

Arabic Calligraphy | Kufic Script

‘Kufa’s strong political and military position helped the kufic style to spread and gave it its name.’

Kufic script originated in Kufa, Iraq, during the first decades of the AH 1st / AD 7th century. It developed from the hijazi script, which was itself influenced by the Syriac. Syriac script, in turn, was born from the meeting of the two cultural types and was attributable to the migration of a number of Iraqi Christian scholars to Kufa in the first half of the 1st / 7th century. Kufa’s strong political and military position helped the kufic style to spread and gave it its name. The presence of a large number of Muslim scholars, reciters of the Qur’an and of the Hadiths helped to spread the kufic style beyond the city, and also aided its development both stylistically and aesthetically.



Name:
Great Mosque of Zaytuna

Dynasty:
Hegira 248 / AD 863 Aghlabid, Abbasid

Details:
Tunis, Tunisia

Justification:
The kufic inscription that adorns the dome above the mihrab at Zaytuna Mosque commemorates the Abbasid caliph al-Musta'in who ordered its construction in 250 / 865.



Name:
Great Mosque of Zaytuna

Dynasty:
Hegira 248 / AD 863 Aghlabid, Abbasid

Details:
Tunis, Tunisia

Justification:
General view of the Zituna Mosque in Tunis.



Name:
Great Mosque of Zaytuna

Dynasty:
Hegira 248 / AD 863 Aghlabid, Abbasid

Details:
Tunis, Tunisia

Justification:
Detail of the kufic inscription on the dome above the mihrab at the Zituna Mosque in Tunis.



Name:
Inscription stone

Dynasty:
Hegira, first half of the 2nd century / AD 8th century Umayyad

Details:
Jordan Archaeological Museum
Amman, Jordan

Justification:

The inscription carved on this capital in a recessing fashion is a precursor to relief-carved kufic script.



Name:

Plate

Dynasty:

Around hegira 6th century / AD 12th century Atabeg

Details:

National Museum of Damascus

Damascus, Syria

Justification:

Decorated in the centre with the word 'mulk' (sovereignty) in foliated kufic script in which each letter ends with decorative flora.
