visit was 60 years ago in 1949 when he visited Pakistan as a first Muslim country and had a chance to take a trip to Lahore. He went to Kabul from Pakistan where he worked as a teacher at a high school. Mr. Edward shared his experiences as an officer in US foreign service in Iran and learned that Iranians honored Omar Khayyam as a mathematician whereas in the west he is famous for his poetry. He spent a number of years in Rabat, Morocco where he studied Rumi, the great philosopher and scholar from Afghanistan. Mr. Edwards also shared his in depth knowledge about Muslim scholars as follows: “On my first trip to Uzbekistan, in 1997, one of the historic cities I visited was Bukhara, where Ibn Sina was already a remarkable philosopher and medical practitioner before the age of 20. In 1999-2000, while teaching at a university in Tashkent, I had an opportunity to visit the province of Khorazm, in western Uzbekistan, and to see in Khiva the statue of al-Khwarizmi, the scholar who introduced algebra to the world and who also passed on from India the decimal numbering system we misname “Arabic” numerals. I also acquired a 5th grade textbook which devotes several pages to great intellectuals including al-Khorazmiy (as they spell it), Ibn Sina, al-Farabi and Abu Rayhan Biruni, among others – all natives of the territory that is now within Uzbekistan”. He concluded his remarks by sharing his recent experiences in Lahore, Pakistan in February 2009 where he attended the 4th Biennial Convention of the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS). The recent ASPS convention in Lahore was given the title “Persianate Societies and the Subcontinent.” More than 70 papers were presented by participants from eleven countries. Iran was the home country of the largest number of participants, followed by the United States and Pakistan. In my own paper, “Interchange of Astronomical Figures in the Persianate Area”, he described how such information was flowing even before Islam reached the region, and that it continued to be interchanged over the years until well into the 18th century and even the early part of the 19th century. While in Lahore he was able to visit historical sites including the tombs of the Mughal Emperor Jahangir and his Empress Nur Jahan, the Badshahi Mosque and the shrine of Data Ganj Bakhsh Hajveri. He brought to the convention and distributed to participants many of IMPMS brochures and several reports of the AMSS/IMPMS Conference at SMU in 2005.

Mr. Shawn Ali Bhagat, Mr. Aziz Budri and Mr. Asif Effendi shared their personal admiring for Mr. Ahsani’s work and pledged to support the activities of the IMPMS.

Dr. Lalani presented the plaque to Ambassador Ahsani

IMPMS selected a well known community leader, Dr. Inayat Lalani, a pioneer in raising the conscience of the Muslim community towards participating in politics and exercise their citizen rights to vote and express their opinion, to make the award presentation to ambassador Ahsani. The plaque was prepared by Mr. Jawed Siddiqui and was presented to Mr. Ahsani. Several participants voiced their admiration of Mr. Ahsani’s contribution to the community.

Summary of Amb. Ahsani’s’ Speech

Starting with the State of Madinah in 622 C.E. the Islamic Ummah gave to the world the first constitutional, political, economic, social and cultural order. In half a century, it engulfed half the territories of ancient civilizations: Iran, Rome, and Egypt. A century later, it developed a brilliant civilization in the heart of the world which was bound in the East by the Great Wall of China and in the West, the Atlantic Ocean and in the north by Siberia and on the south by the Indian Ocean.

Recounting the history of science and civilization, Western historians overlook and neglect this grand and unprecedented uprising, transforma-
The State of Texas honored Ambassador Ahsani

Whereas, Syed Ahsani served as Pakistan’s Ambassador to Sudan, Ghana and Brazil; and

Whereas, Upon retirement he moved to Arlington, Texas where he served as President of the American Muslim Caucus, Chairman of the American Muslim Task Force for Civil Rights and Elections—Southwest; co-founder and past President of the Institute of Medieval and Post Medieval Studies; and co-editor the book “Muslim Contributions to World Civilization”; and

Whereas, He organized Motamar’s International Conference on Islamic Spain in 1991; and

Whereas, He participated in the first inter-civilization conference, held by Muslim Scientists in 200 and Chaired and Co-Chaired similar conference from 2001 to 2005; now therefore be it

Resolved, Ambassador Syed Ahsani be honored for a long life spent in the service of his community.

IMPMS recognized Dr. Samir Iqbal

Dr. Samir Iqbal recently received a prestigious Early Career Research Award from Nation Science Foundation to develop new approaches to the electronic detection of the proteins. He graduated from NED Engineering University, Karachi - Pakistan and received his Ph. D. from Purdue University, Indiana - USA. He is currently holding a position of Assistant Professor - Nano Technology in College of Engineering, University of Texas at Arlington.

New Members of IMPMS

Mr. Irfan Ali, Mr. Shawn Bhagat, Mr. Ali Gowani, Dr. Samir Iqbal, Mr. Ghaffar Khan, Mr. Khaliq Quereshi. Mr. Aqib Syed, Mr. MohSeikh, Mr. Mohamud Mohammad, Mr. Farooq Hemnani, Dr. Asif Syed