

Manuscript Bingo

Names:

Manuscript:

Assignment: Circle the terms from this glossary which apply to your volume:

Bindings: Islamic bindings consisted not only of two covers and a spine, but also a fore-edge flap attached to the back cover and an envelope flap attached to the fore-edge flap. By this design, the fore-edge of the manuscript would be covered when the volume was closed, and the envelope flap would lie on top of the front cover (or sometimes underneath the front cover). Islamic manuscripts were traditionally stored horizontally rather than vertically.

Tooling: Impressed decoration into the leather covering.

Block-pressed or Block-stamped: A technique for stamping a large design onto leather using a block of wood, metal, or stone in which the entire design has been incised. A design stamped in this way is also called block-stamped. The medallions and pendants occurring on the covers of bindings were usually block-stamped.

Boards: Boards are the inside supports for the stiff covers at the front and back of a book. Pasteboards covered with leather was common in the Islamic world, though lacquered papier-mâché were frequently used in Persia from the sixteenth-century onwards.

An Initial: An enlarged and decorated letter introducing an important section of a text.

Pen-flourished initial: An initial with a fine linear embellishment, produced with a thin pen and either text ink or colored inks. Blue and red were generally used during the late Romanesque and Gothic periods.

Basmalah: The formula bi-ism Allah al-raman al-rahim "In the name of God, the Beneficent, the Merciful." This formula almost always begins a treatise.

Marginalia: The Latin word for "things in the margin," marginalia refers to any annotations, corrections, glosses, or diagrams that have been written in the margins. They can be written by the copyist himself, but more often they are annotations made by later owners and readers.

Illumination: From the Latin illuminare, "to enlighten or illuminate", an illumination is an embellishment of a manuscript with decorative designs using opaque watercolours and sometime gilding (either as ink or gold leaf).

Rubrications: Headings and important words in texts were often highlighted by being written in red ink, though other colors of ink, and even occasionally gilt, were also used. The most common color, however, was red, and the term rubrication comes from the Latin term for red, rubrica.

Burnished: The surfaces of many Islamic papers have a glossy and shiny appearance due to the process of sizing and burnishing. After the paper was sized, it was then vigorously rubbed with a hard and smooth object to produce a polished surface on the paper. This process is known as burnishing, and a paper is said to be highly burnished if the surface is very smooth and highly polished.

Foliate: To mark the leaves of a manuscript or book with consecutive numbers.

Watermarks: Marks purposefully produced in paper during the manufacturing process by pressure from a projecting design laid in the mold. The paper is made thinner when it comes into contact with this design, and this causes the design to be visible when the paper is held up to the light.

Vellum: A type of white leather, most commonly made from calfskin that has been treated, but not tanned.

Laid lines: Closely-placed lines visible in most papers, resulting from the wires used to string the wooden frame in which the paper was molded.

Ruled: Guides were used to achieve even spacing of the lines for written text and bounding lines for the edges of the text area. In the Islamic world, where paper dominated in the production of secular manuscripts, this was usually done by employing a ruling frame (called, *mistarah*) made of wood with cords placed across it at regular intervals. Each folio of paper was pressed over this frame, whose strings would then leave an impression on the paper which could serve as guidelines.

Pricking: The marking with a point or knife as a guide to ruling.

Sizing: Islamic papers were made non-absorbent so that the ink would stay on the surface of the paper -- a process called sizing -- by treating the paper (after it was molded and dried flat) with a vegetable starch or gum.

Ex libris inscription: An inscription that records a book's inclusion in a library, either institutional or personal. In Islamic manuscripts, these can be hand-written or in the form of a stamped seal (and sometimes both occur for the same owner).

Provenance: the history of a book's ownership. Provenance information may be deduced from evidence relating to the original commission (such as heraldry) from subsequent additions and annotations (including *ex libris* inscriptions, bookplates, and library labelling), or from references in catalogues, correspondence, and other records.

Marbled Paper: Paper decorated with a multi-colored, swirled design or pattern; often used for end papers or for paper covered boards.

This technique emerged in Islamic lands in the fifteenth century, and was imitated in Europe beginning in the seventeenth century.

Colophon: An inscription written at the end of a treatise (or a section of a treatise), in which the copyist records the date on which he completed the copy and sometimes also his name and in what town he was working. Other information can also be included in a colophon, such as the fact that the copyist compared the copy with another important copy to get the best readings.