Dr Peter Emery gave a lecture to the Students’ Translation Club on Wednesday 11th January 2012. The lecture was entitled ‘Omani Proverbs: Problems in Translation’. After a review of definitions of proverbs and related forms of speech, their differing status was compared in Arabic and in English. Reasons for the declining currency of proverbial expressions in both cultures include the move from an oral to a written society and the spread of education and concomitant decrease in illiteracy. The problem of classification of proverbs was then addressed and various approaches such as alphabetical, thematic and pragmatic were considered. The ideal method of translation of proverbs is functional/formal equivalence but, given the gap between the two cultures, there are generally certain constraints which work against this. Examples were given of cultural, semantic, pragmatic and formal factors which complicate the translation process. The question-and-answer section of the lecture focused on the importance of cultural knowledge in translation of this type of expression and attention was drawn to the common heritage of proverbs in different Arab societies. The lecturer expressed his gratitude to the Translation Club for the opportunity to present a synopsis of his paper.