

The Atabegs and Ayyubids | Court Life

'The exchange of gifts strengthened relations between neighbouring territories and rival rulers.'

Many of the objects that furnished the palaces would have been received as gifts from other rulers or nobles. The exchange of gifts strengthened relations between neighbouring territories and rival rulers. The Artuqids – Turkmen from Asia Minor – established themselves in Diyarbakir in Northern Jazira in the late 5th / 11th century. During the course of the 6th / 12th century they became increasingly independent, minting their own currency and forging ties with nearby rulers by sending them gifts.



Name:
Diyarbakir Citadel

Dynasty:
Originally built during the reign of the Roman Emperor Constantine in AD 349. Additions and repairs made in the Byzantine, Abbasid, Marwanid, Artuqid and Seljuq periods

Details:
Diyarbakir, Türkiye

Justification:
The Artuqids, with their court at Diyarbakir, became active patrons of the arts as their wealth increased in the late 5th / 11th century.



Name:
Candlestick

Dynasty:
Hegira 597–637 / AD 1201–39 Artuqid

Details:
Islamic Museum, al-Aqsa Mosque / al-Haram al-Sharif
Jerusalem

Justification:
The Artuqids, with their court at Diyarbakir, became active patrons of the arts as their wealth increased in the late 5th / 11th century. This object may have been produced for their use or made specifically as a diplomatic gift



Name:
Plate

Dynasty:
Around hegira 6th century / AD 12th century Atabeg

Details:
National Museum of Damascus
Damascus, Syria

Justification:
A large plate with the words 'al-mulk' (meaning king or sovereignty), and a fine, inlaid metal ewer; both plate and ewer were probably destined for use at court.



Name:
Ewer (ibrik)

Dynasty:

Hegira 627 / AD 1229 Zangid (Atabeg)

Details:

Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts
Sultanahmet, Istanbul, Türkiye

Justification:

A fine inlaid metal ewer, and a large plate with the words 'al-mulk' (meaning king or sovereignty); both ewer and plate were probably destined for use at court.

**Name:**

Fragments of a flask

Dynasty:

Hegira 521–41 / AD 1127–46 Atabeg / Zangid

Details:

The British Museum
London, England, United Kingdom

Justification:

A striking flask representing the type of high-quality object that would have been exchanged among rulers as gifts.
