

# The Mamluks | The Sultan and his Court

'The Sultan's authority was expressed in ceremonials and magnificent courtly surroundings.'

The Mamluk sultan also acted as commander-in-chief of his armies and was a major player in the realm of international diplomacy. The sultan's authority and glory was expressed in elaborate ceremonials, magnificent courtly surroundings and privileged pastimes, such as falconry and hunting.



**Name:**  
Basin

**Dynasty:**  
About hegira 692–743 / AD 1293–1341 Mamluk

**Details:**  
The British Museum  
London, England, United Kingdom

**Justification:**  
The splendour of the Mamluk sultan was evident in the luxurious objects that surrounded him at court, such as this richly decorated basin for washing.

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**Name:**  
Perfume sprinkler

**Dynasty:**  
Hegira 698–708 / AD 1299–1309 or AH 709–741 / AD 1309–40 Mamluk

**Details:**  
Museum of Islamic Art  
Cairo, Egypt

**Justification:**  
Luxurious sprinklers like this served the sultan's personal hygiene.

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**Name:**  
Kettledrum

**Dynasty:**  
Hegira first half of 8th century / AD first half of 14th century Mamluk

**Details:**  
Royal Armoury  
Stockholm, Sweden

**Justification:**  
Mamluk sultans enjoyed falconry for leisure and to display their superior hunting skills.

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**Name:**  
Bottle with polo-playing riders

**Dynasty:**  
Around hegira 700 / AD 1300 Mamluk

**Details:**  
Museum of Islamic Art at the Pergamon Museum  
Berlin, Germany

**Justification:**

Polo (jawkan) was a popular pastime among Mamluk sultans, combining military exercise and sport.

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