



# SULTAN BAYBARS' QUR'AN

مصحف السلطان المملوكي الظاهر بيبرس الثاني (704-705 هجري / 1304-1306)  
سبع مجلدات من أجمل المصاحف المعروفة في العالم نُفِذَتْ خطوطها بماء الذهب

*British Library Add. MS. 22406-12*

A strictly limited edition of all seven volumes of one of the  
world's most important treasures of Islamic heritage.

[www.BaybarsQuran.com](http://www.BaybarsQuran.com)

BRITISH  
LIBRARY



THE HEADING FOR CHAPTER 75 IS WRITTEN IN GOLD THULUTH SCRIPT OUTLINED IN BLACK WITH RED OVER THE GOLD.

THE PEAR-SHAPED MEDALLIONS IN THE MARGIN ARE INSCRIBED WITH THE WORD *KHAMIS* (FIVE) IN KUFIC SCRIPT TO INDICATE THE END OF EVERY FIVE VERSES. GOLD ROUNDELS MARK THE END OF EACH VERSE.

## SULTAN BAYBARS' QUR'AN

*British Library Add. MS. 22406-12*

The Baybars Qur'an is one of the world's greatest manuscript treasures and is housed in The British Library, London. It is named after Sultan Baybars II who commissioned this sumptuous Qur'an in 704-5 A.H. (1304-1306 A.D.).

At the time, the Mamluk capital was the economic and cultural hub of the Islamic world. Architecture, manuscript illumination, textiles and glass-making evolved rich styles that were influential even in Europe.

Written entirely in large, gold *Thuluth* script, the Baybars Qur'an comprises seven large volumes. The entire Qur'an was written by Muhammed ibn al-Wahid, the most famous of all Mamluk scribes, and lavishly decorated by a team of artists headed by the master illuminator, Abu Bakr Sandal.

Each volume contains a magnificent frontispiece, a testament to the inspiration and devotion of the artists who decorated all 2,188 pages with unerring skill. Each *sura* is carefully designed to flow within the borders of the manuscript and yet no two headings are the same.

The splendour of the Baybars Qur'an is unparalleled in the history of manuscript illumination and until now has been restricted to a handful of scholars fortunate enough to share in this masterpiece of the Islamic world.





THE OPENING LEAVES OF THE SECOND VOLUME OF THE QUR'AN CONTAIN THE WORDS 'THE SECOND SEVENTH'.  
THE OUTER BORDERS CONTAIN A QUOTATION FROM CHAPTER 16 (SURAT AL-NAHL), VERSES 98-99.

## THE FACSIMILE EDITION

A facsimile is an exact copy which faithfully reproduces the size, quality and feel of the original manuscript.

Using the finest materials and craftsmen in Italy and England, printers, papermakers, gilders and book binders will work for three years to create a limited edition masterpiece of all seven volumes. Special gold will be made to reflect the splendour of the intricately illuminated calligraphy and decoration. Paper will be milled to replicate the original 700 year old hand-made sheets.

Printers with over 30 years' experience in making the world's finest books will skilfully reproduce the delicate colours and designs. All 2,188 pages of this exquisite manuscript will be bound in finest luxurious leather in traditional Mamluk-style bindings, embossed and decorated with pure gold.

An eighth volume, a commentary, will accompany the edition. Written by eminent Islamic manuscript experts, the facsimile and commentary together will enable scholars, families, collectors and researchers to study each page in detail for generations to come.

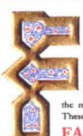
The reproduction of the Baybars Qur'an is the most ambitious and largest facsimile project in the history of publishing.

Each of the seven volumes measures approximately 48.5 cm x 33 cm.





THIS MAMLUK BINDING WAS COMMISSIONED BY THE AMIR, AYTAMISH AL-BAJASI,  
IN CAIRO IN THE EIGHTH CENTURY OF THE HIJRI CALENDAR.



engaged scribes to write the text in  
medium of rare brilliancy brought from  
India to Spain, or in Byzantine ink of pure  
Oriental gold: they selected the finest  
virgin parchment, they employed the  
greatest artists to draw decorations or to  
paint miniatures, and they enclosed these

To the ancients,  
the rarest gems in  
all the world were  
gems of thought.  
The book was the  
tangible and visible  
expression of man's  
intellect, worthy of  
the noblest presentation.  
These true lovers of books

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nizing that a offered too splendid a  
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twentieth century thousands of these  
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