Arabic Calligraphy | Calligraphic Schools

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After the dawn of Islam, and throughout the subsequent centuries, Arabic calligraphy developed into numerous schools that varied in type. Among the most important and widespread are the kufic, naskhi and thuluth scripts. While kufic was the earliest of the three, suitable for calligraphic works, it was not appropriate for utilitarian tasks. This led to the development of the naskhi script, which was widely used in the practical fields of daily civic life.



Name:
Pair of inscriptions

Dynasty:
Fatimid / Norman

Details:
Regional Gallery of Sicily, Abatellis Palace
Palermo, Italy

Justification:
Two fragments of an inscription in cursive Arabic naskhi script that invite the visitor to admire the Norman Royal Palace in Palermo and its ruler.



Name:
Diplomatic document with case

Dynasty:
Hegira 1067–8 / between May AD 1657 and January AD 1658 Ottoman

Details:
Swedish National Archives
Stockholm, Sweden

Justification:
This Turkish diplomatic document written by the Ottoman vizier to the Swedish court is in the 'diwani' style of Arabic calligraphy.



Name:
Album of Ahmed Karahisari

Dynasty:
Hegira 10th century / AD 16th century Ottoman

Details:
Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts
Sultanahmet, Istanbul, Turkey

Justification:
The Album shows the mastery of the calligrapher Karahisari, sampling a variety of scripting styles including kufic, naskhi, thuluth and muhaqqaq.
