

CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM ENCOUNTERS +)

Edited by

Yvonne Yazbeck Haddad

and

Wadi Zaidan Haddad

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DEDICATION

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Willem A. Bijlefeld, Professor Emeritus of Islamic Studies at Hartford Seminary, enjoys an international reputation as outstanding scholar, teacher, and pioneer in the field of Christian-Muslim relations. The author of numerous works on various aspects of Islamic theology and interfaith dialogue, he has traveled widely throughout the Muslim world and is well acquainted with a great range of Muslim activities from Indonesia to Africa, to Europe and the United States.

In 1966, Professor Bijlefeld came to join Hartford Seminary, where he has served as professor, academic dean, editor of *The Muslim World*, and director of the Duncan Black Macdonald Center for Christian-Muslim Relations. Throughout his distinguished career he has been a leader in fostering better understanding of the religion of Islam, furthering dialogue among persons of faith, and promoting academic exchange among scholars of Christian-Muslim relations.

It is with extreme gratitude for the care, devotion, and skill with which Professor Bijlefeld has undertaken his lifelong task of scholarship that the present volume of essays on historical and contemporary relationships among Muslims and Christians is dedicated. His many students and colleagues, represented by the authors of the essays contained here, remain in his deep debt for the quality, depth, and range of his contributions.

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PREFACE

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The campus of Hartford Seminary, June 7-9, 1990, was the scene of a three-day meeting of academics engaged in dialogue on the issue of "Christian-Muslim Encounter: The Heritage of the Past and Present Intellectual Trends." Thirty scholars who have been engaged in research in the area of Christian-Muslim studies, representing both faith traditions, lectured and discussed the relationship of the two communities historically and in the contemporary worldwide context. The chapters of this volume are the result of the research done for, and the conversations held in the context of, that extended meeting.

The conference was sponsored by Hartford Seminary and cosponsored by Saint Joseph College, Trinity College, and University of Hartford. It was supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Connecticut Humanities Council, and Mobil Oil Corporation. Other funds were received from the Presbyterian Church USA, the United Church of Christ Board of Global Ministries, the Dutch Reformed Church in the Netherlands, the Lutheran Church of America, and the United Methodist Church. The viewpoints and beliefs expressed in these papers are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the sponsoring organizations.

Our gratitude is expressed to the chairs and participants of the many panels conducted in the course of the conference, including former presidents of Hartford Seminary—James Gettemy, Harvey MacArthur, John Dillenberger, Michael Rion, and Interim President Jackson Carroll—and to M. Paton Ryan, president of Saint Joseph College; Walter G. Markham, dean, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Hartford; Leslie DesMangles, Trinity College; John Stack, Saint Joseph College; W. Cantwell Smith, professor emeritus, Harvard University; and Peter Bright, University of Hartford.

Particular thanks are due to Elizabeth D'Amico and Karen Gidman for their tireless efforts in the organization and administration of the conference, to Elizabeth Speight for the art work for the brochure, and to Alice Izer, Mary Jane Ross, and David Sawan who typed several versions of a number of manuscripts. Our gratitude is extended for all of these contributions without which neither the project nor this volume would have been possible.