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DOUBLE LEAF FROM A KORAN WRITTEN IN MANY TYPES OF SCRIPT

YEMEN; 1ST HALF OF 14TH CENTURY

EACH LEAF: 39 × 32.2 CM

It is quite exceptional that this spread from a Koran contains no fewer than four different types of script. Eastern *Kufi* was used for the framed, illuminated chapter heading for *sura* 20 and the round markers for each tenth verse. In addition, it features three of the six cursive scripts that were regulated by Ibn Muqla in the 10th century: *Naskh*, used for the main text; *Muhaqqaq*, used in the black lines contoured with gold; and *Thuluth*, used for the golden center lines.

Nothing of this kind was found in related Korans from Mamluk Egypt, something that reinforces an unconfirmed assumption that this manuscript was produced in Rasulid Yemen.

Published in:

Unpublished;