

The Arithmetic of Al-Uqlīdisī

The Story of Hindu-Arabic Arithmetic as told
in Kitāb al-Fuṣūl fi al-Ḥisāb al-Hindī

by
Abū al-Ḥasan, Aḥmed ibn Ibrāhīm al-Uqlīdisī
written in Damascus in the year 341 (A.D. 952/3)

Translated and annotated by

A. S. SAIDAN
Jordan University

1977, approx. 500 pp.
Cloth approx. Dfl. 195,- / US \$78.00

About al-Uqlīdisī, we know nothing except that in A.D. 952/3 he wrote this book in Damascus. The work, however, the earliest extant Arabic text of Hindu arithmetic, shows the author as a prolific writer and an expert in teaching the subject.

That the earliest decimal sign and treatment of decimal fractions is herein presented is now well-known, but there are many other novelties awaiting the reader. Many innovations so far attributed by D. E. Smith and others to early European writers will henceforth be credited to their proper inventors in the Middle East.

The Introduction and the Commentary Notes present ample knowledge for the student of history of science. The writer, Professor A. S. Saidan, of Jordan University, is a specialist in the field. He has spent many years studying the development of Hindu Arithmetic in Arabic works. The present work is one of many publications that he has presented to the scholarly world.



D. Reidel Publishing Company

P.O. Box 17, Dordrecht-Holland
Lincoln Building, 160 Old Derby Street,
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The British Journal for the History of Science

July 1977

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Published by

The British Society for the History of Science

Registered Office: Halfpenny Furze, Mill Lane, Chalfont St Giles, Bucks. HP8 4NR

Price: £4.00 or \$12.00 including postage
(Free to members of the Society)

Brit. J. Hist. Sci. 10 No. 35
Published July 1977