

A Unique Ummayyad Dirham: A New Addition to the History of the Arabization of the Dirham

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The history of the Arabization of the dirham during the reign of Abdul Malik bin Marwan is fraught with disagreements between coin scholars as a result of the scarcity of early dirhams. This dirham, the topic of this study, is being brought to the public for the first time. It was minted in 696 CE/77 AH, in Basra, and adds a whole new set of facts to the history of the Arabization of coinage.

The first of these new facts is that the Arabization of the silver dirham began at the same time as the Arabization of the gold dinar. The second is that the design used to distinguish the writing on the dirham from the writing on the dinar remained consistent since the first dirham, which is being displayed by this study for the first time, and is from the collection of the Museum of Qatar.