Early Islamic Art and Architecture: A Model of Cultural Exchange

Photo from WHA Morocco, 2005 (Maxwell)
Expansion under the Prophet Muhammad, 622-632
Expansion under the “Rightly Guided Caliphs,” 632-661
Expansion during the Umayyad Caliphate, 661-750
The Islamic Prophet Muhammad, 17th century Ottoman copy of an early 14th century (Ilkhanate period) manuscript of Northwestern Iran or Northern Iraq
Young Muhammad meets the monk Bahira. From Jami’ al-Tavarikh ("The Universal History" or "Compendium of Chronicles") written by Rashid Al-Din and illustrated in Tabriz, Persia, c. 1315.
Muhammad at the Ka’ba
Istanbul, 1595
Depicts Sasanian Khusraw II (590-628)

BUT

Date Yazid I (680-83) in Arabic
Byzantine coin of three imperial figures 638

Almost identical coin struck by al-Malik in 693
Early coins of Caliph Abd al-Malik (646-705)

Top rows imitate the Byzantines

Bottom row introduces the new style of coinage by al-Malik
Dome of the Rock in the Haram al-Sharif
Diocletian’s mausoleum
303 AD
Basilica San Vitale in Ravenna (548 AD)
San Vitale in Ravenna

Dome of the Rock

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Interior San Vitale
Interior mosaics
Dome of the Rock
Great Mosque of Damascus (706-716)
Visigoth influenced shell over mirhrab