A woman's inalienable property

Muslim women used jewellery throughout their lives: as children, they wore prophylactic jewellery to protect them against the evil eye; once they were engaged they would be given family jewels by their parents, along with a dowry. Marriage was a further opportunity for women to amass jewellery. The groom would give his bride jewellery as a gift, so that on the day of her wedding the bride would appear in the place of honour with her most beautiful adornments. This, and other jewellery acquired subsequently, constituted a woman's inalienable property.

Name: Pair of fibulae
Dynasty: Hegira 13th century / AD 19th century 'Alawid
Details: Museum of the Udayas
Rabat, Morocco
Justification: The jewellery worn by women from the ruling classes included brooches, belts and other adornments made from precious metals worked with filigree and granular decoration and set with precious stones.

Name: Fragment of a brooch
Dynasty: Hegira 524–668 / AD 1130–1269 or Hegira 627–982 / AD 1229–1574 Almohad or Hafsid
Details: National Museum of Setif
Setif, Algeria
Justification: The jewellery worn by women from the ruling classes included brooches, belts and other adornments made from precious metals worked with filigree and granular decoration and set with precious stones.

Name: Adornment from small chest
Dynasty: Hegira end of 5th century – first half of 6th century / AD end of 11th century – first half of 12th century Almohad
Details: Museum of Mértola
Mértola, Beja, Portugal
Justification: The jewellery worn by women from the ruling classes included brooches, belts and other adornments made from precious metals worked with filigree and granular decoration and set with precious stones.
Name: Chest

Dynasty:
Hegira 422–55 / AD 1031–63 Taifa kingdoms

Details:
National Archaeological Museum
Madrid, Spain

Justification:
The jewellery worn by women from the ruling classes included brooches, belts and other adornments made from precious metals worked with filigree and granular decoration and set with precious stones.