The Atabegs and Ayyubids | Court Life

‘Badr al-Din Lu’lu’ took a great interest in inlaid metalwork.’

Another example of luxury objects being employed to ease diplomatic relations is at the court of Badr al-Din Lu’lu’, an Armenian convert to Islam. He was a Zangid vizier, and then an independent ruler of Mosul in Northern Iraq from 615–57 / 1218–59. Badr al-Din Lu’lu’ took a great interest in inlaid metalwork. A number of brass vessels inlaid with gold and silver and bearing his name survive. These valuable vessels were probably used as a replacement for gold and the fact that Lu’lu’ has included his name on them is testimony to their function as ambassadorial gifts.



Name:
Brass box

Dynasty:
Hegira 631–57 / AD 1233–59 Atabeg / Ayyubid

Details:
The British Museum
London, England, United Kingdom

Justification:
The Inlaid metalwork that was so admired by Lu'lu' is exemplified by this object, one of five extant inlaid brass objects bearing his name.



Name:
Fragments of a flask

Dynasty:
Hegira 521–41 / AD 1127–46 Atabeg / Zangid

Details:
The British Museum
London, England, United Kingdom

Justification:
These objects were certainly used at court, as both have royal inscriptions.



Name:
Glass carafe

Dynasty:
Hegira 7th century / AD 13th century Ayyubid

Details:
Museum of Islamic Art
Cairo, Egypt

Justification:
These objects were certainly used at court, as both have royal inscriptions.
