

The Atabegs and Ayyubids | Madrasas and Education

'Decorative metalwork on scientific tools attests to the development of the scientific disciplines.'

The sciences were taught alongside religious and linguistic studies, and the sophisticated decorative metalwork on scientific tools attests to the development of the scientific disciplines. Astrolabes and celestial globes were crucial for accurate readings of the constellations. The practice of geomancy made use of especially designed instruments to predict the future. The brilliant mechanical engineer Abu al-'Izz Ismail al-Jazari, was sponsored by the Artuqid court at Diyarbakir in 603 / 1206 to write an illustrated book on hydraulic and mechanical engineering.



Name:
Geomantic Instrument

Dynasty:
Hegira 639 / AD 1241–2 Ayyubid

Details:
The British Museum
London, England, United Kingdom

Justification:
An unusual object that was used to predict the future.



Name:
Astrolabe

Dynasty:
Hegira 683 / AD 1240–41 Ayyubid

Details:
The British Museum
London, England, United Kingdom

Justification:
Astrolabes served both a religious and a practical scientific function by which Muslims worked out the correct direction of Mecca for prayer; and the instrument helped to guide ships carrying merchandise for trade and pilgrimage.
