

Arabic Calligraphy | Kufic Script

'Kufic script is considered to be one of the most widespread styles of Arabic calligraphy across the Islamic world.'

Kufic script is considered to be the most widely used calligraphic style in the Islamic world, practiced in Spain in the West, to Uzbekistan in the East. It is considered to be the earliest Arabic script, dominating calligraphy during the first two centuries of Islam. It was eventually superseded by other styles, including naskhi and Maghrebi, although none of these new styles reached the imperial level held by kufic script.



Name:

Ceramic bowl

Dynasty:

Hegira 6th century / AD 12th century Almoravid or Almohad

Details:

Museum of Mértola
Mértola, Beja, Portugal

Justification:

The word 'barakah' – blessings or bounty – appears in the centre of this bowl written in kufic script.



Name:

Column capital

Dynasty:

Hegira 101–5 / AD 720–24 Umayyad

Details:

Jordan Archaeological Museum
Amman, Jordan

Justification:

Early kufic inscription commemorating construction work at al-Muwaqqar water reservoir by the Umayyad caliph Yazid II (r. 101–5 / 720–24).



Name:

Geomantic Instrument

Dynasty:

Hegira 639 / AD 1241–2 Ayyubid

Details:

The British Museum
London, England, United Kingdom

Justification:

This unusual divination instrument is decorated profusely with bands of kufic inscriptions on the back-plate.
