

Radiating Inscriptions on Mamluk Metalwork

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Islamic art is distinguished by the use of calligraphy as an element of artistic design. Metalwork, more than any other product, is especially well known for using written inscriptions as a basic element of design. Among the most striking examples of calligraphy are what are known as radiating inscriptions, which were used specifically on metal products. This type of inscription is characterized by the arrangement of the calligraphy in a circular shape, with the tops of the letters stretching clearly towards the center, in the shape of a radiating sun.

The present study focuses on this type of ornamental inscriptions to discover the the type of script used, the content of the text, and the types of ornamentation used in the center of the circle and surrounding the inscriptions. It also aims to define the time period when this kind of inscription on metal was widespread. The research relies on a study of a group of metal pieces with radiating designs (26 pieces), reading the text, analyzing the content, and removing the designs of some pieces to compare them.