

The Impact of Medieval Baghdad on our Modern World

By

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Moderator: Ammar Ahmed Jarallah
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The Impact of Medieval Baghdad on our Modern World' comes as the 3rd episode in the Embassy's Cultural Series

Baghdad, during the 8th, 9th and 10th CC. AD, was the world's most populous and wealthy metropolis. It represented the main intellectual, cultural and artistic hub of the Orient, attracting scholars and artisans from every part of the Abbasid empire who effectively and amazingly contributed to each and every aspect of our modern daily life, and exported its metropolitan life style as far as the Andalusian city of Cordoba in the Iberian Peninsula.



The Tomb of Zumurrud Khatun(AD1193) , Baghdad



Alhambra Palace, (Granada, Andalus : Southern Spain)

Some Aspects of this Impact and contribution includes.

Commerce & Trade

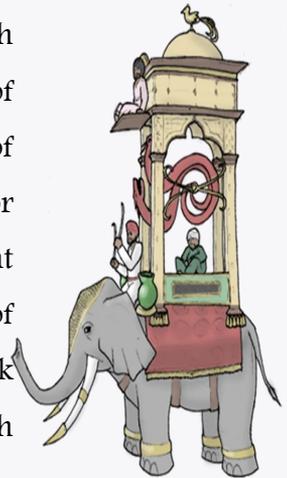
The unique gold coin of Offa (AD 773–774), the English King of Mercia, is one of the most remarkable English coins of the Middle Ages. It is remarkable because it imitates a gold dinar of the caliph al-Mansur, ruler of the Islamic Abbasid dynasty. It is on display at the British Museum.



Gold dinar minted under King Offa © Trustees of the British Museum.

Diplomatic Relations

Harun al-Rashid, the fifth Abbasid caliph (reigned AD 786–809), exchanged a series of embassies and gifts with Charlemagne, King of Frankia (reigned AD 747–814). In return for hunting hounds and Spanish horses, Harun sent the King an elephant, chess pieces made of ivory, but most stunning of all a water clock that astonished all who saw it at the French court in Aachen (Now western Germany).



Music and Lifestyle

Abul-Hasan Ali ibn Nafi⁷, nicknamed Ziryab, was chief entertainer of the court of Cordoba (in Islamic Spain or Andalus) in AD 822. He revolutionized medieval music, lifestyle, fashion, hairstyles, furniture and even tableware. He transformed the way people ate and socialized. Ziryab was a significant personality, but remains anonymous in European history, in spite of his single-handedness in laying down the groundwork for traditional Spanish music. (Source: Ziryab- The slave who changed Society, but still anonymous in European History).

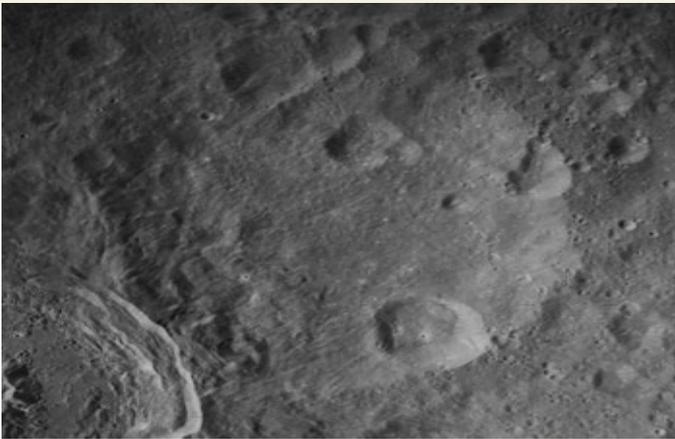




The Three Philosophers, AD 1506

An oil painting attributed to the Italian Renaissance, artist Giorgione.

Demonstrating (from right to left), the classical world, the Islamic world & the modern world.

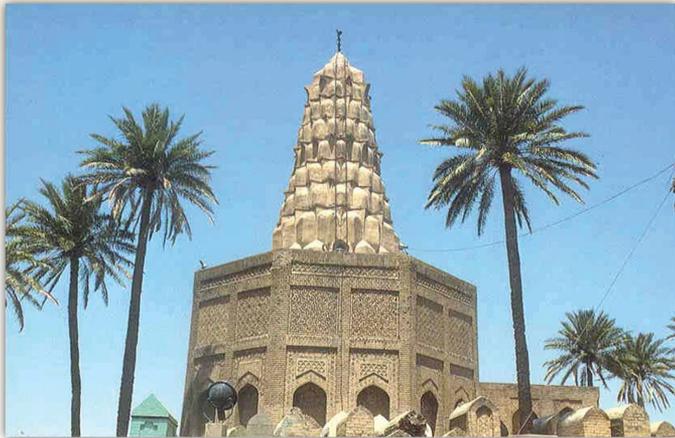


Ibn Firnas (Crater), Apollo 16 mapping Camera Image.

A lunar impact crater on the far side of the Moon in honour of Abbas Ibn Firnas, the 9th CC. Polymath from Andalusia who preceded the Wright brothers in his flying attempt by a time span of 10 Centuries.



A painting of a 13th CC. artist demonstrating a daily life Scene of Medieval Baghdad.



Mausoleum of Zumurrud Khatun, mother of the 34th Abbasid Caliph Al-Nasir, which dated back to the late Abbasid era and is located at the Karkh side of Baghdad.

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He is the Embassy Officer in charge of Cultural Affairs. Mr Utaifa holds a BA degree in English literature, (1990) from the College of Arts of Baghdad University. (From Oct. 2004 to July 2016), He has worked in the areas of diplomatic and language ability training and development for Iraq MOFA personnel, including a post of four years as a protocol officer at the Iraqi Embassy to the United Kingdom. Through his Presentation, the Presenter intends to shed more light on the cultural integration between Baghdad & Islamic Spain and Western Europe, and the significant cultural and scientific contribution of the Arabs to that integration during the Middle Ages, leading to the Renaissance that finally produced our modern world.



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