

Arabic Calligraphy | Calligraphic Schools

'Some civic officials became famous calligraphers, for instance Ibn Muqlah, who was an Abbasid vizier.'

Calligraphers were formally trained under distinguished masters of the profession. Many of them were enrolled in the service of the court and at the civic offices of the government. Some civic officials became famous calligraphers, for instance Ibn Muqlah, who was an Abbasid vizier. He defined the rules of perfect script in a manual, which became the main work of reference for subsequent calligraphers.



Name:

Section from a Qur'an

Dynasty:

Hegira 731 / AD 1330 Mamluk

Details:

Museum of Islamic Art
Cairo, Egypt

Justification:

This Qur'an was copied by Zaynab bint [daughter of] Ahmad al-Maqqdisiyya, a female calligrapher from Jerusalem.



Name:

Manuscript on geography

Dynasty:

Hegira 741 / AD 1340 Mamluk

Details:

National Museum of Damascus
Damascus, Syria

Justification:

A manuscript of an earlier original work on geography that illustrates the skill of a well-trained copyist.



Name:

Manuscript on geography

Dynasty:

Hegira 741 / AD 1340 Mamluk

Details:

National Museum of Damascus
Damascus, Syria

Justification:

A double-page spread from a manuscript on geography showing the body text and tables.



Name:

Tughra (imperial monogram)

Dynasty:

About hegira 956 / AD 1550 Ottoman

Details:

The British Museum

London, England, United Kingdom

Justification:

An elaborate imperial monogram (tughra) – signature of the Ottoman Sultan Süleyman the Magnificent – which was designed for him by the court's master calligraphers.
