Sumiyo OKUMURA

(Independent Scholar)

Mongol Legacies on Mamluk Carpets: Cultural Influence Brought by Turkic Artisans
Migrated from the Mongol Empire to the Mamluk Sultanate

Mamluk carpets, woven in Cairene workshops between the years of 1450-1550, are thought to have been influenced by the culture, which was brought by Turkic artisans who migrated into the Mamluk State from the Mongol Empire. When we compared Mamluk carpets with other artistic branches of Mamluk arts, its octagonal composition and details are distinguished by having an important place only on carpets. Actually the carpet and textile industry developed in Egyptian cities like El-Behnesa, Asyut, Dimyat and Ihmim in the tenth to the thirteenth centuries. The growth of the industry of Egyptian carpets with these motifs and compositions are thought to be attributed to the expansion of the Mediterranean world and to the Mongol / Eurasian legacies which were embedded in the culture of weavers of Turkic origin. In this paper, I will shed light on the Mongol legacies brought by Turkic artisans and how it reflected on Mamluk textiles, especially Mamluk carpets.