

The Mamluks | Cairo, Damascus and Jerusalem: Centres of Mamluk Intellectual Life

'Damascus shone as the second most important political, artistic and intellectual centre in the Mamluk sultanate.'

In Syria, Damascus shone as the second most important political, artistic and intellectual centre in the Mamluk sultanate; a veritable hub of religious discourse and scientific advancement. Many seminal books on medicine, geography and other natural sciences were copied and illustrated in its noteworthy madrasas and institutes of higher education.



Name:
Madrasa al-Jaqmaqiyya

Dynasty:
Hegira 762–822 / AD 1361–1421/2 Mamluk

Details:
Damascus, Syria

Justification:
The madrasa was endowed by the Mamluk governor of Damascus in 810 / 1407–8.



Name:
Manuscript on surgery

Dynasty:

Details:
National Museum of Damascus
Damascus, Syria

Justification:
An illustrated discourse on cauterization, taken from a Mamluk manuscript copied in Syria.



Name:
Jar

Dynasty:
About hegira 833 / AD 1430 Mamluk

Details:
The British Museum
London, England, United Kingdom

Justification:
Jars similar to this one produced in Syria would have held medicinal herbs.



Name:
Manuscript on geography

Dynasty:
Hegira 741 / AD 1340 Mamluk

Details:
National Museum of Damascus

Damascus, Syria

Justification:

The layout of this book on geography produced in Syria anticipates modern encyclopaedias.
