

**Masterpieces of Islamic Art and Architecture, Monday, October 29, 2001**  
**Fatimid Tiraz Textiles—an Eternal Tradition**  
**The Fatimid Public Text**

Terms

*Tiraz*—a word borrowed from Persian, originally meaning ‘embroidery’. In Arabic, it came to mean a robe adorned with elaborate embroidery, especially one embroidered with bands of writing, and worn by a person of high rank. Later, it came to mean a band of inscription in any media, including stone.

*‘alama*—royal badge or emblem.

*Dar al-tiraz*—royal textile mill and workshop which produced *tiraz* textiles.

*tiraz al-khassa*—private (production)

*tiraz al-‘amma*—public (production)

tapestry weaving

embroidering

Places of Tiraz textile production in Egypt

Misr (Cairo), Damietta, Shata, Bura, Tuna, Tinnis and Dabqu

People

Nasir-i Khusraw, Persian traveller who visited Fatimid Cairo in 1047.

Buildings in Cairo

Al-Azhar mosque, founded 970

al-Hakim mosque, completed 1002-3

al-Aqmar mosque, founded 1125

Further reading

J. Bloom, “The Mosque of al-Hakim in Cairo”, *Muqarnas* I (1983), 15-36.

C. Williams, “The Cult of the ‘Alid Saints in the Fatimid Monuments of Cairo Part I: the Mosque of al-Aqmar”, *Muqarnas* I (1983), 37-52.