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Note to the Reader

The system used for transliteration from Arabic is essentially that of the *Encyclopaedia of Islam*, with the following modifications: *j* replaces *dj*, *q* replaces *k*, and subscript dots and superscript hyphens are omitted. Please note that exceptions are Miriam Ali-de-Unzaga's contribution (pp. 110–25), in which the diacritic marks have been retained at the author's request, and the chapter "Arabic Inscriptions Reread" (pp. 60–65).

For foreign words, proper nouns, and names of places and historic personages that have entered the English language or have a generally recognized English form, the anglicized, unaccented version has been used.

Frequently used foreign terms appear in italics at the first mention in each essay and in roman type thereafter.

Hijra dates are indicated with *AH* and accompanied by the corresponding common era date in the following manner: AH 510 (1116) or (AH 510 / 1116).

The back pocket of this volume contains two inserts: a reproduction of the chasuble in its current state, and an approximate reconstruction of the chasuble's original distribution of gold and blue.

