

The Muslim West | Jewellery: Wealth, Prestige and Protection

A woman's inalienable property

Muslim women used jewellery throughout their lives: as children, they wore prophylactic jewellery to protect them against the evil eye; once they were engaged they would be given family jewels by their parents, along with a dowry. Marriage was a further opportunity for women to amass jewellery. The groom would give his bride jewellery as a gift, so that on the day of her wedding the bride would appear in the place of honour with her most beautiful adornments. This, and other jewellery acquired subsequently, constituted a woman's inalienable property.



Name:
Pair of fibulae

Dynasty:
Hegira 13th century / AD 19th century 'Alawid

Details:
Museum of the Udayas
Rabat, Morocco

Justification:
The jewellery worn by women from the ruling classes included brooches, belts and other adornments made from precious metals worked with filigree and granular decoration and set with precious stones.



Name:
Fragment of a brooch

Dynasty:
Hegira 524–668 / AD 1130–1269 or Hegira 627–982 / AD 1229–1574 Almohad or Hafsids

Details:
National Museum of Setif
Setif, Algeria

Justification:
The jewellery worn by women from the ruling classes included brooches, belts and other adornments made from precious metals worked with filigree and granular decoration and set with precious stones.



Name:
Adornment from small chest

Dynasty:
Hegira end of 5th century – first half of 6th century / AD end of 11th century – first half of 12th century Almohad

Details:
Museum of Mértola
Mértola, Beja, Portugal

Justification:
The jewellery worn by women from the ruling classes included brooches, belts and other adornments made from precious metals worked with filigree and granular decoration and set with precious stones.



Name:
Chest

Dynasty:
Hegira 422–55 / AD 1031–63 Taifa kingdoms

Details:
National Archaeological Museum
Madrid, Spain

Justification:
The jewellery worn by women from the ruling classes included brooches, belts and other adornments made from precious metals worked with filigree and granular decoration and set with precious stones.
