

TRANSLATION

Presentation of the
1998 King Faisal International Prize Winners

By Professor

Abd Allah S. Al-Uthaimin
Secretary-General of King Faisal International Prize

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In the name of Allah
Praise be to Allah and peace and prayers be upon the Prophet Mohammad and all his
family, Companions, and all his followers until the day of judgement

Your Royal Highness, Prince Sultan ibn Abd Al-Aziz
Second Deputy Premier, Minister of Defense and Aviation
And Inspector General
Your Royal Highnesses
Your Excellencies
Distinguished Guests

Assalam Alaikum,

It gives me great pleasure to present the winners of the 1998
King Faisal International Prize for Service to Islam, Islamic
Studies, Medicine, and Science.

The King Faisal Internatioinal Prize for Service to Islam has
been awarded to His Excellency President Abdou Diouf, President
of the Republic of Senegal. President Diouf was nominated for the
Prize by Imam Mohammad bin Saud Islamic University and
receives the award in recognition of his:

- 1- pursuit of wise policies leading to the development of his Muslim country and fulfillment of its people's aspirations;
- 2- distinguished contributions to Islamic summits and relentless support of Islamic causes in international circles;
- 3- encouragement of the use of Arabic and organization of regional and international Islamic meetings in Senegal;
- 4- support of cultural and technical cooperation between Senegal and the rest of the Muslim world and particularly between Senegalese and Moroccan scholars.

The King Faisal International Prize for Islamic Studies in the topic of *Studies on Libraries or the Evolution of Islamic Bookcraft* is awarded jointly to Professor Abd As-Sattar Al-Halwaji (Egyptian), Professor of Library Science and Vice-Dean, College of Arts, Cairo University, Egypt, and Professor Yahya Mahmoud ibn Junaid (Saudi), Member of the Saudi Consultative Council and Professor of Library Science at Imam Mohammad bin Saud Islamic University, Riyadh.

Professor Al-Halwaji was nominated for the Prize by Cairo University, the College of Arabic Language, Imam Mohammad bin Saud Islamic University, the Egyptian Supreme Council for Culture and the Suez Canal University. Professor ibn Junaid was nominated for the Prize by King Saud University, King Abd Al-Aziz University, College of Arabic Language, Imam Mohammad bin Saud Islamic University and Department of Islamic and Arabic Studies, King Fahd University for Petroleum and Minerals.

Professor Abd As-Sattar Al-Halwaji has been awarded the Prize in recognition of his outstanding contributions in the field of Islamic library studies. This is exemplified by his book *Al-Makhtut Al-Arabi* (The Arabic Manuscript) which is an excellent study of the evolution of Arabic manuscript and bookcraft during the first

four centuries of Islamic history. The book is a comprehensive and thoroughly documented research based on a large volume of original and subsequent Arabic sources as well as foreign references on the subject.

Professor ibn Junaid is also renowned for his outstanding studies and contributions in the field of Islamic Library Science. This is apparent in his extensive writings of exceptional originality. Of particular importance in his definitive work *The Endowment and Structure of the Arabic Library*, a major attempt to elucidate the role of Muslim contributions to the development of Arabic and Islamic libraries and thus the enhancement of education and culture in the Islamic world over a period of ten centuries. This work is characterized by its authenticity and depth.

The King Faisal International Prize for Medicine in the topic of *Control of Infectious Diseases* has been awarded jointly to Professor John Louis Gerin (US), Director of the Molecular Virology and Immunology Division and Professor at the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Georgetown University Medical Center, Rockville, Maryland, and Professor Robert Harry Purcell (US), Head of the Hepatitis Viruses Section, Laboratory of Infectious Diseases, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Bethesda, Maryland.

Professors Gerin and Purcell were nominated for the Prize by the Medical School of the University of Turino, Italy. They have been awarded the Prize in recognition of their seminal contributions to the discovery, identification, and characterization of hepatitis viruses, the development of sensitive assays for their detection in the blood and the development of effective methods for their immunoprophylaxis. This extensive work represents one of the most remarkable and important endeavors in the control of infectious diseases.

The King Faisal International Prize for Science (*Mathematics*) has been awarded to Professor Andrew J. Wiles (British), Eugene Higgins Professor of Mathematics at Princeton University, USA. Professor Wiles was nominated for the Prize by the Mathematical Society of London. He receives the award in recognition of his distinguished contributions to the number theory, algebraic geometry and modular forms, and particularly his celebrated proof of Fermat's Last Theorem, one of the most intriguing problems in mathematics, unresolved for more than three centuries. The solving of this problem is a landmark in the number theory and has resulted in outstanding practical applications. Among these is the development of public key cryptology allowing communication on public computer networks, such as the Internet, without compromising privacy. Apart from his exceptional academic contributions to mathematics, Professor Wiles also played a key role in popularizing this subject through his highly successful television programs dealing with the history of Fermat's Last Theorem and its proof.

On behalf of the Secretariat General of the King Faisal International Prize, I would like to extend our utmost thanks to His Royal Highness Prince Sultan bin Abd Al-Aziz, representative of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, for sponsoring this ceremony, and to all of you for kindly attending the occasion. I would also like to thank everyone who cooperated with the Secretariat General during the various stages of nomination, refereeing and final selection.

I conclude by extending warm congratulations to the winners.

May Almighty Allah guide and support those engaged in virtuous deeds.