

# The Atabegs and Ayyubids | Court Life

'The exchange of gifts strengthened relations between neighbouring territories and rival rulers.'

Many of the objects that furnished the palaces would have been received as gifts from other rulers or nobles. The exchange of gifts strengthened relations between neighbouring territories and rival rulers. The Artuqids – Turkmen from Asia Minor – established themselves in Diyarbakir in Northern Jazira in the late 5th / 11th century. During the course of the 6th / 12th century they became increasingly independent, minting their own currency and forging ties with nearby rulers by sending them gifts.



**Name:**  
Diyarbakir Citadel

**Dynasty:**  
Originally built during the reign of the Roman Emperor Constantine in AD 349. Additions and repairs made in the Byzantine, Abbasid, Marwanid, Artuqid and Seljuq periods

**Details:**  
Diyarbakir, Türkiye

**Justification:**  
The Artuqids, with their court at Diyarbakir, became active patrons of the arts as their wealth increased in the late 5th / 11th century.

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**Name:**  
Candlestick

**Dynasty:**  
Hegira 597–637 / AD 1201–39 Artuqid

**Details:**  
Islamic Museum, al-Aqsa Mosque / al-Haram al-Sharif  
Jerusalem

**Justification:**  
The Artuqids, with their court at Diyarbakir, became active patrons of the arts as their wealth increased in the late 5th / 11th century. This object may have been produced for their use or made specifically as a diplomatic gift

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**Name:**  
Plate

**Dynasty:**  
Around hegira 6th century / AD 12th century Atabeg

**Details:**  
National Museum of Damascus  
Damascus, Syria

**Justification:**  
A large plate with the words 'al-mulk' (meaning king or sovereignty), and a fine, inlaid metal ewer; both plate and ewer were probably destined for use at court.

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**Name:**  
Ewer (ibrik)

**Dynasty:**

Hegira 627 / AD 1229 Zangid (Atabeg)

**Details:**

Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts  
Sultanahmet, Istanbul, Türkiye

**Justification:**

A fine inlaid metal ewer, and a large plate with the words 'al-mulk' (meaning king or sovereignty); both ewer and plate were probably destined for use at court.

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**Name:**

Fragments of a flask

**Dynasty:**

Hegira 521–41 / AD 1127–46 Atabeg / Zangid

**Details:**

The British Museum  
London, England, United Kingdom

**Justification:**

A striking flask representing the type of high-quality object that would have been exchanged among rulers as gifts.

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