



Coins of Islam

النقود الإسلامية

History
Revealed

تاريخ يُكشف

The Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque Centre - Abu Dhabi
28 January - 28 April 2020

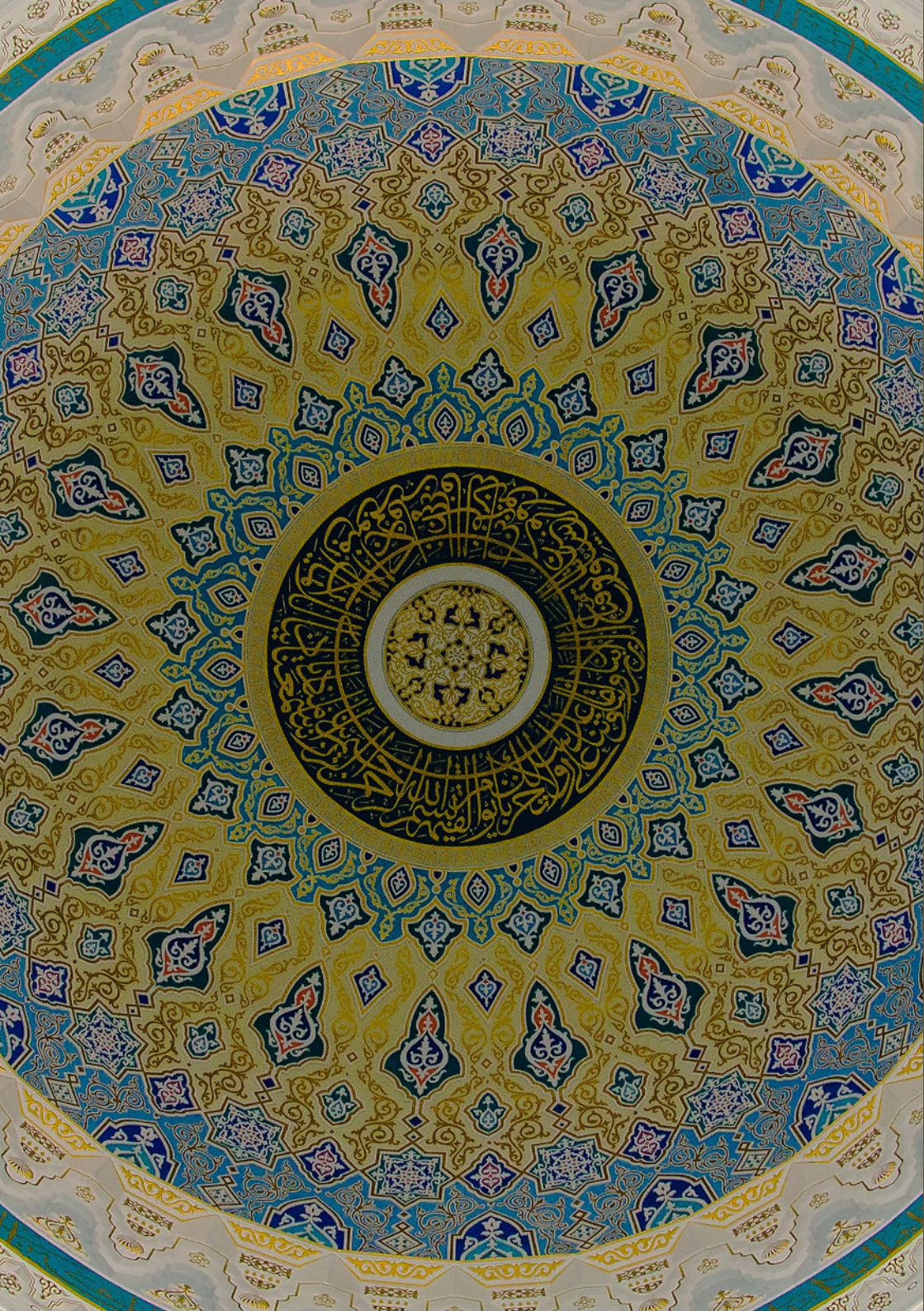


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Introduction:

Throughout time, coins have helped reveal the history of cultures and the places where they were located. They not only serve as a symbol of wealth but also as a unique and invaluable source that reveals detailed information about people, places and events that might otherwise be lost to history.

The “Coins of Islam: History Revealed” exhibition, is under the patronage of H.H. Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak “Mother of the Nation”, Chairwoman of the General Women’s Union, President of the Supreme Council for Motherhood and Childhood, Chairwoman of the Family Development Foundation and organized by Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque Centre in collaboration with numismatist Dr. Alain Baron, founder of Numismatica Genevensis.

It will take visitors on a journey across time; shedding light on the glories and achievements of civilizations. At the same time it will also reveal commonalities by showcasing one of the world’s most significant collections of ancient coins.

Tolerance:

Tolerance is one of the most commendable virtues of Islam. It is evident throughout its history by the mention of figures revered by each of the divine religions. For example, the coins inscribed with the names of prophets: Nuh (Noah), Ibrahim (Abraham), Musa (Moses) and Isa (Jesus), as well as images of Mariam (the Virgin Mary) that are also inscribed with the name of the prophet Muhammad and the Rightly Guided caliphs.

The cohesion of the Islamic faith is precisely demonstrated in several verses of the Holy Quran, such as the following verse:

“The Messenger believeth in what hath been revealed to him from his Lord, as do the men of faith. Each one (of them) believeth in Allah, His angels, His books, and His messengers. “We make no distinction (they say) between one and another of His messengers.” And they say: “We hear, and we obey: (We seek) Thy forgiveness, our Lord, and to Thee is the end of all journeys.

(surat I-baqarah ,285)

AV dinar, al-Jazirah AH 737 (AD 1336/7)



On the other side, the four great pre-Islamic prophets are mentioned (Noah, Abraham, Moses & Jesus)



On one side the coin bears the names of the prophet Muhammad & the four rightly guided caliphs.

Section One: Coinage before Islam.

This section reflects on coins that circulated throughout the Mediterranean, the West, and Central Asia for centuries. They were the product of celebrated cultures of antiquity such as ancient Greece, Rome, Carthage, and the Hellenistic, Byzantine and Sasanian empires. Arabs throughout the early years of Islam also continued to circulate these coins, making it the very first form of coinage.



AV Silver decadrachm
Alexander the Great (356-323 BC).
Babylon c. 330 BC

Section Two: Birth of Islamic coinage

This section traces the evolvement of Islamic coinage, and the birth of the Islamic coin in 77 H.A. (696-7 CE). During the reign of the Caliph Abd Al-Malik Ibn Marwan the very first gold coin called dinar was struck. Images of Heraclius and his sons were replaced by an inscription of the profession of faith, the shahada, in Kufic script

**“There is no god but God.
Muhammad is the Messenger of God”**

engraved in the centre of the first dinar. From this point onward, minting facilities were under the ruler, and spread widely across the Islamic world, coins more and more reflected the features of Islamic and Arabic Art.



Abd al-Malik bin Marwan strikes the first Islamic coin in 77 AH (696 - 697 AD)
Inscribed with the profession of faith (shahada) in Arabic fonts, reflecting one
of the Islamic Art's most prominent features.

Section Three: Coins across the Islamic dynasties.

Tracing the continuity and diversity of Islamic coins across a wide range of dynasties, the coins in this section represent the full extent of the early Muslim world, which extended from Al-Andalus to China.



AV dinar, Makkah 292 AH (904-05 CE).
The Abbasid Caliphate, al-Muktafi (r. 902-908 CE)

Abbasid dinars and dirhams minted in Mecca were often kept by pilgrims as
souvenirs of their participation in the Hajj.

Section Four: Islamic coins, a reflection of art and culture.

This section displays imagery that depicts art, culture, and hobbies (such as hunting and equestrianism) that were practiced by people for centuries. These coins visualize various aspects of cultures, and highlight the communalities among humanity as a whole.



Germany, 12 ducats, XVIII century, depicting falconry



Great Saljuqs, AR uniface medallion, no mint, depicting falconry

Section Five: Coins and women across the span of history

The course of history has witnessed the significant presence of indomitable and inspirational women across the world. This section showcases a selection of coins engraved with images of incredible women who have left their mark on history. Here we would like to mention the influential role of H.H. Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak, “The Mother Of The Nation” in supporting Emirati women, as well as her immeasurable accomplishments and achievements that have played a significant role in the renaissance of the UAE.



AV Penta drachm, Alexandria C. Ptolemaic Egypt, Berenike II (266–221 BCE),



AR dirham, Jazirat al-Raghistan AH 183 (AD 799/800). Abbasid Caliphate, Zubayda (AD 782–831),

Section Six: Zayed and civilization

The late founder of the nation, Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, was renown for his wisdom and remarkable vision, which vividly reflected in his knowledge and extensive understanding of the history of human culture. He was always keen on nurturing pride and cultural identity in future generations through establishing a comprehensive cultural system that aims to revive the nation's cultural heritage and enrich the cultural movement within the UAE.

A nation without a past is a nation without a present or a future. Thanks to God, our nation has a flourishing civilization, deep-rooted in this land for many centuries. These roots will always flourish and bloom in the glorious presence of our nation and in its anticipated future.”

— Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan



UAE, Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Zayed b. Sultan Al Nahyan
(b. 1918, r. 1966-2004 CE), (2005) Gold medal.

Showing interest in UAE's Cultural heritage is an expression of everyone's eagerness to move towards the future and continue to build a civilization based on solid grounds of authenticity. Emirati women have significantly contributed in all stages by playing many notable roles, proving that they are worthy of preserving their national identity, as well as their cultural heritage, and traditional crafts.

— H.H Fatima bint Mubarak



UAE, Abu Dhabi, H.H Fatima bint Mubarak Al Ketbi ,Gold medal
commemorating the nomination of H.H. Sheikha Fatima Bint Mubarak as
“Mother of the Nation”. (2005).

