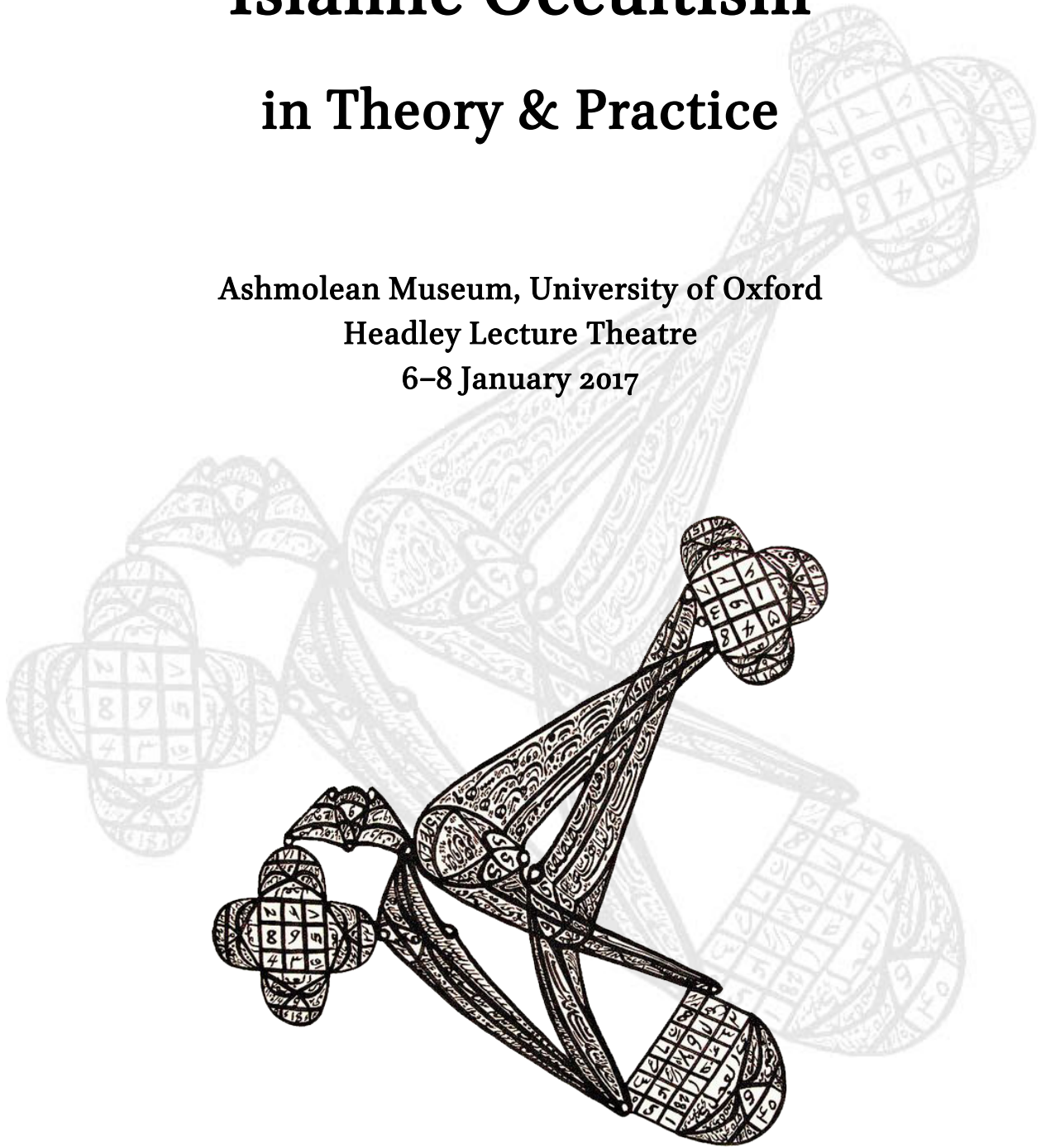


Islamic Occultism

in Theory & Practice

Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford
Headley Lecture Theatre
6–8 January 2017



An International Conference

Organized by

Liana Saif

Université catholique de Louvain/University of Oxford

Matthew Melvin-Koushki

University of South Carolina

Francesca Leoni

Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford

Farouk Yahya

Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford

Sponsored by

University of Oxford

Ashmolean Museum

The Barakat Trust

In tandem with the Ashmolean exhibition

Power & Protection: Islamic Art & the Supernatural

20 October 2016 – 15 January 2017

ASHMOLEAN
MUSEUM OF ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



THE BARAKAT TRUST

Friday, 6 January

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Registration

12:00 – 12:15 p.m.

Welcome and Introduction

Keynote

12:15 – 1:15 p.m.

Charles Burnett (The Warburg Institute)
Title TBA

1:15 – 2:30 p.m.

Lunch

Panel 1: Hermetism and Sabianism in Islamic Magic

Chair: Francesca Leoni

2:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Liana Saif (Université catholique de Louvain/University of Oxford)
Evaluating the Pseudo-Aristotelian Hermetica and Its Impact on Magic in Medieval Islam

3:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Michael Noble (The Warburg Institute)
Sabian Occult Ritual as an Alternative Path to Human Perfection

3:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Tea Break

Panel 2: Islamic Talismans—Arabic and Turkish, Sunni and Shi'i

Chair: Liana Saif

4:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Francesca Leoni (Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford)
Wasila/Wasita: A Turkish Talisman

4:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Maryam Ekhtiar (Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York)
Islamic Talismans on the Battlefield: The Sunni/Shi'i Divide

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Exhibition Visit

6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Drink Reception

7:00 p.m.

Dinner for Speakers

Saturday, 7 January

Panel 3: Magic Squares and Indian Mages in Arabic Manuscripts

Chair: Francesca Leoni

9:30 – 10:00 a.m. Bink Hallum (British Library)
Magic Squares in the Renaissance of Islam: New Light on Early Arabic awfāq Literature

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Jean-Charles Coulon (Paris-Sorbonne University)
The Kitāb Sharāsīm al-Hindiyya and Medieval Islamic Occult Sciences

10:30 – 11:00 a.m. **Coffee Break**

Panel 4: The Brethren of Purity, Old and New

Chair: Noah Gardiner

11:00 – 11:30 a.m. Godefroid de Callataÿ (Université catholique de Louvain) and Liana Saif
The Epistle on Magic in the Rasā'il Ikhwān al-Ṣafā'

11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Matthew Melvin-Koushki (University of South Carolina)
Astronomers, Lettrists and Sultan-Scientists Mathematize the Cosmos: Neopythagorean Occultism at the Samarkand Observatory of Ulugh Beg

12:00 – 1:30 p.m. **Lunch**

Panel 5: Occult Libraries and Their Contents

Chair: Matthew Melvin-Koushki

1:30 – 2:00 p.m. Noah Gardiner (University of South Carolina)
The Occult Library of the Mamlūk Sultan al-Malik al-Zāhir Barqūq

2:00 – 2:30 p.m. Yasmine Al-Saleh (Dār al-Āthār al-Islāmiyya, Kuwait)
The Purple Talismanic Scroll

2:30 – 3:00 p.m. **Tea Break**

Panel 6: Amulets and Magic Bowls, Past and Present

Chair: Farouk Yahya

3:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Roberta Giunta and Michele Bernardini (University of Naples “L’Orientale”)
Islamic Magic Bowls: Towards a Comprehensive Investigation

3:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Christiane Gruber (University of Michigan)
Bereket Bargains: Islamic Amulets in Today’s Turkey

4:00 p.m.

Closing Remarks



Sunday, 8 January

Panel 7: Alchemy, Astrology and Astrological Alchemy

Chair: Nicholas Harris

- 10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Tuna Artun (Rutgers University)
My Companions Are Like the Stars: Astrological Concepts in the Alchemical Kashf al-asrār fī hatk al-astār
- 10:30 – 11:00 a.m. Ahmet Tunç Şen (Leiden University)
In Defense of Astrology: Mu'ayyadzāda 'Abd al-Rahmān's (d. 1516) Rebuttal of Anti-Astrology Arguments
- 11:00 – 11:30 a.m. **Coffee Break**

Panel 8: Ciphers and Symbols in Islamic Occult Science

Chair: Liana Saif

- 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Nicholas Harris (University of Pennsylvania)
Ciphers and Secrecy: Alchemy, Cryptography, and the Occult
- 12:00 – 12:30 p.m. Blanca Villuendas (University of Barcelona)
The Dilemmas of an Editorial Project: Ibn al-Mahfūf's Book on the Triplets in Geomancy
- 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. **Lunch**

Panel 9: Occult Calligraphy in Islamic Southeast Asia

Chair: Michael Noble

- 2:00 – 2:30 p.m. Farouk Yahya (Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford)
Calligrams of the Lion of 'Ali in Southeast Asia
- 2:30 – 3:00 p.m. Fiona Kerlogue (Horniman Museum, London)
Calligraphic Batiks
- Roundtable**
- 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. Emilie Savage-Smith (University of Oxford), Venetia Porter (British Museum, London), Azfar Moin (University of Texas at Austin)

4:00 p.m. **Closing Remarks**