

The Mamluks | The Wider World: Diplomatic Contacts and International Trade

'Mamluk Egypt was renowned for textiles such as woven silks and printed cottons.'

Glassware became one of the most renowned achievements of Mamluk art, with the mosque lamp forming a significant part of glassware production. Mamluk Egypt became renowned for the production and export of textiles such as woven silks and printed cottons. Pottery workshops generated a vibrant and attractive range of quality wares, some specifically designed to imitate Chinese celadon and blue-and-white wares, and woodworkers enhanced architectural fittings, furnishings and even cenotaphs with intricately carved, and inlaid geometric-star designs.



Name:

Mosque lamp

Dynasty:

Later than Hegira 23 Muharram 721 / AD 21 February 1321 Mamluk

Details:

Calouste Gulbenkian Museum
Lisbon, Portugal

Justification:

Mamluk glass lamps have a tall, flaring neck, squat bulbous body and a pedestal foot. Most are of clear enamelled glass.



Name:

Mosque lamp

Dynasty:

first half of hegira 8th century / AD 14th century Mamluk

Details:

Museum of Turkish and Islamic Arts
Sultanahmet, Istanbul, Türkiye

Justification:

Most Mamluk glass lamps are of clear enamelled glass. This is a rare example that has been painted green inside to achieve a different effect.



Name:

Printed cotton textile fragment

Dynasty:

Hegira 8th century / AD 14th century Mamluk

Details:

Museum of Islamic Art
Cairo, Egypt

Justification:

Block-printed cotton was mass produced; the pattern seen on this fragment is inspired by contemporary decorative designs for metalwork.



Name:
Plate

Dynasty:
Hegira 8th century / AD 14th century Mamluk

Details:
National Museum of Damascus
Damascus, Syria

Justification:
Mamluk ceramics often attempted to imitate the aesthetic of blue-and-white Chinese wares.



Name:
Minbar panel

Dynasty:
Hegira late 8th–early 9th century / AD late 14th–early 15th century Mamluk

Details:
National Museums of Scotland (NMS)
Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom

Justification:
Geometric-star patterns are typical of Mamluk furnishings, such as that used on this minbar door.
