


London exhibition explores Muslim heritage

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The elephant clock in a manuscript by Al-Jazari, 1206 CE

London's Science Museum has mounted an exhibition about the scientific heritage of the Muslim world, since the 7th century.

1001 Inventions: Discover the Muslim Heritage in Our World, which will run until April 25, features social, scientific and technical achievements of the Muslim world as well as the shared scientific heritage of other cultures.

"The thousand year period from the 7th century onwards was a time of exceptional scientific and technological advancement in China, India, Persia, Africa and the Arab world," *Medieval News* quoted Director of the Science Museum Prof. Chris Rapley as saying.

Chairman of the exhibition and Manchester University Professor, Salim al-Hassani believes the advancements spread from the Middle East, across North Africa to southern Spain at a time when Muslim scholars and inventors were at the forefront.

"During that time, there were enormous contributions in science and technology that we have forgotten about and that comes to us from other civilizations," he said.

"And, it came to use over a very important civilization and that is the Muslim civilization."

One of the highlights of the event is a six-meter high replica of the Elephant Clock, an early 13th century clock designed by Al-Jazari, which combines elements from various cultures.

A 3-meter reproduction of Al-Idrisi's 12th-century world map, model of Zheng He's Chinese junk ship, ancient musical instruments and a model of a 9th-century dark room used by Ibn al-Haytham are among the other displayed items.