

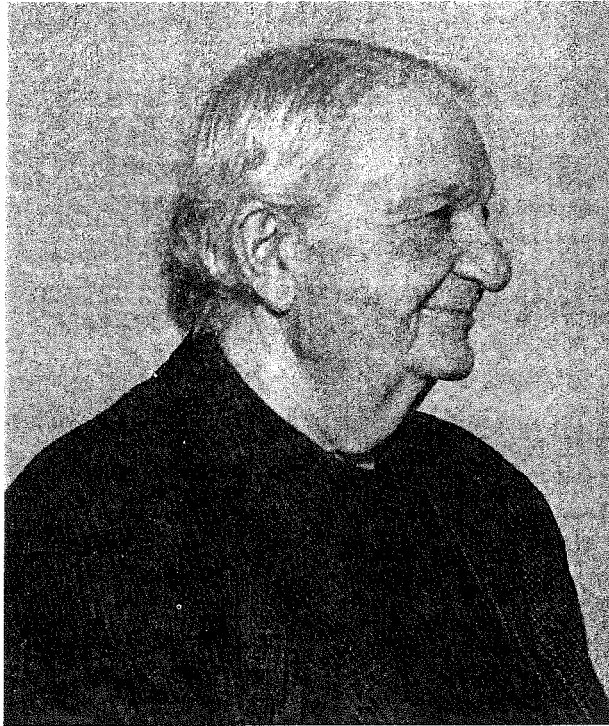
20 Eylül 2007

Ibîsh Yusuf
(inc. erü)

177 HUNWICK, John & DRIOUECHE, Mohamed. Yusuf
Ibîsh, 1935-2003. *Sudanic Africa: a Journal of
Historical Sources*, 14 / 2003 (2004) pp.9-11.

MARUZ KUTUPHANESİ
SONRA GELEN İZLENLERİN

IN MEMORIAM



Professor Yusuf Ibish (1926 – 2003)

Professor Yusuf Ibish was the Director of al-Furqān Islamic Heritage Foundation for the last three years. In 1991 he had been invited by Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani onto the Board of Experts of the new organisation. He served on the Board until he took over the directorship in 1999, moving from Washington D.C. to London to do so.

Professor Ibish was a distinguished scholar whose interests spanned both pre-modern and modern Islamic culture and societies. His particular field of specialisation was pre-modern Islamic political thought but his interests and expertise ranged far beyond that specialty. He was born in Damascus and educated there and in Beirut and then Harvard. His professional life was spent teaching at the American University in Beirut and at Cambridge and Amherst. He leaves a legacy of some 30 books: bibliographies and documentation of Arab politics, treatises on Islamic political theory, analyses of Muslim society and biographies as well as many pieces of exquisite calligraphy, (for an example of which, see right). Among his most important later

works in Arabic is an invaluable concordance to the Holy Qur'ān, listing references to each verse from the 20 most significant commentaries spanning many centuries and schools of thought.

In many ways, al-Furqān Foundation was Yusuf Ibish's natural home: an Islamic cultural foundation housed in a beautifully restored Jacobean house, a non-profit-making institute with global reach working to preserve Islamic manuscripts, a research institute laying the bibliographic and lexical groundwork for a longed-for resurgence of Arab creativeness in science, an embassy, almost, hosting the local community to events on diverse topics - al-Furqān was perfectly suited to benefit from his wide knowledge, rigorous scholarship, aesthetic sense and professorial guidance.

His wisdom and courtliness is very sadly missed by the staff of the Foundation and by all who came in contact with him.

In its meeting on the 3rd of February 2003, the Board of Experts of al-Furqān Foundation took the decision to publish a volume of essays in honour of Professor Ibish. The volume will be edited by Professor Adnan al-Bakhit and Professor Yasushi Kosugi. It will contain articles in both Arabic and English.

D 1083

