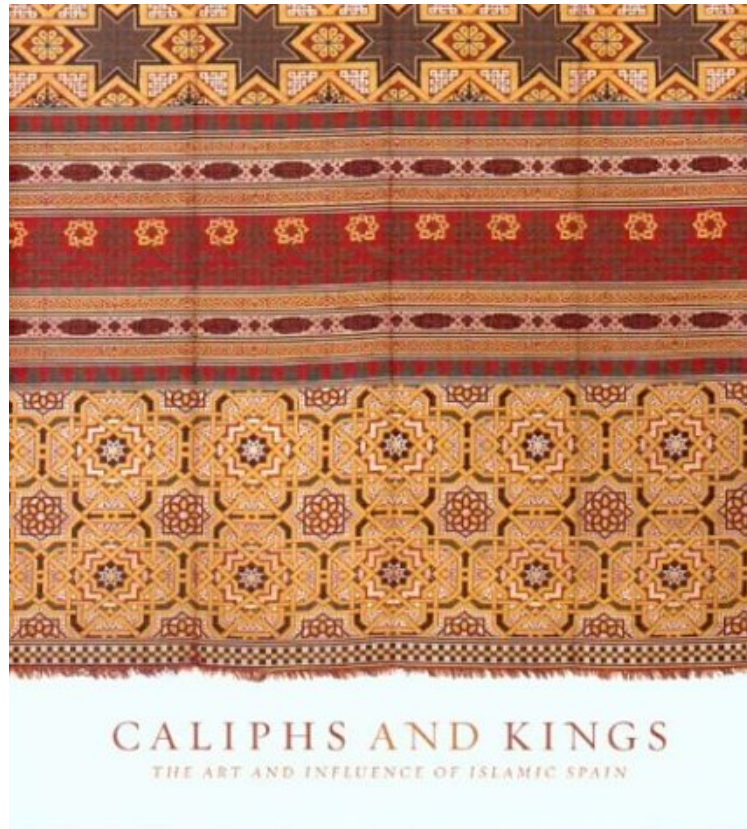


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Caliphs and Kings: The Art of Islamic Spain

Heather Ecker

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"Caliphs to Kings" includes rarely seen Islamic objects ranging from textiles to ceramics to gold. Emphasizing themes of longevity, continuity, and transmission in the Islamic decorative arts and sciences of medieval Spain, the book includes works dating from the time of the Arab conquest of the Iberian Peninsula in the eighth century to the final phase of Muslim life in Spain in the sixteenth century. Objects from tenth-century Cordoba illustrate the creation of a unique court aesthetic under the caliphate that was widely copied by both Muslim and Christian rulers in the following centuries. Later works show the eclectic aesthetic, intellectual, and political culture that resulted from the Christian conquests in the eleventh to the fifteenth centuries of the cities of Andalusia. During the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, Muslim craftsmen working both in the kingdom of Granada and for Christian patrons (the crown, nobility, and the Church) in Seville, Toledo, Cordoba, and Valencia produced some of the most beautiful and evocative ceramics and textiles of the time, items that were exported throughout Europe and served as models for silk and

ceramic industries in regions including the Italian peninsula. Works of particular note include a tenth-century ivory pyxis from Cordoba, an early fifteenth-century armorial carpet from Murcia made for the queen of Aragon, and two exquisite, illuminated Hebrew Bibles.

"This sumptuously illustrated coffee table book features rarely seen Islamic objects dating from Spain's Moorish-dominated days, including richly-colored textiles, ceramics and items made of gold."--Spain, October 2006
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