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.



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.



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.



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.