

# Arabic Calligraphy | Calligraphic Schools

'In the western provinces – North Africa and al-Andalus – the "Maghrebi" style of Arabic script was developed.'

A variety of calligraphic styles flourished at different periods, influenced by the social composition of the regions. In the western provinces – North Africa and al-Andalus – the 'Maghrebi' style of Arabic script was developed, influenced by North Africa's Berber heritage. While in multicultural Sicily, the Normans produced multilingual inscriptions that included Arabic, to document and commemorate a variety of events.



**Name:**  
Inscription in four languages

**Dynasty:**  
AD 1149 Norman

**Details:**  
Zisa Museum  
Palermo, Italy

**Justification:**  
The Arabic script – in the local Sicilian style – on the lower part of the tombstone records the death of the mother of a Christian priest in Sicily.

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**Name:**  
Manuscript from the medical treatise *Kitab al-tasrîf liman ajaza an al-talîf fi al-tibb* by Abu al-Qasim Khalaf ibn 'Abbas al-Andalusi al-Zahrawi

**Dynasty:**  
Hegira 610–9 / AD 1213–23 Almohad

**Details:**  
General Library  
Rabat, Morocco

**Justification:**  
The calligraphic style of this medical manuscript belongs to the Almohad period in Cordoba, al-Andalus.

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**Name:**  
Dinar

**Dynasty:**  
Hegira 1020 / AD 1612 Sa'did

**Details:**  
Numismatic Museum of the Maghreb Bank  
Rabat, Morocco

**Justification:**  
Struck in Marrakesh by Mulay Zaydan (r.1012–37 / 1603–27), the style of calligraphy belongs to the Sa'did period in Morocco.

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**Name:**  
Veterinary treatise *Kitâb fî al-inâya bi al-khayli wa sâiri-d-awâbbi al-rukub*

**Dynasty:**

Hegira 1126 / AD 1714 'Alawid; reign of Mulay Isma'il (r. AH 1082–1140 / AD 1672–1727)

**Details:**

Royal Library  
Rabat, Morocco

**Justification:**

The text of this veterinary treatise on the care of horses is in Arabic Maghrebi cursive script.

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