

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

'Artisans drew readily on the influences available to them from the East and the West.'

Artisans drew readily on the many influences available to them from the East and the West. Most remarkable was the evolution of Qur'an production. The collaboration between calligraphers, illuminators and bookbinders created outstandingly splendid manuscripts worthy of the religious aspirations of the Mamluk sultanate. Spectacular, often intricately inlaid metalwork was made for the domestic and export markets, with some items commissioned by individual foreign clients.



Name:
Bookbinding

Dynasty:
Probably late hegira 9th / 15th century Mamluk

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

Justification:
Exquisitely bound Qur'ans and books were commissioned by Mamluk sultans.



Name:
Qur'an

Dynasty:
Hegira Ramadan 713 / AD December 1313 Mamluk

Details:
Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts
Sultanahmet, Istanbul, Türkiye

Justification:
Refined calligraphy and geometric illumination in gold characterise the Qur'ans of the Mamluk period. This Qur'an was made for the Mamluk Sultan Nasir al-Din Muhammad (who ruled three times between 692 and 742 / 1293 and 1341).



Name:
Bowl

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

Details:
Museum of Civilisations | Museum of Oriental Art "Giuseppe Tucci"
Rome, Italy

Justification:
An inlaid brass bowl that combines Mamluk inscriptions with eastern Asian phoenixes.



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