

The Abbasids | Abbasid Egypt

'However, this period of independence and control over the region gave Egypt a certain stability and prosperity.'

As the Abbasids became preoccupied with revolts in southern Iraq and further east, their attention to what was going on in Egypt grew less focused, and Ibn Tulun became increasingly autonomous, striking his own coinage and expanding his territory to include Syria and Palestine. When the Abbasids tried to rein him in, he banned praying for the Abbasid caliph at Friday prayers and removed the caliph's name from the tiraz textiles. However, this period of independence and control over the region gave Egypt a certain stability and prosperity. Many poets, scientists and artisans gravitated to Fustat. After Ibn Tulun's death (270 / 884) his son, two grandsons and brother succeeded him before the Abbasids were able to regain control of Egypt in 292 / 905.



Name:

Coin (dinar)

Dynasty:

Hegira 3rd century / AD 9th century Tulunid

Details:

Museum of Islamic Art

Cairo, Egypt

Justification:

Struck in 268 / 881, this dinar has both the Abbasid caliph's and Ibn Tulun's name on it. Ibn Tulun did not contest the legitimacy of the Abbasid caliphs and, therefore, he kept their names on the coinage struck in Egypt.



Name:

Five textile fragments

Dynasty:

Hegira 3rd century / AD 9th century Tulunid

Details:

Textile Museum (One of the branches of the Museum of Islamic Art in Cairo)

Cairo, Egypt

Justification:

Most of the tributes that Ibn Tulun had to send to the court in Baghdad consisted of wool and linen fabrics woven in the official tiraz workshops.



Name:

Wooden panel

Dynasty:

Hegira 3rd century / AD 9th century Abbasid

Details:

Museum of Islamic Art

Cairo, Egypt

Justification:

Samarra was not the only region to exert its artistic influence on Abbasid Egypt. Egypt's own earlier heritage also played a big role in shaping its artistic and architectural style; for example the decorative style of this panel reveals Hellenistic influences.

**Name:**

Dish

Dynasty:

Hegira 3rd century / AD 9th century Abbasid

Details:

The British Museum

London, England, United Kingdom

Justification:

During the early Abbasid period, southern Iraq suffered from unrest caused by the Zanj Rebellion (254 to 269 / to 868 to 883) led by African agricultural slaves. Many craftsmen immigrated to Egypt and other parts of the Abbasid Empire to escape the turmoil. This dish is made by one such craftsman, a potter from Basra.
