

Arabic Calligraphy | Calligraphic Schools

'In the western provinces – North Africa and al-Andalus – the "Maghrebi" style of Arabic script was developed.'

A variety of calligraphic styles flourished at different periods, influenced by the social composition of the regions. In the western provinces – North Africa and al-Andalus – the 'Maghrebi' style of Arabic script was developed, influenced by North Africa's Berber heritage. While in multicultural Sicily, the Normans produced multilingual inscriptions that included Arabic, to document and commemorate a variety of events.



Name:
Inscription in four languages

Dynasty:
AD 1149 Norman

Details:
Zisa Museum
Palermo, Italy

Justification:
The Arabic script – in the local Sicilian style – on the lower part of the tombstone records the death of the mother of a Christian priest in Sicily.



Name:
Manuscript from the medical treatise Kitab al-tasrîf li-man ajaza an al-talîf fi al-tibb by Abu al-Qasim Khalaf ibn 'Abbas al-Andalusi al-Zahrawi

Dynasty:
Hegira 610–9 / AD 1213–23 Almohad

Details:
General Library
Rabat, Morocco

Justification:
The calligraphic style of this medical manuscript belongs to the Almohad period in Cordoba, al-Andalus.



Name:
Dinar

Dynasty:
Hegira 1020 / AD 1612 Sa'did

Details:
Numismatic Museum of the Maghreb Bank
Rabat, Morocco

Justification:
Struck in Marrakesh by Mulay Zaydan (r.1012–37 / 1603–27), the style of calligraphy belongs to the Sa'did period in Morocco.



Name:
Veterinary treatise Kitâb fî al-inâya bi al-khayli wa sâiri-d-awâbbi al-rukub

Dynasty:

Hegira 1126 / AD 1714 'Alawid; reign of Mulay Isma'il (r. AH 1082–1140 / AD 1672–1727)

Details:

Royal Library
Rabat, Morocco

Justification:

The text of this veterinary treatise on the care of horses is in Arabic Maghrebi cursive script.
