

The Mamluks | The Wider World: Diplomatic Contacts and International Trade

‘Diplomatic gifts produced in Egypt and Syria underpinned and consolidated political ties.’

Throughout their rule, the Mamluks maintained close diplomatic ties with all the major European powers, Castile, Sicily, the Italian Republics and Byzantium among them, as well as with the Mongols and the Far East. At the highest level, the exchange of luxurious diplomatic gifts produced in Egypt and Syria underpinned and consolidated political ties. At the same time, international relations were also propagated through large-scale trade.



Name:
Sprinkler

Dynasty:
Hegira 694 / AD 1295-6 Mamluk

Details:
Victoria and Albert Museum
London, England, United Kingdom

Justification:
A glass sprinkler that was made as a diplomatic gift for a Rasulid Sultan of Yemen.



Name:
Stem cup

Dynasty:
Hegira early 8th century / AD early 14th century Mamluk

Details:
The British Museum
London, England, United Kingdom

Justification:
A Mamluk stemmed cup that travelled all the way from Egypt or Syria, where it was made, to China either as a diplomatic gift or as an export.



Name:
Tray

Dynasty:
About hegira 800 / AD 1400 Mamluk

Details:
The British Museum
London, England, United Kingdom

Justification:
Inlaid-brass items like this tray were made in Syria to appeal to the European market.
