

## Bookmaking

During the rule of the Abbasids, Chinese soldiers captured during a battle in central Asia were discovered to be artisans skilled in paper making. These Chinese prisoners taught their captors how to make paper, and this new skill spread throughout the empire. As a result, books became more available and contributed to interest in all kinds of learning. Furthermore, since both designs and calligraphy were used to decorate books, it became a status symbol to own them. Indeed, a sign of a wealthy person was a well-stocked library.