

The Street

1001 Inventions: Discover The Golden Age Of Muslim Civilization

1001 Inventions: Discover the Golden Age of Muslim Civilization, an international traveling exhibition exploring the scientific contributions made by men and women during the Golden Age of Muslim Civilization, opens Friday, May 27, 2011 at the California Science Center. Through interactive displays, guests will explore basic science principles that are often taken for granted, in such fields as optics, time-keeping, hydraulics, navigation, architecture and mathematics.

The exhibition highlights the contributions of scholars from a diverse region stretching from Spain through China during the 7th to 17th centuries. Visitors will discover how scholars from this region, of various faiths and cultures, preserved, nurtured, and advanced the world's knowledge in science and technology. *1001 Inventions* will be hosted at the Science Center until December 31, 2011. The exhibition is on a global tour and is sponsored by ALJ Community Initiatives.

"We are pleased to host *1001 Inventions* in its West Coast premiere," said Jeffrey Rudolph, President and CEO of the California Science Center. "The exhibition brings to life timeless, historical innovations from the Muslim world - spanning the fields of engineering, medicine and design."

One of the focal points of the exhibition is a 20-foot high replica of the 'Elephant Clock'- a visually striking early 13th century clock whose design fuses together elements from many cultures and is accompanied by a short film starring Oscar-winning actor Sir Ben Kingsley as Al-Jazari, inventor of the fabled clock.

Professor Salim T S Al-Hassani, Chairman of *1001 Inventions*, explained: "The Elephant Clock is an early 13th century machine which gives physical form to the concept of multi-culturalism. This engineering marvel features an Indian Elephant, Chinese Dragons, a Greek water mechanism, an Egyptian Phoenix, and wooden robots in traditional Arabian attire. It embodies cultural and scientific convergence of civilizations and is an appropriate centre-piece for an exhibition about the roots of science and technology."

Another exhibit highlight is a 9th-century dark room model, now known as the Camera Obscura, which Ibn al-Haytham used to revolutionize our understanding of optics. The year 2011 is the 1,000 year anniversary of this invention – a forerunner of the modern-day camera. Other exhibits featured in this interactive exhibition include:

- A large 10-foot reproduction Al-Idrisi's 12th-century world map.
- Model of Zheng He's Chinese junk ship – originally a 15th century wooden super structure over 325-feet long.
- Medical instruments from a thousand years ago, many of which are still used today.

Guests can also learn about parallel stories of invention from other cultures and civilizations, illustrated through a display of unique objects. These include devices used for weighing and measuring, surgical instruments, astronomical devices, intricately crafted ceramic pots and textiles.