

PRESS RELEASE

October 04, 2006

DISCOVER THE MUSLIM HERITAGE IN OUR WORLD

Exclusive media preview 11:30, October 23rd.

Official opening 19:00, October 26th

A groundbreaking exhibition exploring the history of Muslim contributions to science and invention is coming to the National Museum Cardiff on October 24th 2006. An official opening event of selected VIPs and local community on October 26th will celebrate the arrival of the exhibition.

1001 Inventions: Discover the Muslim Heritage in Our World is a unique travelling educational exhibition that reveals 1,000 years of the rich scientific and technological heritage of the Muslim community.

“1001 Inventions is a fascinating and informative exhibition, and, I’m sure, will be hugely successful,” explains Michael Houlihan, Director General of Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales. “It has the power to reach many audiences including school groups, students, academics, families and children, and will be an invaluable extra addition to our public programme during this year.”

With 1,000 years of “missing history”, the exhibition is divided into seven zones: home, school, market, hospital, town, world and universe, to make it accessible for all. Hands-on interactive exhibits display some of the best kept secrets and scientific contributions that underpin much of the foundations of ‘Western’ civilisation.

The 1001 Inventions exhibition brings to life an often overlooked golden age of discovery and innovation from the 7th to the 17th centuries. Outstanding scholars from the Islamic world discovered and developed many everyday items that are taken for granted in the modern world, such as coffee, soap, clocks and surgical instruments.

National Museum Cardiff is delighted to be the next venue of this colourful touring exhibition, especially given the fact that our own latest exhibition ***The Muslim World on your Doorstep*** also opens on the same day. This separate exhibition explores how the Muslim world and its complex, diverse history are represented in our

everyday lives. Although both exhibitions look at different themes, all visitors are likely to be surprised, challenged and motivated by what they discover.

The 1001 Inventions exhibition was initiated by the Foundation for Science, Technology and Civilization (FSTC), and is supported by international institutes and organisations including the British Home Office, the British Foreign Office, British Department for Trade and Industry, The BA, The Wellcome Trust, Muslim Heritage Consulting, Muslim Youth Foundation, Northwest Development Agency, El-Rahma Trust, ICONS and National Science Week, Muslim Council of Wales, National Museum Wales, Manchester University, Abu Dhabi-based Bin Hamouda Group and Dubai-based International Holdings Group.

Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales operates seven national museums across Wales. These are: National Museum Cardiff, St Fagans; National History Museum; National Roman Legion Museum, Caerleon; Big Pit: National Coal Museum, Blaenafon; National Wool Museum, Dre-fach Felindre; National Slate Museum, Llanberis; and the National Waterfront Museum, Swansea.

Notes to Editors

1001 Inventions is a non-religious and non-political exhibition.

For more details about the content of the exhibition, please refer to www.1001inventions.com

For additional background facts on Muslim Heritage, please refer to www.Muslimheritage.com.

National Museum Cardiff is open Tues – Sun 10am – 5pm & Bank Holiday Mondays. For more information visit www.museumwales.ac.uk

Images

Available for use in articles are photographs (see links to download and descriptions below) and manuscripts (see descriptions below).

Photographs

1-5 are taken from the first venue of the 1001 Inventions exhibition at Museum of Science and Industry, Manchester (MSIM).

Photographs 6-10 are of the exhibition.

1. Professor Salim Al-Hassani*, Chairman of FSTC, and Afzal Khan, Lord Mayor of Manchester both holding up a replica of the 9th Century flying machine of Abbas Ibn Firnas.

<http://www.MuslimHeritage.com/imagelibrary/picture1.jpg>

2. Professor Ekmellidin Ihsanoglu, Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Countries.

<http://www.MuslimHeritage.com/imagelibrary/picture2.jpg>

3. School children watching a demonstration of how to use a 10th Century astrolabe.

<http://www.MuslimHeritage.com/imagelibrary/picture3.jpg>

4. The Right Honourable Mike O'Brien, QC Solicitor General speaking at the MSIM launch on behalf of Prime Minister Tony Blair.

<http://www.MuslimHeritage.com/imagelibrary/picture4.jpg>

5. A school girl using a 10th Century Astrolabe

<http://www.MuslimHeritage.com/imagelibrary/picture5.jpg>

6. A girl with the Scribe clock exhibit. (350 KB)

<http://www.MuslimHeritage.com/imagelibrary/image01.jpg>

7. Boy looking at the interactive element for the World Zone pod. (970 KB)

<http://www.MuslimHeritage.com/imagelibrary/image02.jpg>

8. The Blood Circulation exhibit at the 1001 Inventions Exhibition. (900 KB)

<http://www.MuslimHeritage.com/imagelibrary/image03.jpg>

9. The animated manuscript exhibit on Celestial Sums in the Universe Zone. (930 KB)

<http://www.MuslimHeritage.com/imagelibrary/image04.jpg>

10. The al-Jazari scribe clock exhibit in the Home Zone. (630 KB)

<http://www.MuslimHeritage.com/imagelibrary/image05.jpg>

*Professor Salim Al-Hassani is emeritus professor of Mechanical, Aerospace and Manufacturing Engineering Department at UMIST and currently a residing professor at the School of Languages, Linguistics and Cultures, University of Manchester.

Available manuscripts

To receive the manuscripts please contact **Sian James, Corporate Communications Officer, National Museum Wales 029 2057 3185 / 07812 801356 / sian.james@museumwales.ac.uk**.

1. 1513 map by Piri Reis; the oldest surviving map to show the Americas.
2. 16th Century manuscript from the *Nusratnaame* showing a banquet.

3. Taqi al Din and other astronomers working in the observatory of Muradd III, 16th Century.
4. Astronomy teaching using an astrolabe from the 15th Century Persian manuscript
5. 16th Century Map by Piri Reis showing Cyprus.
6. Turkish miniature from the 17th Century, showing the Ghazanfer Aga madrasa in Istanbul.

For further information, interviews, content list and image licensing agreement forms for use of manuscripts, contact **Sian James, Corporate Communications Officer, National Museum Wales 029 2057 3185 / 07812 801356 / sian.james@museumwales.ac.uk**