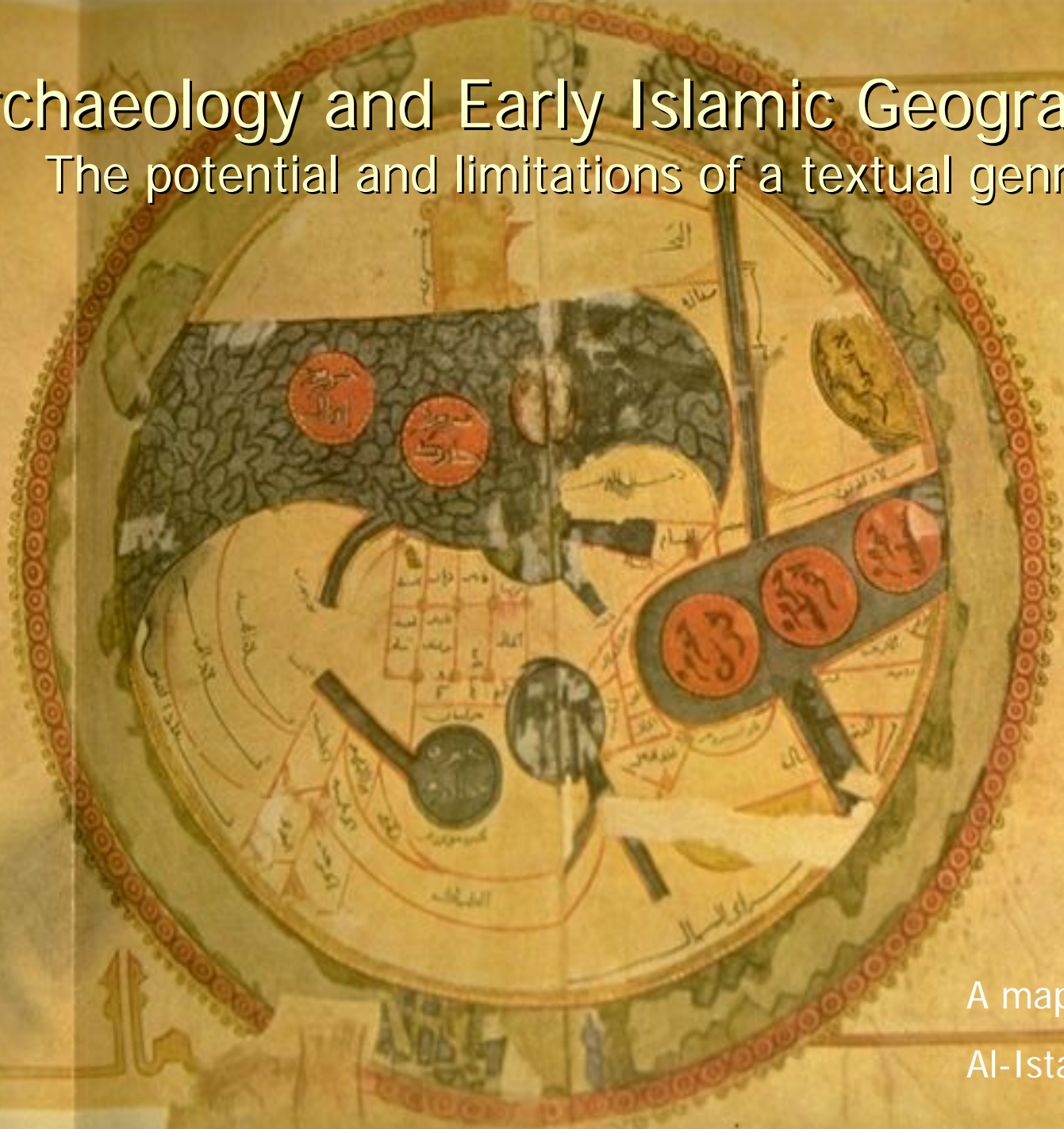


Archaeology and Early Islamic Geography: The potential and limitations of a textual genre

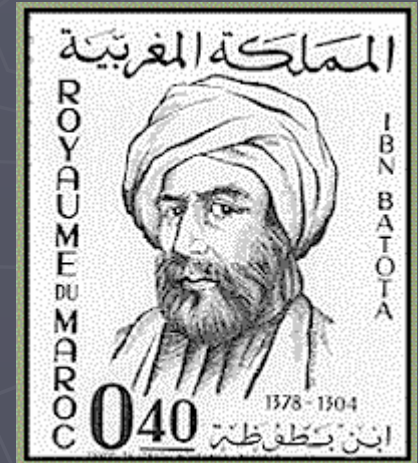


A map of the world

Al-Idrisi 977

Types of Geography

- ▶ Astronomical/Quantitative geography
- ▶ Descriptive Geography
 - The emergence of the Balkhi School
 - Compendia
 - Urban biographical dictionaries
- ▶ Cartography
- ▶ Travel-logs (*al-rihla* literature)



Role of Geography in Early Muslim Society

- ▶ Determining the Direction of Prayer
- ▶ Administration of Empire
 - Postal service
 - Cultures and their customs
 - Territorial boundaries
- ▶ Trade and Travel
- ▶ Building the Community of Believers

Al-Muqaddasi and his geographical systematics

- ▶ Methodology and terminology
 - Marking Muslim territory – the idea of a *Mamlakat al-Islam*
 - Strict hierarchy of places
 - Defining one's terms and the difficulties of using an emic typology
- ▶ Ethnographic observation
 - Importance of being there
 - What is worthy of reporting