

# The Muslim West | Court Life

Ivory receptacles were gifts of exceptional value.

As well as showing-off their wealth, courtiers also lived an elegant and protocol-led life that included customs such as exchanging lavish gifts with intimate acquaintances, ambassadors and dignitaries from abroad. Symbols of the sovereign's power, such gifts were sometimes used to great effect as propaganda tools, as is evident from the dedications and royal icons that decorate them. The court's demand for luxury items resulted in the creation of royal workshops and the development of trade in luxury goods in towns.



**Name:**

Ivory box from the Cathedral of Braga

**Dynasty:**

Hegira 394 / AD 1004 and Hegira 398 / AD 1008 Umayyads of Córdoba, Caliphate period

**Details:**

Cathedral of Braga Treasury  
Braga, Portugal

**Justification:**

Valuable in themselves, these exquisite objects were designed to contain desirable gifts such as jewellery or aromatic substances so valued for cosmetic and grooming purposes.



**Name:**

Casket

**Dynasty:**

Probably shortly after hegira 350 / AD 961 Spanish Umayyad

**Details:**

Victoria and Albert Museum  
London, England, United Kingdom

**Justification:**

Ivory casket, Victoria and Albert Museum, London.



**Name:**

Pot from Zamora

**Dynasty:**

Hegira 353 / AD 964 Umayyads of al-Andalus, Caliphate period

**Details:**

National Archaeological Museum  
Madrid, Spain

**Justification:**

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