

insidescience

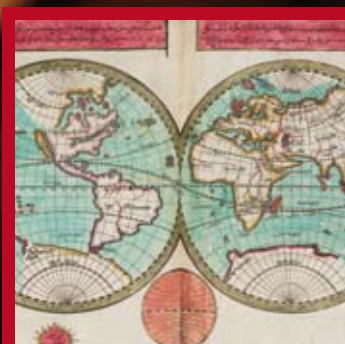
Summer 2011

Science Live

Recreating bat habitats at the Society's
2011 Summer Science Exhibition

Arabick Roots

New exhibition unravels the Society's old
connections to Arabic science



EXCELLENCE
IN SCIENCE



THE ROYAL SOCIETY

Olivier and Andrew join over 200 scientists involved in this year's exhibition, which offers a unique opportunity for visitors to question and investigate exciting areas in science that are changing our understanding of the world. This year's exhibition programme will have even greater reach, with an extended programme of events taking place at the Society including lectures, talks, family workshops and cafés scientifiques.

You can find out more about the exhibition, watch interviews with the scientists taking part and read about their research on the exhibition website: royalsociety.org/sciencelive



A map of constellations as found in the book 'Jihannuma'

Surrounding events

The extended programme of events includes two panel discussions, taking place in the Dining Room at 6.30 pm:

Neuroscience of Emotion – Tuesday 5 July

Experts will discuss questions such as: Does emotion serve a particular function? How important is emotion in artistic expression? Professor Ray Dolan FRS will chair a panel of experts from the literary world and visual arts including novelist and screenwriter Ian McEwan.

Is Biodiversity going the way of the Dodo? – Friday 8 July

Climate change is predicted to become a major threat to biodiversity in the 21st century, a panel will discuss whether it could be a trigger for mass extinction.



Discussions are free to attend but pre-registration online is essential, they will also be available to view on royalsociety.tv after the event.

Arabick Roots

New exhibition unravels old connections

Arabick Roots (the 17th century spelling of the word) is the astonishing, never before told, tale of the early history of the Royal Society and its close connections to Arabic science. Fresh materials, painstakingly uncovered from the historic archives of the society, will be displayed in an exhibition hosted by the Royal Society this summer. Visitors will get to view Arabic books, astronomical tools, scripts in the journal *Philosophical Transactions* of the Royal Society, portraits of Arabic fellows and numerous references to Arabic

science and astronomy in Fellows' correspondences. The exhibition also features the work of various Fellows who devoted their lives to the language, seeing it as the key to unlocking the wealth of knowledge of the east, one such Fellow even inscribed his memorial stones in Arabic.

Dr Rim Turkmani, a Royal Society Dorothy Hodgkin Fellow at Imperial College London and curator of the exhibition, explained:

"The exhibition will not only show these rare materials but also answer questions about how these translated into the knowledge used to solve open scientific questions. For example some of these works helped Edmund Halley ponder the acceleration of the moon and Robert Boyle learn all about substances like Sal ammoniac."

Arabick Roots, opens in mid-June and will last for six months. It is supported by the Qatar Foundation and the Foundation for Science Technology and Civilisation and designed and managed by Cultural Innovations.



Arabic grammar book discovered in the Society's archives