



Luitgard E.M. Mols, *Mamluk metalwork fittings in their artistic and architectural context*. Delft (Eburon Academic Publishers) 2006, 462 pp., illustrated. ISBN: 9059721578 / 9789059721579

This study of Islamic metalwork from Egypt, Syria and Jerusalem presents a hitherto largely ignored body of metalwork artefacts, i.e. metal-faced doors, doorknockers, window grilles, and window shutters all manufactured during the Mamluk period (1250-1517). It is the largest body of metalwork fittings extant from the medieval Islamic period. The objects are densely covered with geometric and floral motives to which Arabic inscriptions are added. The majority of these fittings are still embedded within the mosques and mausoleums for which they were originally intended. Therefore it has not only been possible to trace their stylistic and technical development throughout the Mamluk period but also to assess the interrelationship between these medieval artefacts and their immediate surroundings. Insights into the Mamluk metalworking industry and the various metalworking centres such as Cairo, Damascus, and Aleppo have been gained from Arabic medieval sources. This study is completed by a catalogue, comprehensively illustrated, comprising a description of each fitting found *in situ*.