



Arabick Roots Exhibition opened by Sheikha Moza

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A major exhibition, **the 'Arabick Roots' of the scientific revolution**, held at the Royal Society was opened by HH Sheikha Moza bint Nasser of Qatar on 9 June in the presence of Ed Vaizey, Minister of Culture.

This exhibition highlights the ways in which early Fellows of the Royal Society, such as Edmond Halley and Robert Boyle, used the work of Arabic and Islamic scholars as a basis for their research. Halley decided even to learn Arabic at the age of 50. Many of the items on display are drawn from the library and archives of the Royal Society, and have not previously been on public display.

The exhibition was sponsored by the Qatar Foundation. The unique research was sponsored by [FSTC](#) (the Foundation for Science, Technology and Civilisation), carried out and curated by Dr Rim Turkmani. Caabu was a supporting organisation.

Dr Rim Turkmani said:

"This exhibition uncovers the never-before told story of the connections between the early Royal Society and contemporary and classical Arabic learning, and how they were used to solve some of the most pressing problems of the day."

"This was a time when British society as a whole was largely ignorant of the cultural achievements of the Arabic world – yet we find that the early Royal Society's group of 'ingenious and curious gentlemen' included three Fellows from the Arabic world. This forgotten history reveals a rich tradition of communication between two very different cultures, and shows that then – just like today – collaboration across linguistic and cultural boundaries can lead to great results."

Caabu Director, Chris Doyle, said that the Council was "delighted to be associated with the Exhibition, that highlighted the extraordinary rich intellectual and scientific connections with the Arab world that date back centuries."

The exhibition is open to the public now by appointment and during the Royal Society's [Summer Science Exhibition](#), 5-10 July you can visit without an appointment. There will be further opportunities for the public to visit the exhibition on free guided tours during July to November 2011. Details of these tours will be advertised on this website shortly and advance booking will be necessary; at all other times guided tours are by appointment (call 020 7451 2597). Entrance is free. The exhibition runs until November 2011, after which it is planned to transfer to Doha.