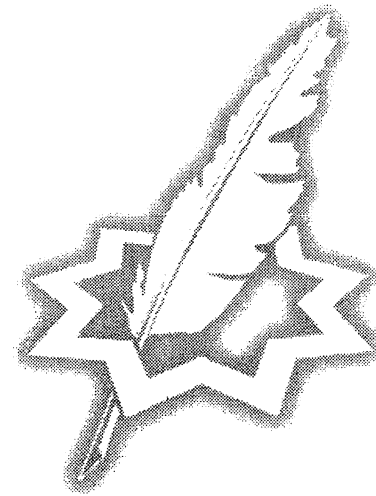


# Irfán Colloquium

Trent Park Campus

Middlesex University, London, U.K.

August 21-24, 1998



Sponsored by the

Haj Mehdi Arjmand Memorial Fund

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Note: This publication uses the standard Bahá'í system for transliterating Arabic and Persian words.

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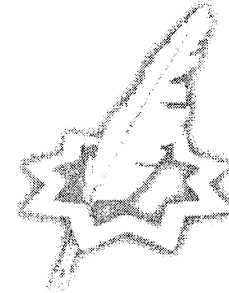
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# Irfán Colloquium and Seminar

Trent Park Campus  
Middlesex University, London, U.K.  
August 21–24, 1998

Eighteenth Session



sponsored by the  
Haj Mehdi Arjmand Memorial Fund

*The Haj Mehdi Arjmand Memorial Fund was established in 1992 to honor Haj Mehdi Arjmand (1861-1941), a Persian Bahá'í who became very well known in Iran for his profound knowledge of the Bible, Qur'án, and Bahá'í scriptures. The purpose of the Fund is to foster study of the scriptures of the world's religions from a Bahá'í perspective.*

*Starting in 1993 the Fund began to sponsor "Irfán Colloquia," 'irfán being a Persian word referring to mystical, theological, and spiritual knowledge. As of June 1998 seventeen such colloquia had been held. Currently the colloquia are being held annually in North America and in Europe, and in the English and Persian languages. Volumes of papers are also being published.*

*The 'Irfán Seminars started in 1997 for the study of Bahá'í scripture. The first part of this program is devoted to a four-year study of the revelation of Bahá'u'lláh.*

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 1998

19:00

Convene

19:15

Prayers and Meditation

19:30

Welcome

*Gilda Navidi-Walker*

19:45

Introductory Remarks

*Iraj Ayman*

20:00

Logistics

*Saghar Forouhi and Christopher Galitello*

20:15

Introduction of Participants

20:30

German Pietism and Expectation of Messiah,  
1817 in the Caucasus

*Kamran Ekbal*

21:15

Discussion

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 1998

08:45

Opening Prayers

09:00

The Best of Stories (Aḥsan al-Qaṣaṣ) Joseph Motifs and the  
Bábí-Bahá'í Interpretation of the Joseph Narrative

*Stephen Lambden*

10:00

Break

10:15

Globalization and the Bahá'í Relations  
to World System of Societies

*Margit Warburg*



11:15

The Practice of Pilgrimage

*Per-Olaf Akerdahl*

12:15

Lunch

14:30

The Danger of Silence and the Practice  
of Responsible Apologetics

*Jack McLean*

15:30

Break

16:00

Religion and the Arts: The Cyclical Theory  
in the Bahá'í Faith

*Moojan Momen*

17:00

The Chain of Prophecy: Progressive Revelation  
as a Theory of Relativity

*Zaid Lundberg*

18:00

Dinner

20:00

Opening of the 'Irfán Seminar

Prayers

20:15

An Overview of the Revelation of Bahá'ú'lláh  
During the Istanbul-Adrianople Period

*Iraj Ayman*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 1998

09:00

Prayers and Meditation

09:15

Sociopolitical Conditions of the Ottoman  
Empire in the Nineteenth Century

*Kamran Ekbal*



10:15

Break

10:45

Kitáb-i-Badí' and Lawḥ-i-Sarraj: Bahá'u'lláh's Response  
to the Questions Raised by Some Bábís

*Stephen Lambden*

12:00

Lunch

Trip to the Great Northern Cemetary  
Resting Place of Shoghi Effendi

15:30

An Analytical Study of the  
Lawḥ-i-Aḥmad (Arabic)

*Todd Lawson*

16:30

Break

17:00

Súriy-i-Ghuṣn and the Covenant of Bahá'ú'lláh

*Moojan Momen*

18:00

Dinner

20:15

Some of the Tablets Revealed During the  
Istanbul-Adrianople Period: Lawḥ-i-Tuqá,  
Súriy-i-Vidád (Lawḥ-i-Sayyáh), Lawḥ-i-Abná'í  
(Lawḥ-i-Khalil), Lawḥ-i-Aḥmad (Persian)

*Stephen Lambden*

MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 1998

09:00

Prayers

09:15

Background and Content of Lawḥ-i-Sultán

*Manucehr Salmanpour*



10:15

Break

10:45

Principles of Bahá'í Theology in the Tablet of Salmán

*Iraj Ayman*

11:30

Closing Remarks

12:00

End