Discover the interesting stories behind Dala’il al-Khayrat, a compilation of prayers and blessings (salawat) upon the Prophet (ﷺ) composed by renowned Sufi master, Imam Al-Jazuli, in Morocco, from the collection of IAMM in this special exhibition. The exhibition displays 27 copies of this unique composition from around the Islamic world, which include IAMM’s oldest 16th-century Moroccan copy and a local 19th-century copy from Terengganu, East Coast of the Malay Peninsula. Besides that, the exhibition also highlights the artistic innovation and development of the illustrations within the manuscripts, added in line with the content; for example, illustrations of the Minbar (pulpit), the Holy sites for Muslims (Makkah and Madinah), as well as a special mention in the prayer book that is the Rawdah (the area between the Prophet’s tomb and his Minbar). Come and experience the spirit of the tradition on praising upon the Prophet (ﷺ) as one of the diverse art forms of the Islamic world. The exhibition is on display from 11th March to 31st August 2016 in Special Gallery 1, IAMM.
The success of the newsletter encouraged IAMM curatorial staff to see it grow and elaborate in presenting IAMM's latest news, events and accomplishments. The IAMM Newsletter’s new look, comes at a time when The Albukhary Foundation – of which IAMM is an outcome of – has announced its commitment to the global museum world, by contributing in the enlargement and refurbishment of the Islamic Arts gallery at the British Museum. The British Museum’s collection of Islamic Arts represents the diversity of cultures of the Middle East, Turkey, Central Asia and South & Southeast Asia from the advent of Islam to the present day. The new gallery will be located at the heart of the British Museum, on the first floor. This in turn will give visitors an understanding of the diverse and wide-ranging cultures of the Islamic World. The aim of Albukhary Foundation and the British Museum is to encourage increased public engagement with Islamic Art and culture while placing the narrative of Islamic civilisations within a much wider context. The Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia, looks forward to continue and further nurture cooperation with the British Museum. Thus the new phase will surely yield to many more exciting events and accomplishments.

The exhibition portrayed the rich diaspora of the Chulia community, from generation to generation, in Penang, a northern state of Peninsular Malaysia. The Chulias refer to a group of South Indians who migrated and settled in the Straits of Malacca who were mostly, but not necessarily, Muslims. The exhibition put into picture the cultural development and practices of the Chulias such as waqf endowment (religious donation) for public purposes that have helped the growth of Penang. The exhibition also narrated the history of the construction and architectural development of Masjid Kapitan Keling, a beautiful mosque build as a social centre for the community. Aspects such music, theater, culinary fare and literature that are trademarks of the Chulias were also highlighted to show their importance to the history of Malaysian culture. The exhibition, which ran from 28th January to 28th March 2016 at IAMM’s Open Space Gallery, was curated based on the book entitled 'Chulia in Penang: Patronage and Place-Making around the Kapitan Kling Mosque 1786-1957’ by Khoo Salma Nasution, a Malaysian heritage advocate.
Leaves from a Kufic Qur’an on vellum, North Africa or Near East, 9th century AD

The Emperor Akbar Shah II (r.1806-37 AD) in Durbar, attributable to Ghulam Murtaza Khan Musavvir Mughal, Delhi Circa 1810 AD.

A silver scribe’s pen-case (Divit), stamped with tughra of Sultan Mahmud I (r.1730-54 AD), Turkey, 18th century AD

An Ottoman gem-set and jade mirror, Turkey, 17th or 18th century AD
SAY....KONNICHIWA! – A JAPANESE MANGA WORKSHOP

Seeing art as a vital element in understanding culture and civilisation, the Islamic Arts Museum Malaysia (IAMM), through the Education Department, had organised a full-day workshop entitled ‘Say... Konnichiwa’ on 20th March 2016. The programme, which focused on developing the fine arts of Manga-drawing (cartoon-drawing) and Origami (paper-folding), was organised in collaboration with Japanese Foundation Kuala Lumpur (JFKL).

IAMM is proud to receive Manaru Tenkawa, a manga-ka (manga cartoonist), at the Museum as the instructor for the Manga workshop. Manaru Tenkawa is known well for her signature of fusing Oriental and Islamic styles in her artworks. She is well-trained in Arabic calligraphy and the language itself; she studied under the famous master calligrapher, Kouichi Honda. The workshop took place at IAMM’s Wet Workshop with astounding attendance of 80 participants - age group ranging from 12 to 50 years old – and was divided into morning and evening sessions. The participants were taught how to create characters, draft storyboard and comic strips, and apply colour and tone paper onto the final artwork. Manaru stresses a lot on the importance of facial and body expressions of the characters to deliver the message rather than relying on the limited word count. The workshop is inspirational in a sense that it brought out the hidden talents of some of the participants, especially the younger ones.

Another programme for children under 12 years old was carried out around 3 pm at the Children’s Library - a Japanese Storytelling & Origami Workshop. The workshop was attended by 26 children, accompanied by their guardians. It started with a fun story-telling session, where three Japanese-themed story books were read to these young audiences. The stories revolve around Japanese culture and their famous folktales, such as The Boy Who Drew Cats and Ni-Ou the Bully. The second part of the workshop is led by Ms. Mio Yachita, an Origami expert. She taught the children how to fold and sculpt the papers into a cat, a Samurai’s Kabuto-helmet and a gift box. The workshop ended at 5:30 pm.

There are a lot of things that we can learn from the resilient and enduring Japanese culture in relation to Islamic arts: that art does not stand by itself. Art requires knowledge, understanding and practice that eventually lead to appreciation, and no appreciation towards certain arts can amount to one that is shown and felt by the people who belong to those arts.

THE CHULIA IN PENANG: A LECTURE BY KHOO SALMA AND JASMIN ABDUL WAHAB

31st January – IAMM hosted an academic lecture ‘The Chulia Diaspora, Mosque and Endowments’, a programme held in conjunction with “The Chulia in Penang” exhibition. The two-hour lecture was given by Khoo Salma Nasution, whose book inspired the storyline of the exhibition; and Jasmin Abdul Wahab, a documentary film-maker, whose documentary on Masjid Kapitan Keling enlightened the exhibition space. Complementing the photography exhibition, the speakers shared deeper materials on the socio-cultural aspects of the Chulia community that the photographs could not explain in pictures. The edutainment event ended with a special book-signing session of ‘Chulia in Penang: Patronage and Place-Making around the Kapitan Kling Mosque 1786-1957’ as well as a tour to the exhibition gallery.
**RHYTHM & VERSES, IAMM TRAVEL EXHIBITION TO SHARJAH MUSEUM OF ISLAMIC CIVILISATION**

16TH MARCH – 18TH JUNE 2016

After Singapore and Alexandria, Egypt, IAMM’s “Rhythm and Verses: Masterpieces of Persian Calligraphy” exhibition made its way to the Gulf country. On 16th March 2016, the exhibition was inaugurated in Sharjah Museum of Islamic Civilization (SMIC) in United Arab Emirates by H.E Manal Ataya, Director General of Sharjah Museums Department. The opening was also attended by Malaysian Ambassador to UAE, Datuk Ahmad Anwar Adnan and other VIP guests.

Showcasing 38 single folios dating from the 16th to the 19th centuries, and a 19th-century Qajar album, this exhibition aims to celebrate the Persian calligraphers not only as outstanding calligraphy masters but also as poets and composers. The selected works on display offer a glimpse of the distinguished styles of Persian calligraphy such as the scripts of Naskh & Riqa’ and Ta’liq & Nasta’liq, Siyah Mashq, and Shikasta.

This unprecedented collaboration between SMIC and IAMM is the direct result of informal discussions during a joint participation at the Sharjah Museums Department’s seminal ‘Appropriate Museology = Appropriate Language’ conference in March 2015.

**SPECIAL VISITS**

**JANUARY – MARCH 2016**

- Guests of Badan Kehakiman Malaysia (The Malaysian Judiciary)
- Spouses of Panglima Angkatan Tentera (Chief of Defence Force) of Malaysia and Singapore
- Brigadier John G. Howard, Chief of Defence Intelligence, New Zealand Armed Force
- Deputy Minister of Public Security, China Embassy
- Pakistan Embassy
- Bulgaria Embassy
- Admiral Muhammad Zakaullah (HI) Chief of Naval Staff, Pakistan Navy
- Ambassador of Taipei and Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Malaysia
- Seville Mosque Foundation
- DYMM Sultan Ibrahim Ismail Ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar al-Haj, Sultan of Johor
- Islamic Tourism Malaysia (Delegations of Imam Besar & Top Committee Member of major Mosque in Malaysia)
- Muzium Diraja Abu Bakar, Johor (Abu Bakar Royal Museum of Johor)
- H.E. Madame Valentino Matviyenko, Chairman of the Russian Federation
- Jabatan Kastam Diraja Malaysia (Royal Malaysian Customs Department)
UPCOMING EXHIBITION: IAMM’S CHILDREN LIBRARY EXHIBITION

Let the kids have fun!! IAMM is having an exhibition on our very own Children’s Library, where kids come to have fun and show their creativity in their own way!! The exhibition, “IAMM’s Children’s Library: Cultivating Children through Arts & Stories”, is happening from 4th April to 22nd May 2016.

UPCOMING EVENT: INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY 2016 AT IAMM

IAMM is once again celebrating the ‘free-entrance day’ of the year!! Come and celebrate the International Museum Day with us and learn this year’s theme of “Museums and Cultural Landscapes”. Many exciting activities await you!! Everyone is welcome!

MUSEUM SHOP

Left: Tiles with Iznik design / Iznik-inspired design originated from IAMM’s Iznik/Iznik-inspired collection.
Price RM 63.50 (unframed) / RM 201.40 (with frame)

Right: Tiles with contemporary Islamic calligraphy designs originated from IAMM’s original painting collection.
Price RM 84.70 (unframed) / RM 265.00 (with frame)