

# The Mamluks | Cairo, Damascus and Jerusalem: Centres of Mamluk Intellectual Life

'Damascus shone as the second most important political, artistic and intellectual centre in the Mamluk sultanate.'

In Syria, Damascus shone as the second most important political, artistic and intellectual centre in the Mamluk sultanate; a veritable hub of religious discourse and scientific advancement. Many seminal books on medicine, geography and other natural sciences were copied and illustrated in its noteworthy madrasas and institutes of higher education.



**Name:**  
Madrasa al-Jaqmaqiyya

**Dynasty:**  
Hegira 762–822 / AD 1361–1421/2 Mamluk

**Details:**  
Damascus, Syria

**Justification:**  
The madrasa was endowed by the Mamluk governor of Damascus in 810 / 1407–8.

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**Name:**  
Manuscript on surgery

**Dynasty:**

**Details:**  
National Museum of Damascus  
Damascus, Syria

**Justification:**  
An illustrated discourse on cauterization, taken from a Mamluk manuscript copied in Syria.

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**Name:**  
Jar

**Dynasty:**  
About hegira 833 / AD 1430 Mamluk

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

**Justification:**  
Jars similar to this one produced in Syria would have held medicinal herbs.

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**Name:**  
Manuscript on geography

**Dynasty:**  
Hegira 741 / AD 1340 Mamluk

**Details:**  
National Museum of Damascus

Damascus, Syria

**Justification:**

The layout of this book on geography produced in Syria anticipates modern encyclopaedias.

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