



المؤتمر الثالث عشر  
لوزراء الثقافة  
في دول العالم الإسلامي  
The 13th Conference Of Culture  
Ministers In The Islamic World



## 13<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the Ministers of Culture in the Islamic World

6 Impact of Culture on  
Socio-Economic Development

4.5

**Illustrated Dictionary of the History of Arabic Calligraphy**

Submitted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Jeddah  
Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

12-13  
February

2025



The Illustrated Dictionary of the History of Arabic Calligraphy is a major cultural project seeking to document the history of the Arab-Islamic language, culture and knowledge. It is the first work of its kind in terms of the concept, vision, approach, and scientific production, as it transcends the conventional method based on tracing the historical development in meaning and connotation of letters, words and verbal phrases, to include aspects of art form, linguistic image and visual markers. These aspects

are key in highlighting the centrality of the meanings of calligraphy as integral part of Arabic as a language.

This major cultural project aims primarily to emphasize the originality and distinction of Arabic calligraphy. It is a standalone form of writing, not derived from any other tradition, which first emerged in the Arabian Peninsula, flourishing under the nurturing civilizational and cultural influence of this region, which represents present-day Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

## Project summary

### General Conception

The proposal aligns with the Kingdom's knowledge leadership in two ways:

**First:** Emphasizing the originality of Arabic calligraphy, as a standalone form of art that is not the result of external influence, but rather a genuine Arab product originating from the Arabian Peninsula, as evidenced by early Arabs referring to it as "our Arabic calligraphy" in their comparative studies of the forms of Arabic letters and their forms in other writings and scripts. This resolves the Arab-Orientalist dispute about the origins of Arabic calligraphy and refutes claims of external influence outside the Arabian Peninsula.

**Second:** The first dictionary of its kind to trace the lexicographical roots of Arabic calligraphy, through a new - unprecedented - conceptualization of the eras of Arabic calligraphy.

This dictionary consists of three large-sized volumes (21 x 29 cm) with a minimum of 1700 pages. The first volume deals with the ten eras of Arabic calligraphy, namely: Beginnings, Emergence, Inception, Integration, Diversity, Authorship, Refinement, Revival, Renewal, and Artificial Intelligence. The second volume deals with the letters (أ to ي) in terms of the aspects of form and image in related words, concepts, and terms. As for the third volume, it deals with the emergence of calligraphy types and their historical development as described in heritage references, starting with the Jazm calligraphy (pre-Islamic) to modern and contemporary typographic fonts.

### Phases

The project consists of five phases, namely:

- 1- Preparing a writing guidebook for the project.
- 2- Building the project's databases of sources, references and images.
- 3- Call for papers and authoring
- 4- Peer-reviewing and proofreading.
- 5- Editing.



## General Estimates of the Project

**1- Size:** The project is divided into three large-size volumes (size: 21 x 29 centimeters).

**2- Pages:** Each volume is approximately 570 pages x 3 volumes = 1700 pages.

**3- Figures and images:** Each volume contains at least 300 items of:

- a. Drawings, diagrams, figures, representations, and illustrations of letters, words, and engravings.
- b. Illustrative charts, diagrams, and mental maps.
- c. Works of calligraphers and paintings (commissioned or acquired for the Dictionary: 25 works).

These artworks are specially commissioned for the project. The rest of the photographs and calligraphic paintings are also mostly published for the first time.

### 4- Research works and scientific papers:

- a. Volume I: 25 papers x 20 pages = 500 pages.
- b. Volume II: 29 papers x 10 pages = 290 pages.  
150 articles x 2 pages = 300 pages.
- c. Volume III: 250 articles x 2 pages = 500 pages.

### 5- Timeframe:

Three years (of scientific work), with the first two years devoted to planning, drafting, evaluating, reviewing, revising, proofreading, and copy editing. The third year is devoted to editing, design, and technical preparation (before printing).



        
JOIN US ! انضموا إلينا REJOIGNEZ-NOUS