

University of Florence

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Conference**

**“Islam and Europe: Thirteen Centuries
of Common History”**

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CONTENTS

<i>Foreword</i> Mahmoud Salem Elsheikh	p.	5
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WELCOME OF THE AUTHORITIES

<i>Opening Address</i> Paolo Blasi, Rector, University of Florence		11
<i>Opening Address</i> Ahmad 'Umar Hashim, Rector, University of Al-Azhar		13
<i>Greetings</i> Gia'far 'Abd Es-Salam, Vice Rector, University of Al-Azhar		15
<i>Greetings</i> 'Abdullah Salem Al-Obaid, Secretary-General of the Islamic World League		17
<i>Welcome Address</i> Mario Primicerio, Mayor of Florence		19
<i>Welcome Address</i> Hon. Lamberto Dini, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Italian Republic		21
<i>Inaugural Speech</i> Silvano Piovanelli, Archbishop of Florence		29

Islam and Europe: Thirteen Centuries
of Common History

<i>Islam and Europe: The Historical Dimension</i> Franco Cardini	39
<i>Moslem Historians and Medieval Europe. The image of the "Other"</i> Qasim 'Abdou Qasim	71
<i>Christian and Moslem Trade and Sea-faring in the Mediterranean</i> Marco Tangheroni	81
<i>The Cultural Heritage of Moslem Civilisation in Medieval Europe. A Reevaluation</i> Wisam 'Abd El-'Aziz Farag	99
<i>The Exchange of Delegations and Courtesies between Moslem Caliphs and Byzantine Patriarchs</i> 'Abd El-Shafi Muhammad 'Abd El-Latif	113
<i>The Driving-out of Moriscos in North-Africa</i> Ra'fat Elsheikh	131
<i>Europe and the Ottoman Empire</i> Alberto Tenenti	139
<i>The Struggle of Salah Ed-Din Al-Ayyubi in the Perspective of the conflict between the Ummah of Islam and Medieval Europe</i> 'Adel Isma'il Hilal	145
<i>The Fundamental Contribution of Islam to the European New Philosophy. Tradition and Innovations</i> Erminio Cesare Vasoli	159
<i>Cultural Relations between Moslems and Byzantines in the Age of Caliphs Ar-Rashid and Al-Ma'moun</i> Muhammad Giabr Abu Si'dah	175

<i>Contents</i>	247
<i>Islam's Contribution to the European Scientific Revival. Ancient Models and Moslem Innovations</i> Julio Samsó	189
<i>Arabic Words and Phrases in the Vernacular of Medieval Europe. Examples and Models</i> Giovan Battista Pellegrini	197
<i>An Epistemology of Islamic-Western Relations</i> Khaled Fouad 'Allam	217
<i>The Image of the European in Modern and Contemporary Egyptian Literature</i> Daniela Amaldi	221

CONCLUSIONS

Cultural and Scientific Cooperation Agreement between Florence University and Al-Azhar University	233
Committee Occident-Orient	243
Contents	245



To shed a new light on the reality of relations between Islam and Europe, the Islamic University of Al-Azhar, the oldest university in the world, and the University of Florence, one of the most prestigious and not only in Europe, have organised in Florence, between May 8 and 10, 1997, a Conference in order to study the history that unites Islam and Europe starting from the Eighth Century of the common era. The task of digging deeply with modern instruments of scientific research also for evidencing the contribution of the Arab-Islamic culture to the birth of European culture, was entrusted to Arab and European scholars of undisputed value.

They touched on a range of arguments in different fields or knowledge, and interrogate History, through documents, in order to better understand that period of scientific and cultural (but also human) exchange between Muslims and Europeans, without a doubt one of the most luminous and illuminating chapters of the history of Humanity.