

Communication

INSTITUTE OF CENTRAL AND WEST ASIAN STUDIES UNIVERSITY OF KARACHI

The annual meeting of the Institute of Central and West Asian Studies was held recently under the chairmanship of Hakim Mohammad Said Sahib at the Hamdard House. The Secretary presented the annual report as well as the annual financial statement. The Institute which was established in 1968 by the late Syed Husamuddin Rashdi has since its inception published twelve sizable books. Its publications have earned a high mead of praise from reviewers in learned periodicals at home and abroad. Among the papers placed before the meeting was a whole set of reviews of the books published by the Institute during the last few years. The copies of the latest two publications which were presented to all the members, included the *Jami' al-Tawarikh-i Hasani* by Hasan b. Shihab Yazdi, being a contemporaneously written account of the Timurids, and edited by the most famous living Iranian scholar, Dr. Iraj Afshar; and the late Maulana Syed Sabahuddin Abdur Rahman's book on Syed Husamuddin Rashdi and his learned contributions.

The Secretary informed the members that two more books were also being made ready for the press, namely Prof. Willem Floor of Holland's monograph on Dutch Trade with Sind during the 17th and 18th centuries, based on original Dutch records — and the famous literary figure of 18th century Khan-i Arzu's *Muthmir* which happened to be the first ever work on Persian linguistics. Both of these works were likely to be published in 1989.

The Institute, with a dozen publications in a score of years — and two more in the tunnel — is possibly the most productive learned body of its class in the country. Yet its financial position is far from satisfactory. It receives only a nominal government grant-in-

aid (less than five figures). Its mainstay is a regular grant from the Hamdard Foundation which alone has saved it from a complete breakdown. The Annual meeting considered and approved various proposals to augment the Institute's resources.

The meeting conferred by acclaim the Honorary Fellowship of the Institute on the famous German orientalist Professor Anne-marie Schimmel. Applications for membership of the following persons were approved:

1. Hakim Mohammad Ahsan (former ambassador).
2. Dr. Manzooruddin Ahmad, Vice-Chancellor, University of Karachi.
3. Dr. Karl Ernst (California, USA).
4. Dr. Nabi Bakhsh Qazi.
5. Prof. Dr. Imamuddin (formerly Professor of Islamic History, Dhaka University).
6. Dr. Mrs. Tahera Aftab, Associate Professor of History, University of Karachi.
7. Mr. Hilal Ahmad Zubairi.
8. Mr. Arif Naushahi, Editor, *Danish*.
9. Mr. Mazhar Yusuf.
10. Dr. Muhammad Kamal, Philosophy Department, University of Karachi.

The Secretary also gave a report of the meeting of a delegation of the Institute with, Dr. Manzooruddin Ahmad, Vice-Chancellor, University of Karachi, and of the latter's favourable response to the problems of finance and accommodation being faced by the Institute.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks for the Chair.

Oct. 1988

Prof. Riazul Islam
Secretary