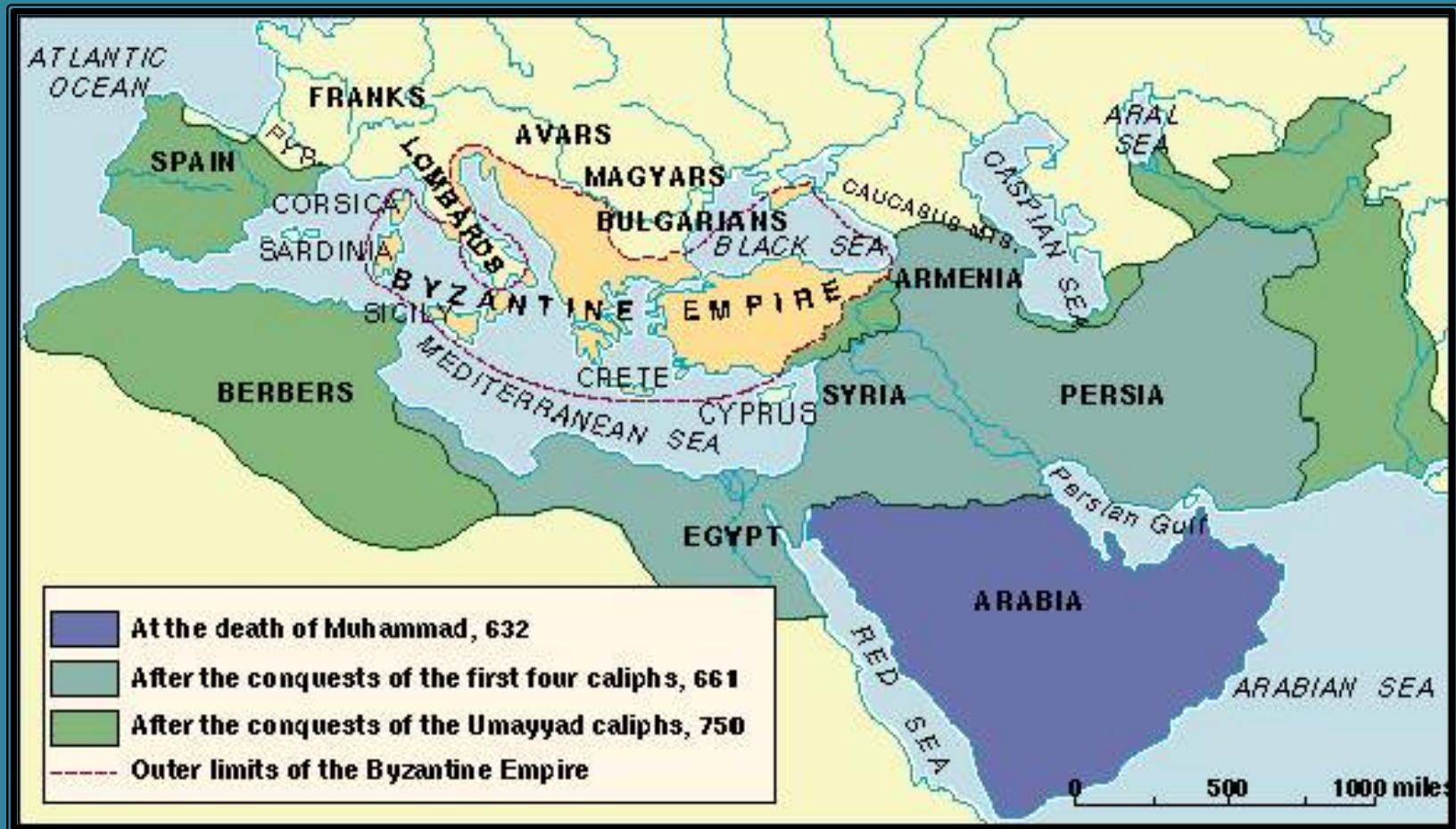




**Jewelry  
in Islamic  
Lands-  
An Introduction**

# The Spread of the Islamic Empire



In a little over 100 years, the Islamic Empire spread from a few cities in Arabia, to expand to the borders of China in the East, Spain in the West, and North Africa in the South.

# • Jewelry in Islamic Lands

The vast variety of traditions and cultures of the Islamic Empire inspired the creation of an exquisite panorama of jewelry.

Some pieces are based on traditional techniques and materials, using bronze, silver, and semi-precious stones, and others are created using precious metals and gems, and utilizing the most sophisticated tools and techniques of their time.



**The Arab Jeweler, ca. 1882**  
Painted by Charles Sprague Pearce



# Jewelry in Islamic Lands

As you look through the examples of jewelry on the following slides, you may want to search for more information about the array of **lands where these pieces were created and worn.**

Searching on line will yield many books and websites to learn more about Islamic Jewelry, how and why it was worn, and where and how it was made.

You may also learn more about types of jewelry and some techniques used by jewelers by searching the **words that are outlined** in the slides.

NOTE: All the mosaic tiles used for decoration on the slides come from photos of mosques in Iran.

# Jewelry in Islamic Lands

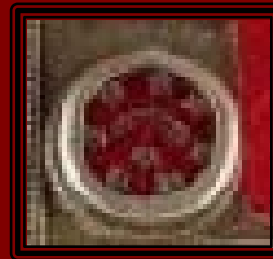


These pieces are examples of **Turkmen** jewelry which continues to be made today in Central Asia, in the states of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Syria, and Iraq.

# Jewelry in Islamic Lands



A Large Silver Pendant, made in Turkmen Style, from Uzbekistan.



Close-up of one of the red stones

The top two gemstones in the pendant are set into the silver, and decorated with crescents and stars. Both of these emblems are widely recognized symbols of Islam in its political and religious expression.



# Jewelry in Islamic Lands



This is an example of a **Pectoral ornament**, which is a large piece of jewelry worn on the chest.

It is silver, **gilded**, engraved, and inset with **carnelians**.

It was created in the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century, and comes from the **Tekke Tribe**, Central Asia or Iran.

# Jewelry in Islamic Lands



This pair of **Armlets** are from the late 19th–early 20th century, Central Asia or Iran.

They are made of silver, carnelian stones, and turquoise beads, and are known as **bilezik**.

They were, and still are **usually worn in pairs**, and decorated with several rows of semi-precious stones. While commonly worn on special occasions, wealthy women often wear them every day.. The silver on the armlets is decorated with an **embossed** and applied design and wire. The ends are bordered by motifs known as **snake's head, or yilan bash**.



# Jewelry in Islamic Lands



This Islamic Berber Bracelet is from the 19th century.

It is styled of silver and cloisonné, and comes from the Kabyle Berber culture in Algeria.

# Tuareg Islamic Amulet of the early 20th century

*Made of Brass and leather; Origin is Niger, North Africa*



In Islamic world,  
Amulets hold Qur'anic  
inscriptions and other  
religious narratives.

For further  
information on  
Islamic amulets,  
check on the  
first URL below.

Amulets: <http://simerphotos.com/2013/02/19/the-tradition-of-amulets-in-the-muslim-world/>

Source for Amulet: <http://artgallery.yale.edu/collections/objects/amulet-16#sthash.j4BYICyI.dpuf>

## Turkmen Silver Qur'an Holder



This vintage Pendant was created in the Middle East, possibly Turkmenistan. It is decorated with coral and turquoise stones, and embellished using a geometric pattern, all common decorations of Islamic jewelry.



# Islamic Necklace with Multiple Amulets



This elaborate necklace is intricately designed and created by a talented jeweler in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, in Djerba, Tunisia, North Africa

It is made of Gilt Silver and Cloisonné.

# Islamic Amulet Pendant



This Islamic Amulet pendant is designed with :three windows.”

It was created in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, in Djerba, Tunisia, North Africa.

It's made of gilt silver, coral beads, and red fabric, possibly velvet.



## Clothes Fasteners, each called a Fibula



Sources: <http://artgallery.yale.edu/collections/objects/fibula-7>  
<http://artgallery.yale.edu/collections/objects/fibula-8>  
<http://artgallery.yale.edu/collections/objects/fibula-9>

These were made in the 19th century In Morocco, North Africa, and are mainly of Silver.



## Islamic Silver Chain Necklace



This Necklace Piece is made of silver, some brass, and coral beads. (The back of the necklace is missing.)

The country of origin is Morocco, North Africa. The year is unknown.

# Islamic Silver and Black Necklace



This necklace was created by the Tuareg people, of Niger, North Africa, in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

The Black Beads are ebony, and the rest of the necklace is silver.

# Islamic Amulet Pendant



This Necklace was created in the 20th century of silver, cloisonné, and amber.

It's origin is Mauritania, North Africa.

The amulet is the hollow, silver bead that serves as a pendant, and also as a place to hold religious text.



# Islamic Silver Chain Necklace



This silver chain necklace was made in the early 20th century in Yemen.

No other information is available.

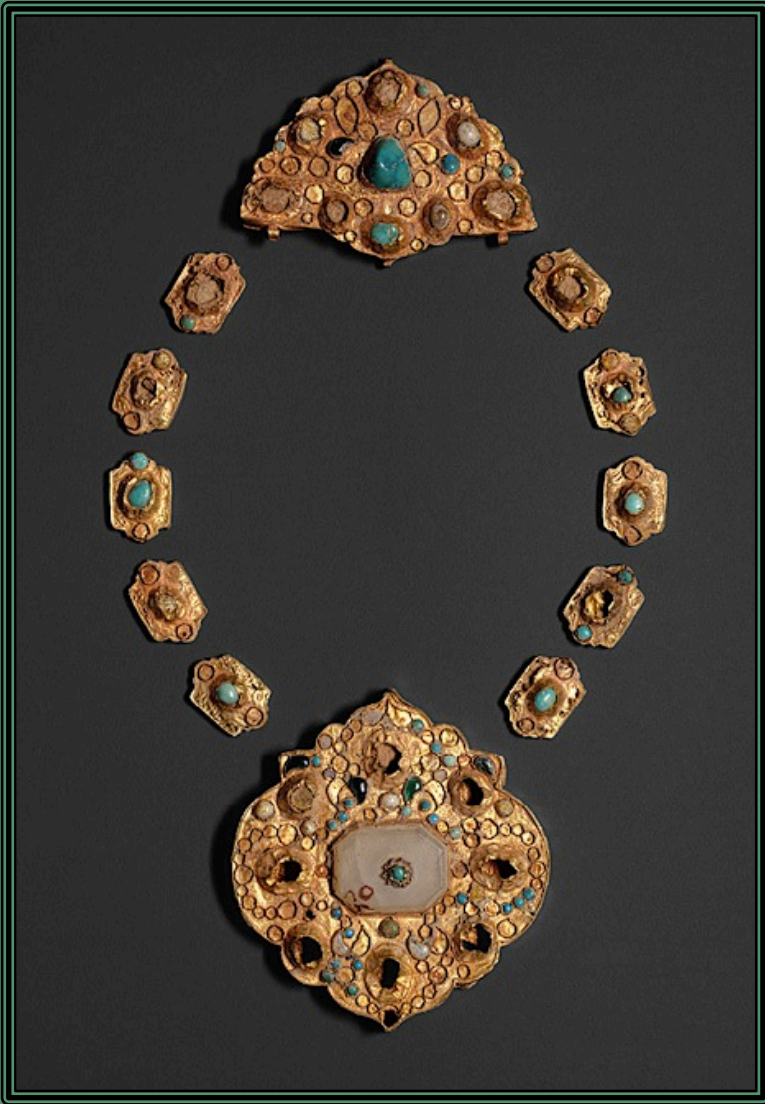
# Tuareg Islamic Pendant



This Tuareg Necklace was made of silver in the 19th century.

It's origin is Niger, North Africa.

## Gold Large Medallion Necklace



This necklace was made during the Timurid period (1370–1507) in Iran or Central Asia. It was created with Gold sheet, worked, chased, and set with turquoise, gray chalcedony, and glass.

## Pair of Gold Earrings



The back & front sides are shown.

These earrings are quite old - from 11th century Greater Syria.

They are made of gold, fabricated from wire and sheet, and decorated with granulation.

They were originally outlined with strung pearls and/or stones.

They are an elaborate example of filigree and granulation work from the Fatimid period in Egypt and Greater Syria (969–1171.) They're examples of both of the most characteristic goldsmith work and of one of the most popular shapes for jewelry of this period—the *hīlal*, or crescent (moon.)



## Pair of Gold Earrings



The back & front sides are shown.

These large earrings (almost 2 ½ inches wide) were created in Greater Iran during the 11th–12th centuries. They are made of gold wire and gold filigree.

This pair of crescent-shaped earrings is constructed entirely with gold wire and gold filigree; details of the decoration are achieved through the openwork filigree and fine granulation.

# Gold Bejeweled Earrings



These earrings are from 17th century Morocco

They are fabricated from gold sheet and gold wire, and engraved, enameled, and set with precious stones - rubies and emeralds.

# Headdress



Made in late 19th–early 20th century, in Central Asia or Iran, of silver, **table-cut carnelians**, turquoise beads, and silver gilded link chain.

Turkmen women wear a variety of different headdresses called **sinsile**. This piece, an example of the type worn by young girls every day until they are married, is remarkable for its opulence.

It is a crown richly embellished with 377 turquoise beads and 33 table-cut carnelians. Thirteen pendants in teardrop form suspended from chains hang from the bottom section of the crown.

The upper section is decorated with **three half moons**, a **symbol of the rise and decline of human life**.



# Jewelry in Islamic Lands

Prepared by Marilyn Schaffer  
For  
The PIER Institute on The Worlds of Islam,  
Summer 2014

Hopefully this set of slides has inspired you to learn more about the wealth of Islamic Jewelry.

You might start at the following two websites:

[http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/turk/hd\\_turk.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/turk/hd_turk.htm)

<http://artgallery.yale.edu/custom-search?keys=Islamic+jewelry>