

Telling our Stories, Finding our Roots, Exeter's Multi-Coloured History Interview Summary

Name of interviewee: **Tim NIBLOCK**
 Name of interviewers: Nazima Khan & Ghee Bowman
 Date of interview: 14/1/13
 Location of interview: Global Centre,
 Transcribed by: Ghee Bowman

Topics covered

Time	Topic
0'00	Ekmeleddin İhsanoğlu was important in founding of Exeter mosque - in Exeter 75-77 as research fellow, Honorary doctorate
1'40"	İhsanoğlu also interested in Islamic history – his father was professor in Cairo
2'40"	İhsanoğlu wrote key works on Islamic science. İhsanoğlu became director of Islamic research centre in Istanbul, linked to Islamic Co-operation Organisation (ICO) in Jeddah
3'40"	İhsanoğlu became Sec-Gen of ICO Close to current Turkish leadership (AKP)
4'15"	İhsanoğlu in Exeter 75-77, mobilised Muslim students in university, good relations with Sheikh Sultan bin Mohamed Al-Qasimi of Sharjah Helped purchase the house which was the first mosque Interest continued, gave support, also for new mosque
5'45"	Tim arrived in Exeter in Oct 78 – small number of Muslim students in dept of Arabic and other depts.
8'00"	Exeter then was white English – his Sudanese wife found it strange then, people were embarrassed to ask her where she was from
9'20"	Seeing a new Muslim about town – you talked to them - there weren't many Restaurants, doctors (eg Sudanese doctor at Digby)
10'30"	A group we didn't know - Malaysians at Exeter College Nazima asked about Moh Saeed & Fatma 17 original members of mosque
11'55"	Relation between Islamic Centre and Arab Institute Muslim students at <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dept of Arabic 2. Centre for Arab Gulf Studies
	IAIS is academic body – students come from all faiths
13'20"	New IAIS building in 2001 - discussion on whether or not we should have a prayer room – decided not University had a prayer room in Old Library
16'15"	Wife was Coptic Christian, so didn't go to mosque to worship Often went there, eg daughters took Arabic lessons there
18'00"	Question about changes in Exeter since 78, influence of uni In 78, his dept WAS the international dimension at the uni
19'15"	In early 80s, the 2 nd largest community in Exeter was Arab. Students would come, then their friends and relations would come
21'20"	Incidents of racism
22'15"	Story from late 80s of Tim going to visit somebody who wrote a racist letter to Express & Echo - Tim went to visit him – he said “nothing against Arabs, only Algerians”
26'	Exeter/Tehran? Before his time

26'30"	Earlier had been two lots of students from Africa: 1. 50s and 60s, at St Lukes for 1 year 2. early 60s – students from Nigeria and Ghana doing Public Admin in Politics dept
28'20"	Arab/Muslim interaction in uni and outside
29'30"	Nazima: not easy to purchase mosque – credit to students Tim: students heavily involved eg Hashem Rashid of New Horizon from 1983
32'40	Joseph Pitts from Exeter in 1704 published a book about his experience in North Africa and Mecca Charles II delegation to North Africa - some of the captives didn't want to come back to England
36'	Nazima: links between Mosque community and Arab students There was a time when Saudi students more separate Was a reasonable grouping of Sudanese
	Part 2
0	Story of wife's application for a job in Durham – racism against her application