INVITATION / UITNODIGING

How can Mecca be saved?
Hoe kan Mekka gered worden?

Procession of the Mahmal in Mecca, ca. 1910, the outer wall of the Great Mosque is at the left.

Third Snouck Hurgronje lecture,
by the Saudi Arabian architect Dr. Sami Angawi

Derde Snouck Hurgronje lezing,
door de Saudi-Arabische architect Dr. Sami Angawi,
georganiseerd door de Stichting Oosters Instituut, Leiden

Date: Friday 16 February 2007, 16:00 hrs
Place: Lorentz-auditorium, Kamerlingh Onnes Building,
Faculty of Law, Steenschuur 25, Leiden

Free entrance. The number of places is limited and attendance should be confirmed: j.j.witkam@let.leidenuniv.nl
Dr. Sami Mohsen Angawi was born in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, in 1948. He graduated from universities in Texas, USA, and in 1988 he defended his Ph.D. thesis *Makkan architecture* at the University of London (School of Oriental and African studies).

He is the founder and general director of the Amar Center for Architectural Heritage. This is a private organization located in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The activities of this Center include:
- Revival and development of traditional architecture through research and studies.
- Restoration and rehabilitation of traditional buildings and houses.
- Designing new buildings and projects based on the continuity of the traditional line of architecture from all aspects.
The Foundation ‘Oriental Institute’ in Leiden, The Netherlands, has the pleasure to invite you for the third Snouck Hurgronje lecture, which will be delivered by the Saudi Arabian architect Dr. Sami Angawi:

**How can Mecca be saved?**

In his lecture Dr. Angawi treats the dangers of an unlimited urban development for the old city centre of Mecca. But the scope of the subject is in fact much wider. All over the world the old is rapidly being replaced by the new, but this is not necessarily always an improvement. Mecca is not a town like any other, but the very centre of Islam and only muslims can enter it. Islam’s earliest history took place here. Millions of pilgrims visit the Holy City every year. How can one then preserve what is valuable and, at the same time, cope with the necessities of the modern age?

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De Stichting Oosters Instituut te Leiden heeft het genoegen u uit te nodigen voor de derde Snouck Hurgronje lezing, die gegeven zal worden door de Saudische architect Dr. Sami Angawi, met als titel:

**Hoe kan Mekka gered worden?**

In zijn lezing gaat dr. Angawi in op de gevaren van een ongelimiteerde stedelijke groei in het oude stadscentrum van Mekka. Het bereik van de lezing is echter ruimer. Overal ter wereld wordt het oude vervangen door het nieuwe, wat niet altijd vooruitgang met zich meebrengt. Mekka is geen gewone stad, maar het hart van de Islam. De heilige stad, waar alleen moslims toegang hebben, wordt jaarlijks door miljoenen pelgrims vanuit de hele wereld bezocht. Hoe kan het waardevolle behouden blijven, zonder dat afbreuk wordt gedaan aan de behoeftes van de moderne tijd?

Further information:
Prof. Dr. Jan Just Witkam, Secretary, Foundation “Oosters Instituut”,
c/o Middle East Studies Department, Leiden University, P.O. Box 9515,
2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands. Website: www.oostersinstituut.nl

Free entrance. The number of places is limited and attendance should be confirmed: j.j.witkam@let.leidenuniv.nl
This is the third Snouck Hurgronje Lecture, a series of bi-annual lectures which is organized by the Foundation ‘Oosters Instituut’ (Oriental Institute).

The first lecture was given by the Egyptian novelist Dr. Ahdaf Soueif (London/Cairo) about the Problems of the Modern Muslim Intellectual (2003). The second lecture was given by Prof. Jonathan Bloom (Boston College, Chestnut Hill) about the Importance of Islamic paper manufacturing (2005).

The Foundation ‘Oosters Instituut’ was established in 1927 at the occasion of Snouck Hurgronje’s seventieth birthday, with the purpose to co-ordinate all sorts of activities in connection with Arabic and Islamic Culture.

Christiaan Snouck Hurgronje (1857-1936) was The Netherlands’ most famous scholar of Islam of the modern period. He visited Jeddah and Mecca in 1884-1885, and his monograph on the history and daily life in Mecca was published in 1888-1889. In February 2007 his 150th birthday is celebrated with a number of activities (exhibitions, publications, a workshop and a lecture).

Nowadays the Foundation ‘Oosters Institute’ provides fellowships and travel and publication grants to academic researchers, and organizes a bi-annual lecture. It is based in Leiden University’s Department of Languages and Cultures of the Middle East.

Other activities in 2007 commemorating the 150th birthday of Christiaan Snouck Hurgronje:


