

Inscriptions on Tunisian Architecture from the Ottoman Period: Form and Content

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This study examines seven inscriptions taken from Tunisian structures from the Islamic period, investigating the types of scripts and the accuracy of the writing in terms of spelling and diacritical marks in order to identify if the artisans were Arab or not. It is clear that these inscriptions were carved by non-Tunisian calligraphers because of their unfamiliarity with the rules of Arabic calligraphy. We can also identify the manner in which these inscriptions were made. They were carved in marble after being written on paper, and then the cracks were filled with molten lead leaving the resulting inscription bold and clear. This study also covers the titles mentioned in the inscriptions and the ornamental carvings that show a clear European influence.