Is There an Image Problem in Islam? Materials for the History of an Idea

Finbarr Barry Flood,
William R. Kenan Jr., Professor of the Humanities,
Institute of Fine Arts and Department of Art History, New York University.

September 19, 2014

Key Names and Terms:
Qur'an (or Koran)
hadith - Traditions of the Prophet Muhammad (d. 632 CE)
fiqh - Islamic jurisprudence
Aniconism
Iconoclasm
Umayyads, the first Islamic dynasty (r. 661-750 CE)
Ottomans (ca. 1299-1922 CE)

Selected Works Shown:
Depiction of the Prophet Muhammad, from Jean de Vignay's Speculum historiale, Paris, 14th cent. Bibliothèque nationale de France, Manuscrit Français 52.

Anonymous, Iconoclasts attacking an image of the Adoration of the Magi, Flanders, late 16th or early 17th century century, oil on wood panel (104 x 140 cms). Douai, Musée de la Chartreuse.

Glass wall mosaics, Friday Mosque of Damascus (715 CE)

Floor mosaic, Church on the Acropolis, Ma‘in, Jordan, 719-20 CE


Tercüme-i cifru’il-câmi (Translation of the Comprehensive Jafr), manuscript created for the future sultan Mustafa III, Istanbul, 1747.

Further Reading:


