

The Umayyads | Administrative Reforms

‘From the coin reform on, all Umayyad coinage was of a standard weight and design.’

From the coin reform on, all Umayyad coinage was of a standardised weight and design: purely epigraphic, with an inscription giving the date and a religious formula. These measures served to introduce a unity which hitherto had been lacking.



Name:
Coin (dirham)

Dynasty:
Hegira 91 / AD 709 Umayyad; Caliph al-Walid I (r. AH 86–96 / AD 705–15)

Details:
Museum of Civilisations | Museum of Oriental Art "Giuseppe Tucci"
Rome, Italy

Justification:
A silver dirham of the purely epigraphic type belonging to the period of al-Walid I (r. 86–96 / 705–15). Typically following the coin reform of 77 / 696–7, the religious inscriptions are in kufic script.



Name:
Coin

Dynasty:
Hegira 77 / AD 696–7 Umayyad

Details:
The British Museum
London, England, United Kingdom

Justification:
A gold dinar of the epigraphic type, minted following the coin reform. The inscription states the Islamic profession of faith, the shahada. On the margins, the date it was struck is recorded as hegira 77 (696).
