



## HISTORIANS OF ISLAMIC ART ASSOCIATION

### **2011 ANNUAL REPORT**

Compiled by Marianna Shreve Simpson (President), from reports by Sheila Canby (President-elect), Glaire Anderson (Treasurer), Ladan Akbarnia (Acting Secretary), Lara Tohme (Webmaster), Olga Bush (Newsletter Editor), Stephennie Mulder (H-ISLAMART Editor) and Bernard O'Kane (Out-of-Country Representative)

**Two thousand and eleven** was an eventful year for HIAA, marked by the loss of several senior colleagues and the fatal hacking of the association's website. At the same time, these tribulations resulted in new opportunities for programmatic growth and operational improvement. The year's major developments are outlined here.

#### **I. Administration and Governance**

At its 2011 annual meeting, the Executive Board established the position of Past-President for a three-year term, to be held by Renata Holod, and appointed D. Fairchild (Dede) Ruggles as Interim E-Editor for a one-year term. In addition, the Board divided the office of Secretary-Treasurer into two separate offices to meet the needs of HIAA's growing membership and activities, with Glaire Anderson remaining as Treasurer through 2012 and Ladan Akbarnia appointed for a one-year term as Acting (a.k.a. Interim) Secretary. In December the members elected Ladan to the office of Secretary for a two-year term, 2012-2013.

In keeping with accepted practice for the governance of non-profit associations, HIAA took out a Directors and Officers Liability Insurance policy with the Philadelphia Insurances Companies, Bala Cynwyd, PA.

#### **II. Finances and Fund-raising**

For the first time, the Board adopted an annual budget for operating and program expenses, totalling \$11,316 for 2011. In addition to normal and on-going financial activities, including the preparation of monthly financial reports, Glaire Anderson worked closely with the accounting firm of Coleman, Huntoon & Brown, Chapel Hill, NC to regularize and improve the association's accounting procedures and annual IRS filings. Thanks to these combined efforts, HIAA avoided IRS penalty for our late filing in 2008 and submitted the 2010 filing on schedule.

At its 2011 meeting, the Board established the Oleg Grabar Memorial Fund to support the annual award of Grabar Grants and Fellowships (see below V.). During the spring and early summer, a planning committee, comprised of Shreve Simpson, Renata Holod (Past-President 2008-2011)

and Massumeh Farhad (Past-President 1999-2001), began to develop a fund-raising strategy and to solicit leadership gifts. By the end of the year HIAA had received close to \$108,000 in leadership gifts, plus additional pledges, from a small number of generous donors. The planning committee will continue its fund-raising efforts in 2012 with a general appeal among HIAA members and other colleagues.

A full financial report for 2011 is attached. Please note that 2011 contributions to the Oleg Grabar Memorial Fund have been deposited in our Ševčenko account, an interest-bearing savings account.

### **III. Membership**

While membership registration lagged during the spring and early summer due to the lack of a website, it resumed again during the late summer and through the fall, thanks to Ladan Akbarnia's assiduous efforts, which included the updating of an already-existing Gmail contact list and of both the academic census and museum census. The website reconstruction (see **IV**) also made it possible to streamline the format for the membership directory.

Effective 1 March 2011, HIAA membership dues were set at: Student \$20, Regular \$40, Joint \$60, Institutional and Sustaining \$100. HIAA ended the year with 216 members world-wide.

### **IV. Website and H-ISLAMART**

In late February and early March, the HIAA website was the target of two hack attacks, the second one fatal. In response the Board took down the site and engaged the firm of Brio Solutions, Philadelphia to develop a new site. This project involved the active participation of HIAA's dedicated website development team comprised of Lara Tohme (team chair), Olga Bush and Stephennie Mulder and with contributions by Glair Anderson and Ladan Akbarnia and general direction by Shreve Simpson. Launched in July 2011, the website features several new and improved features, including smoother navigation, increased security, an attractive design enhanced with images, an administrative platform for editing and uploading material, a user-friendly process of membership registration and management, and reliable tech support.

The website provides certain material for the exclusive use of HIAA members, which is updated at varying intervals: Opportunities (jobs and fellowships, updated on a regular basis by Tohme from listings compiled by Bush), Members' Directory (4x/year, by Akbarnia) and Members News (2x/yr, by Bush). Most of the website's other, "public" or open content -- Call for Papers, Events/Programs, Exhibitions, Publications and Resources -- are compiled by Bush and posted 3x/year, while the museum and academic censuses are updated annually by Akbarnia. From time to time Tohme also posts announcements and updates on the Welcome, Home, and About pages, at the president's request.

Subscriptions to H-ISLAMART continued to grow during the year and currently number over 1150. Many of the new subscribers are from outside the U.S., confirming HIAA's increasingly international reach and impact. Stephennie Mulder posts announcements, news items and

research inquiries in batches several times a week, providing subscribers with a timely platform for the dissemination of information and a lively forum for the exchange of ideas.

## **V. Prizes, Fellowships and Grants**

The 2011 Margaret B. Ševčenko Prize was awarded to Silvia Armando for her study "Ugo Monneret de Villard (1881-1954) and the Establishment of Islamic Art Studies in Italy." The Ševčenko Prize Committee was chaired by Bernard O'Kane, with Karin Rührdanz and Kishwar Rizvi.

The HIAA Board awarded four Graduate Student Travel Grants in 2011: Angela Anderson, Peter H. Christensen, Phoebe Hirsch and Nader Sayadi.

The Board launched an initiative aimed at strengthening HIAA's limited travel grants through a more substantial program of Grabar Grants and Fellowships intended to encourage and further the professional development of doctoral candidates and post-doctoral scholars. The Grabar Grants and Fellowships shall include: assistance to graduate students for participation in scholarly and professional meetings and for dissertation research abroad (that is, outside the country of their graduate student institution); support for post-doctoral scholars with research towards a publication; and fellowships to allow post-docs to spend several months in residence at a university, museum, research institution or similar institution abroad (again, outside their usual country of residence or employment). The Grabar Grants and Fellowships will be administered by HIAA's Fellowship and Grant Committee, currently chaired by Nancy Micklewright. The initial competition will be opened in early summer 2012, with the first awards announced in October 2012.

## **VI. Programs**

HIAA held its 2011 *majlis* on 12 February at Hunter College in New York, with a stimulating program of five papers organized by Ülkü Bates. This was followed by HIAA's annual business meeting, and capped by a reception hosted by Hunter in honor of Professor Bates' impending retirement.

HIAA also sponsored the following programs:

24 September, University of Pennsylvania: Numismatics Workshop, lead by Stephan Heidemann and co-sponsored with the Center for Ancient Studies, UPenn

23 April, Harvard University: Memorial Service for Oleg Grabar, co-sponsored by the Aga Khan Program in Islamic Architecture at Harvard [for program, visit HIAA website]

2 and 3 December, Middle East Studies Association annual meeting, Washington, D.C.:

"Remembering Oleg Grabar," shared reminiscences lead by Jere Bacharach and Jacob Lassner;

"Oleg Grabar's Contributions to the Cultural History of the Near and Middle East," a session chaired by Renata Holod, with presentations by Prudence Harper, Richard Bulliet, Benjamin Kedar and Stephen Humphreys and discussion by Nasser Rabbat.

(The full programs are on the HIAA website: Events & Exhibitions, HIAA Programs & Events)

Also during 2011 plans were developed for HIAA-sponsored sessions at the 2012 annual meetings of the College Art Association (Los Angeles) and the American Oriental Society (Boston).

Under the direction of Sheila Canby, planning began for HIAA's Third Biennial Symposium, to be held at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, 18-20 October 2012, on the theme of "Looking Closely, Looking Widely," including the formation of program and local arrangement committees. The call for proposals was announced in mid-summer and proposals for panels and papers reviewed towards year's end by program committee members Canby (chair), Persis Berlekamp and Tarek Akhloui. Priscilla Soucek accepted the committee's invitation to open the symposium as keynote speaker on 18 October. Venues have been arranged for two evening receptions. Local arrangements are being handled by staff in the Met's Islamic department, assisted by IFA graduate students Iman Abdulfattah and Pinar Gokpinar.

## **VII. Publications**

Work began on the proceedings of the Second Biennial Symposium (Freer and Sackler Galleries, October 2010), to be published as volume 42 of *Ars Orientalis*. Massumeh Farhad and Shreve Simpson, co-conveners of the 2010 symposium, are the volume editors, under the general editorial direction of Nancy Micklewright, head of research and publications, Freer|Sackler. Publication is expected to coincide with the Third Biennial Symposium in October 2012.

## Historians of Islamic Art Association 2011

Annual report, Treasurer (Claire Anderson)

<b>Assets</b>		
	Net beginning assets	\$58,982
	Net ending assets (Sevcenko balance: \$116,229)	\$193,160.00
<b>Revenues</b>		
	Memberships (of which \$5665 from Paypal)	\$8,650.00
	Interest income	\$102.00
	Pledges Receivable	\$32,000.00
	Contributions received	\$138,305.00
	<b>Combined total</b>	<b>\$179,057.00</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
	conference & meeting expenses	\$346.00
	bank and online fees (of which \$201.75 from Paypal)	\$412.00
	Information technology	\$1,510.00
	gifts	\$619.00
	Miscellaneous operating expenses	\$102.00
	Insurance	\$595.00
	Office expenses	\$411.00
	CAA Affiliated Society dues	\$200.00
	Professional fees/independent contractors	\$4,849.00
	printing, postage, shipping	\$35.00
	<b>Combined total</b>	<b>\$9,079.00</b>
<b>Funds Awarded</b>		
	grants	\$3,800.00
<b>Grabar Memorial Fund</b>		
	Grants and donations received	\$107,995.00

Please note that “Ševčenko balance” refers to the HIAA savings account, where contributions to the Ševčenko Prize fund and the Oleg Grabar Memorial Funds are currently deposited.

1 March 2012