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Astronomy and Astrology in the Medieval Islamic World
The Transmission of Planetary Theories in Ancient and Medieval Astronomy
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Planetary Diagrams for Roman Astronomy in Medieval Europe, CA 800-1500
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this book provides an overview of the astronomical practices that continued through the so called dark ages like the astronomies of traditional societies early medieval astronomies established a religious framework of sacred time and ritual calendar here christian feasts tied to a pre christian ritual solar calendar the date of easter tied to the hebrew lunar calendar and the timing of monastic prayers in terms of the course of the stars coupled with the remnants of ancient geometrical

astronomy these provided the framework for the rebirth of astronomy with the rise of the medieval universities

this is a survey of the numerous astronomical tables compiled in the late middle ages which represent a major intellectual enterprise such tables were often the best way available at the time for transmitting precise information to the reader

in this selection of studies j l mancha explores aspects of the development of medieval optics and astronomy including some medieval antecedents of the work of early modern astronomers the articles deal with latin hebrew and arabic texts and the process of translation and transmission of knowledge and focus on three main themes first the theory and astronomical use of the pinhole camera in the 12th and 13th centuries the texts edited here contain a solution to the problem of the formation of images cast by light through triangular apertures equivalent to kepler s a description of the correct procedure for measuring solar apparent diameters using finite apertures and a derivation of the sun s eccentricity from its apparent diameters at apogee and perigee second the characteristics of the latin and provençal versions of levi ben gerson s astronomical work composed in collaboration with the author as well as his tables and canons for finding syzygies and the mathematical methods used in the derivation of parameters third different aspects of the survival of homocentric astronomy in the middle ages especially al bitruji s model for trepidation and the technique for calculating the hippopede resulting from eudoxan couples

studies on the transmission of medieval mathematical astronomy opens with a new survey of the transmission of hellenistic astronomy followed by two studies on how the notion of precession was treated by babylonian greek indian arabic and latin hands next is a survey of the astronomical tables that appeared in latin during the 12th century drawn mainly from arabic and to some extent from hebrew as well as a special study of the latin tables for london and pisa drawn originally from the 10th century islamic astronomer al sufi for the sanskrit texts the focus is on the demonstration that the systems were founded on observations made in india even though much of the theory was greek in origin on byzantine material there are studies of the persian syntaxis whose source lay in the persian zij i ilkhani and of the diverse materials drawn on by gemistus plethon mercier s work shows that there is a unity in medieval astronomy in spite of the great diversity in cultural settings which included south and central asia the middle east byzantium and europe the texts were recorded in all the major languages of this great region from sanskrit to latin over a period of time stretching from the late classical world to late medieval europe yet these astronomical texts have much in common drawn from the whole apparatus of ptolemaic or rather more inclusively greek astronomy transmission is demonstrated partly by the continuity of technical terms and partly by the conservation and development of numerical parameters

the encyclopaedia fills a gap in both the history of science and in cultural studies reference works on other cultures tend either to omit science completely or pay little attention to it and those on the history of science almost always start with the greeks with perhaps a mention of the islamic world as a translator of greek scientific works the purpose of the encyclopaedia is to bring together knowledge of many disparate fields in one place and to legitimize the study of other cultures science our aim is not to claim the superiority of other cultures but to engage in a mutual exchange of ideas the western academic divisions of science technology

and medicine have been united in the encyclopaedia because in ancient cultures these disciplines were connected this work contributes to redressing the balance in the number of reference works devoted to the study of western science and encourages awareness of cultural diversity the encyclopaedia is the first compilation of this sort and it is testimony both to the earlier eurocentric view of academia as well as to the widened vision of today there is nothing that crosses disciplinary and geographic boundaries dealing with both scientific and philosophical issues to the extent that this work does xi personal note from the editor many years ago i taught african history at a secondary school in central africa

in on both sides of the strait of gibraltar julio sams² studies the history of medieval astronomy in al andalus muslim spain the maghrib and the christian kingdoms of the iberian peninsula he proves that the arabic latin hebrew castilian and catalan sources belong to the same tradition whose origin can be dated in the 11th century due to the changes in ptolemy's astronomical theory introduced by the toledan astronomer ibn al zarq² illuh azarquiel the book also analyses the role of al andalus and the iberian peninsula in the transmission of islamic astronomy to europe and justifies the fact that eastern islamic works published after ca 950 ce were not accessible to medieval european scholars because they had not reached al andalus

this volume of 12 studies mainly published during the past 15 years begins with an overview of the islamic astronomy covering not only sophisticated mathematical astronomy and instrumentation but also simple folk astronomy and the ways in which astronomy was used in the service of religion it continues with discussions of the importance of islamic instruments and scientific manuscript illustrations three studies deal with the regional schools that developed in islamic astronomy in this case egypt and the maghrib another focuses on a curious astrological table for calculating the length of life of any individual the notion of the world centred on the sacred kaaba in mecca inspired both astronomers and proponents of folk astronomy to propose methods for finding the qibla or sacred direction towards the kaaba their activities are surveyed here the interaction between the mathematical and folk traditions in astronomy is then illustrated by an 11th century text on the qibla in transoxania the last three studies deal with an account of the geodetic measurements sponsored by the caliph al ma m² n in the 9th century a world map in the tradition of the 11th century polymath al b² r² n² alas corrupted by careless copying and a table of geographical coordinates from 15th century egypt

this work hypothesizes that astronomical symbols on ancient and medieval coins were often used as a way of recording actual celestial events of that period the author provides more than 550 figures and line drawings of coins maps and astronomical events to illustrate this hypothesis

this volume focuses on the development of astronomy in al andalus islamic spain relating it to the astronomical science of the latin west both islamic and european science survived the latin astronomical tradition after the arab conquest of 711 and then the influence of arabic science in christian spain

astronomy across cultures a history of non western astronomy consists of essays dealing with the astronomical knowledge and beliefs of cultures outside the united states and europe in addition to articles surveying islamic chinese native american aboriginal australian polynesian egyptian and tibetan astronomy among others the

book includes essays on sky tales and why we tell them and astronomy and prehistory and astronomy and astrology the essays address the connections between science and culture and relate astronomical practices to the cultures which produced them each essay is well illustrated and contains an extensive bibliography because the geographic range is global the book fills a gap in both the history of science and in cultural studies it should find a place on the bookshelves of advanced undergraduate students graduate students and scholars as well as in libraries serving those groups

proceedings of the joint discussion 17 at the 23rd iau general assembly organised by the commission 41 held in kyoto japan august 25 26 1997

during the middle ages and early modern times tables were a most successful and economical way to present mathematical procedures and astronomical models and to facilitate computations before the sixteenth century astronomical models introduced by ptolemy in antiquity were rarely challenged and innovation consisted in elaborating new methods for calculating planetary positions and other celestial phenomena essays on medieval computational astronomy includes twelve articles that focus on astronomical tables offering many examples where the meaning and purpose of such tables has been determined by careful analysis in evaluating the work of medieval scholars we are mindful of the importance of applying criteria consistent with their own time which may be different from those appropriate for other periods

this collection of studies by edward kennedy looks first at questions of spherical astronomy celestial mapping and planetary models and then deals with astrological calculations throughout the author emphasises the importance of advances in mathematics for understanding the development of medieval arabic sciences this collection of studies based on previously unexploited manuscript sources in arabic and persian they were written by authors from the 9th through the 15th centuries whose locations reached from south china in the east through central asia the middle and near east and north africa to spain in the west the topics are predominately astronomical rather than astrological the former include eclipse predictions problems in spherical astronomy non ptolemaic planetary theory and the achievements of ulugh beg and his observatory astrological subjects treated are the method of calculating the ascendant and how to determine astrological houses and lots an astrological history of the career of genghis khan is also described

this is the first comprehensive study of an ingenious number notation from the middle ages that was devised by monks and mainly used in monasteries a simple notation for representing any number up to 99 by a single cipher somehow related to an ancient greek shorthand first appeared in early 13th century england brought from athens by an english monk a second more useful version due to cistercian monks is first attested in the late 13th century in what is today the border country between belgium and france with this any number up to 9999 can be represented by a single cipher the ciphers were used in scriptoria for the foliation of manuscripts for writing year numbers preparing indexes and concordances numbering sermons and the like and outside the scriptoria for marking the scales on an astronomical instrument writing year numbers in astronomical tables and for incising volumes on wine barrels related notations were used in medieval and renaissance shorthands and coded scripts this richly illustrated book surveys the medieval manuscripts and renaissance books in which the ciphers occur and takes a

close look at an intriguing astrolabe from 14th century picardy marked with ciphers with indices mit kings luzider beschreibung und bewertung der einzelnen funde und ihrer beziehungen wird zugleich die forschungsgeschichte die bis dato durch widerspruechlichkeit und diskontinuit t gepr gt ist umfassend aufgearbeitet zeitschrift fuer germanistik

early medieval astronomy esp in the era of charlemagne his successors consisted of texts that went far beyond the boundaries of computus which modern scholars have long believed to be the only significant context for astronomical studies of that time the texts contained innovative diagrams where no other sign of divergence from the text could be seen such diagrams were found to provide an indication of understandings of the texts which were different from those of modern scholars contents astronomy its teaching in carolingian europe functions locations of planetary diagrams sources topics of planetary diagrams plinian diagrams macrobian diagrams calcidian diagrams capellan diagrams illus this is a print on demand publication

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