

360 DEWAN

12 1001 Inventions: Uncovering the science and technology of the Muslim world

Posted by [mrdirector80](#) on July 12th, 2010 at 8:32 pm



Last month, I decided to visit the exhibition "1001 Inventions: Uncovering the science and technology of the Muslim world", which was in the Science Museum at South Kensington. June was the last month for this exhibition in London. For updates on where it will be next, visit their website www.1001inventions.com. As for the exhibition, it shows and displays the Golden Era of science and technology, arts, medicine, philosophy, contributed by the Muslims that went on for 8 centuries, spanning from Alandalus (modern Spain and Portugal), to China.



One of my favorite parts displayed was the "Elephant Clock" created by renowned scientist and mechanical engineer 🧐 Aljazari, who also came up with the concept of the crank-shaft mechanisms (i.e. converting rotary to linear motion if anyone is interested). Sir Ben Kingsley was chosen to portray Aljazari.



Another part that caught my attention was the fact that the graduation caps and gowns that we wear (obviously on graduation day) was a tradition used by the Muslims who taught and studied in the universities.



Let's not forget of course the great contribution on the human anatomy, such as the accurate function of the eye described in detail by Ibn-al-Haitham.

My favorite scientist of all would have to be "Abbas Ibn Farnas". Documents show that he was one of the first to attempt the human dream of flying, thousands of years before the Wrights brothers successful flight.



Many of the people I talked with about this have displayed a sense of denying that the Muslims ever contributed anything beneficial to society, science, etc. and insist that it was the Greeks and Europeans in general who have made the most discoveries, voyages, inventions, and creations. I won't argue with the fact that the Europeans have done so much for science and mathematics, but one cannot shun the fact that the Islamic Era wasn't a Renaissance on its own. After all, many of the words used today are originally Arabic, the best examples being Algebra (El-Gebr), Algorithm (Al-Khawarizmi), and Chemistry (Keem-ia).

This truly was an inspiring exhibition, and one felt a sense of pride and respect that our ancestors have benefitted the human race, and many of their contributions are used to this day.