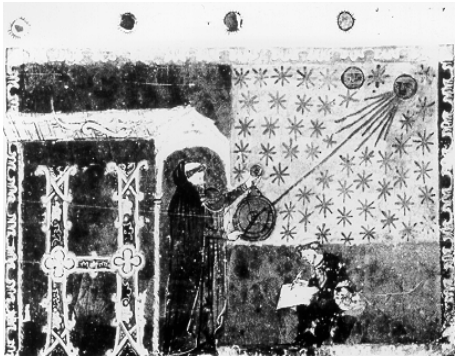
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF HISTORY & PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE



CHAMA NEWSLETTER

Commission for History of Ancient and Medieval Astronomy

Editors: S.M. Razaullah Ansari, Anne Tihon Vol.5, 2 (2007)Vol.6,1 (March 2008)
Assistant Secretary: Aurélie Gribomont Website: http:// chama.fltr.ucl.ac.be

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Foreword by the President

We are presenting in this issue notices of eight recently published astronomical/astrological books. Noteworthy is the following: While the one edited by Dirk Obbink is in Greek verse, the only astrological work of its kind , the corpus of astrological treatises *Les Alchandreana* (ca. tenth century AD) by D. Juste, is "an exceptional testimony of cross-cultural exchanges between Christian, Arabic and Jewish scholars". In the same vein, we may mention Greek and Roman time schemes as presented in *Caesar's Calendar* by Denis Feeney. Interesting are also the John Ramsey's *Descriptive Catalogue* of Graeco-Roman 73 cometary-like objects, and edition of Andreas Cellarius' collection of celestial atlases depicting world systems of Ptolemy, Copernicus, and Tycho Brahe. Of special mention is, however, George Saliba's *Islamic Science and the Making of the European Renaissance*,[1] in which he presents detailed evidence for the originality of Islamic astronomy for instance. Actually, his basic thesis is that early translations from mainly Arabic sources led to an organic relationship between the Islamic scientific thought and the European science that originated during the Renaissance.

I request our readers to note especially a news item on the *XXIIIrd International Congress of History of Science and Technology*, to be held in Budapest in July 2009. The theme of the Congress is "*Ideas and Instruments in Social Context* ". The deadlines for various submissions are also listed. The first circular of the Congress is now available on the Internet. This Commission has already informed the Chairperson of LOC, Prof. Eva Vamos, its intention to organize a symposium at the Congress. In this regard, it may also be noted that 2009 has been declared by UNESCO as the '*Year of Astronomy*'. Consequently, CHAMA Symposium at the ICHST-2009 may highlight particularly the impulse and impact of astronomy in the

[1] See the forthcoming detailed review by S.M.R. Ansari in *Indian J. of History of Science*, Vol. 43 (2008).

development of astronomical sciences in various world cultures. May I invite the readers to kindly suggest topics for our Symposium!

It is a matter of great pleasure to record here that Prof. Alexander Jones (University of Toronto, Canada) has been awarded the *Francis Bacon Prize* in the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology. On that occasion, a Meeting was organised on May 31st - June 2, 2007 by the Californian Institute of Technology, Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences (Pasadena, CA). The theme of the Meeting was *Ptolemy in Perspective: Use and Criticism of his Work from Antiquity to the Present*. Prof. Jones was invited to present the Keynote address. Anne Tihon has reported details of that Meeting in this issue. This Commission congratulates Prof. Jones for this award whole-heartedly.

Kindly take notice of the Report on our efforts to organise a symposium on '*Ptolemy, his Time and Works* ', which was planned for May/June 2008 in Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium). It is sad that we couldn't organise it, due to lack of funds at our disposal. We intend now to merge our proposed symposium in the CHAMA Symposium at the ICHS-2009.

Last but not the least, we publish a short list of papers published recently and by the members of CHAMA particularly. Please do oblige us by sending a list of your recent publications and projects.

S. M. RAZAULLAH ANSARI

XXIII International Congress of History of Science and Technology

Ideas and Instruments in Social Context
26 - 31 July, 2009
Budapest, Hungary

The Hungarian National IUHPS Committee is pleased to invite you to attend and take an active part in the XXIII International Congress of History of Science and Technology in Budapest between 26 and 31 July, 2009.

The XXIII International Congress of History of Science and technology will be supported by the Hungarian Government, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the Budapest City Council, the Federation of Technical and Scientific Societes and other local institutions and organisations.

The World Academy of Young Scientists (with its seat in Budapest) will contribute to wide participation of young people from all over the world

Members of the Local Organising Committee

Chairperson **:** Prof. Dr. Éva VÁMOS, Hungarian Museum for Science and Technology, Budapest
Vice-chair for local arrangements **:** Dr. Gusztáv HENCSEY, SCOPE Meetings Ltd.
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Important deadlines

Deadline for symposia proposals: 30 June 2008
2nd Circular of the ICHST 2009 to be sent out: 30 September 2008
Deadline for determination of the final symposia programs: 15 December 2008
Deadline for grant application: 15 December 2008
Deadline for submission of paper abstract: 15 March 2009
Deadline for early registration: 30 April 2009

Contact

Prof. Dr. Éva Vámos
Chairperson of the LOC
Dr. Gusztáv Hencsey
Vice-chair for local arrangements SCOPE Ltd.
Kende u. 13-17., H-1111 Budapest, Hungary

phone: +36-1-209-6001, 279-6188
fax: +36-1-386-9378
e-mail: ichst09@conferences.hu

For further information :

http://www.conferences.hu/ichst09/invitation.htm

Francis Bacon Prize

The Francis Bacon Prize in the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology was awarded to Alexander Jones (University of Toronto, Canada). In order to celebrate this event, the Californian Institute of Technology, Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences (Pasadena, CA) organized a meeting *Ptolemy in Perspective: Use and Criticism of his Work from Antiquity to the Present*, May 31 - June 2, 2007. The keynote lecture was given by A. Jones : *Erigor dum corrigor : Ptolemy condemned or vindicated ?* This Latin expression comes from an ancient engraving showing Ptolemy lying down under the Copernican system, and saying the words which can be translated as "I stand erect again, while I am corrected", or "I take courage, while I am corrected". A. Jones presented a synthesis of Ptolemy's works, with a special emphasis on the *Harmonics* and the *Peri kriteriou*. The lecture was followed by refreshments and a dinner at the Athenaeum. At the end of the dinner, the Francis Bacon Prize was given to A. Jones by J. Buchwald. The programme of talks by other scholars was as follows.

1st of June.

Anne Tihon (Université Catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium), *A new astronomical Document contemporary with Ptolemy*, in which she presented a papyrus discovered in Cairo by the French papyrologist Jean-Luc Fournet. This important document contains an example for 130 A. D., making the text contemporary with Ptolemy. It is a rather long text, which provides many new elements such as an observation by Hipparchus of the summer solstice of 158 B. C. and is based on tables unknown elsewhere. See the *abstract* of the talk on p.13.

Stephan Heilen (Illinois, Urbana Champaign), *Ptolemy's Doctrine of the Terms and its reception,* in which he presented the various theories of the astrological *Oria* (*Termini*) according to Ptolemy's *Tetrabiblos* : Egyptian and Chaldean systems, and also a system supposedly taken "from an ancient book". He showed that this ancient book is a fiction and that the last system is due to Ptolemy himself. He gave a survey of the various systems in the following astrological tradition.

Jamil Rajep (McGill University, Montreal), *Islamic Reactions to Ptolemy's Imprecision*, in which he analysed especially the criticism of al-Battânî (chap. 27) of Ptolemy's theories on the length of the sidereal and tropical years.

Florian Mittenhuber (Bern), *The relation between texts and maps in the tradition of Ptolemy's Geography*, in which the work done by the Swiss team under the direction of Alfred Stückelberger and Gerd Grasshoff on the manuscripts of Ptolemy's *Geography*, especially the ms. *Seragliensis* G1 57 (Istanbul) was presented. He showed by a careful analysis that the maps preserved in the manuscripts are probably a production of the Late Antiquity and not, as often repeated, a Byzantine reconstruction by Maximos Planudes at the end of the XIIIth century. This talk was an opportunity to present the

new edition of Ptolemy's Geography, *Ptolemaios Handbuch der Geographie*, herausgegeben von Alfred Stückelberger und Gerd Grasshoff (in collaboration with Florian Mittenhuber, Renate Burri, Klaus Geus, Gerhard Winkler, Suzanne Ziegler, Judith Hindermann, Lutz Koch, Kurt Keller), Schwabe Verlag, Basel, 2006.

Darrel Rutkin, *The Use and Abuse of Ptolemy in Renaissance and Early modern Europe : Two Case Studies,* in which he spoke about the criticism of astrology by Giovanni Pico della Mirandola (*Disputationes adversus astrologiam*) and the refutations made by the defenders of astrology in Italy in the XVIth century, especially the unpublished comments on the lessons of Ristori on Ptolemy's *Tetrabiblos* written by F. Fantoni in the years 1585-1586.

James Voelkel, *Abandonning the Equant*, in which he retraced the history of the criticism opposed to the mechanism of the Equant in the Ptolemaic system by the Arabic astronomers and showed step by step how Kepler came to an "Astronomy without Hypotheses".

François Charette in his talk , *Ptolemy and his Medieval Heirs in the Eyes of Nineteenth-Century Scholarship*, surveyed the various comments and judgements of the science historians in the XIXth century concerning Ptolemy and the Arabic astronomers. Such opinions and ideas as those of Montucla, Lalande, Bailly, Laplace, Delambre, Sédillot, Halma were reviewed here.

John Steele, *The Use of the Almagest eclipse reports in early studies of the Earth's rotation*, in which he surveyed the scientists who made first use of the eclipses reports in order to determine the accelerations in the Earth's rotation (Halley, Newton, Dunthorne, Euler and so on). There was a comparison with Babylonian records of lunar eclipses.

Noel Swerdlow, spoke about the *Astronomia Danica* (1622) of Longomontanus (Christen Sørensen Longberg), showing that some parameters were chosen without any scientific justification.

Each lecture was followed by some discussion. The Proceedings of the meeting are under preparation and will be published.

Report of the Proposed Symposium on "Ptolemy and his Time"

We hoped to be able to organize in Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium) a symposium centred on Ptolemy, his writings and the astronomical context of his time. In that connection a meeting of the President and Secretary took place on October 11, 2007 at Louvain-la-Neuve, where a list of participants and topics of various talks were discussed and compiled. The theme of the Symposium was thought out to be *Ptolemy And His Time: New Edition And Research Projects.*

Ptolemy's original work is still not known in its entirety, and a new document has been discovered, namely, a papyrus exactly contemporaneous with Ptolemy, containing a long astronomical text, with an unedited observation of Hipparchus. The theme of the Symposium was to present the most recent critical edition of Ptolemy's works and editorial projects concerning the *opera minora,* especially the *Handy Tables* and *Planetary Hypotheses*, and the edition of the new papyrus.
Eminent specialists had already accepted to participate : Alex Jones, Jamil Rajep, John Steele, Raymond Mercier, Florian Mittenhuber, and names of other specialists were proposed.
The project was submitted to the Belgian National Scientific Fund (FNRS) with the scientific support of Robert Halleux (University of Liège). The project was accepted and I received a generous financial support. Unfortunately the FNRS grant cannot cover the entire cost of the

symposium, and my Faculty was not able to give any complementary financial support for the year 2008. On the other hand, my University is in a process of reform and restructuring of all the research centres, which leads to some uncertainty about the structures in which scientific events can be organized. Therefore, it seemed to us more reasonable not to organize this symposium in 2008. Nevertheless we think that the project must not be simply dropped: it raised a great interest among the historians of Greek Astronomy, and we hope to be able to organize it later in a better way. The grants sanctioned by FNRS and IUHPS are acknowledged here gratefully.

ANNE TIHON

New Books

1. Dirk Obbink (ed.), *Anubio, Carmen astrologicum elegiacum. Bibliotheca Teubneriana.* Munich and Leipzig: K. G. Saur, 2006. Pages x, 79; pls. 4. ISBN 10: 3-598-71228-6. ISBN 13: 978-3-598-71228-9.

Presentation by the Publisher:
This is the very first edition of the only Greek astrological work ever written in verse. Dating back to the first century AD, this didactic poem complements what we have so far gleaned from Aratus' 'Phaenomena,' 'Manilius,' 'Astronomica,' and Ovid's 'Fasti.'

2. Denis Feeney, *Caesar's Calendar: Ancient Time and the Beginnings of History. Sather Classical Lectures, No 65*. Berkeley: 2007. Pages xiv, 372. $29.95. ISBN 978-0-520-25119-9.

Presentation by the Publisher:
The ancient Romans changed more than the map of the world when they conquered so much of it; they altered the way historical time itself is marked and understood. In this brilliant, erudite, and exhilarating book Denis Feeney investigates time and its contours as described by the ancient Romans, first as Rome positioned itself in relation to Greece and then as it exerted its influence as a major world power. Feeney welcomes the reader into a world where time was moveable and changeable and where simply ascertaining a date required a complex and often contentious cultural narrative. In a style that is lucid, fluent, and graceful, he investigates the pertinent systems, including the Roman calendar (which is still our calendar) and its near perfect method of capturing the progress of natural time; the annual rhythm of consular government; the plotting of sacred time onto sacred space; the forging of chronological links to the past; and, above all, the experience of empire, by which the Romans meshed the city state's concept of time with those of the foreigners they encountered to establish a new worldwide web of time. Because this web of time was Greek before the Romans transformed it, the book is also a remarkable study in the cross-cultural interaction between the Greek and Roman worlds.
Feeney's deployment of specialist material is engaging and accessible and ranges from details of the time schemes used by Greeks and Romans to accommodate the Romans' unprecedented rise to world dominance to an edifying discussion of the fixed axis of B.C./A.D., or B.C.E./C.E., and the supposedly objective "dates" implied. He closely examines the most important of the ancient world's time divisions, that between myth and history, and concludes by demonstrating the impact of the reformed calendar on the way the Romans conceived of time's recurrence. Feeney's achievement is nothing less than the reconstruction of the Roman conception of time, which has the additional effect of transforming the way the reader inhabits and experiences time.

3. John T. Ramsey, *A Descriptive Catalogue of Greco-Roman Comets from 500 B.C. to A.D. 400. Syllecta Classica, 17*. Iowa City, IA: 2006, 242 pages.

Reviewed by Alexandra Smith, Cardiff University (SmithA9@cf.ac.uk) (Bryn Mawr Classical Review 2007.08.32)

This book is a synthesis of a wide range of classical and non-European written sources with the relevant astronomical data and numismatic evidence to provide a description and discussion of 73 objects from antiquity that are, or may be, comets. Ramsey provides an explanation for how each object has been classified, which dates it may fall under, a summary of the existing arguments surrounding the object, and in some cases his own re-dating of the event. It is useful primarily for historians, but non-historians, such as astronomers, could find it instructive and interesting as well.

The purpose of the book is to provide a catalogue of comets from antiquity that is more thorough, detailed, self-contained and up to date than any of the existing comet catalogues. Ramsay acknowledges his indebtedness to the works of Pingré (1783), Gundel (1921), Barrett (1978), Yeomans (1991) and Kronk (1999) in particular (pp. 3-5)[2], and throughout the work he cites both arguments in print and a large number of historians and astronomers on whose expertise he has drawn through personal communication. The result is a catalogue that accounts for more current scholarship than any that precedes it. For all that Ramsay's work is detailed, including all the passages of classical texts in the original language and in translation, and even synopses of the Chinese, Korean and Babylonian evidence, it is still admirably brief and to the point, with few arguments taking more than a page or two to outline. Many are much shorter than this, and the longest by far -- that of the comet shortly after the death of Julius Caesar in 44 B.C. -- spans only 18 pages (pp. 106-125). The book gives clear, concise information regarding 73 objects in our sources that are, or have been thought to be, comets, a good bibliography, access to the evidence (including images of the numismatic evidence) and in many cases, a more precise and accurate re-dating of the comet.

4. J. L. Heilbron, *The Oxford Guide to the History of Physics and Astronomy*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2007.

Presentation by the Publisher:

With over 150 alphabetically arranged entries about key scientists, concepts, discoveries, technological innovations, and learned institutions, the Oxford Guide to Physics and Astronomy traces the history of physics and astronomy from the Renaissance to the present. For students, teachers, historians, scientists, and readers of popular science books such as Galileo's Daughter, this guide deciphers the methods and philosophies of physics and astronomy as well as the historical periods from which they emerged. Meant to serve the lay reader and the professional alike, this book can be turned to for the answer to how scientists learned to measure the speed of light, or consulted for neat, careful summaries of topics as complicated as quantum field theory and as vast as the universe. The entries, each written by a noted scholar and edited by J. L. Heilbron, Professor of History and Vice Chancellor, Emeritus, University of California, Berkeley, reflect the most up-to-date research and discuss the applications of the scientific disciplines to the wider world of religion, law, war, art and literature. No other source on these two branches of science is as informative or as inviting. Thoroughly cross-referenced and accented by dozens of black and white illustrations, the Oxford Guide to Physics and Astronomy is the source to turn to for anyone looking for a quick explanation of alchemy, x-rays and any type of matter or energy in between.

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[2] Pingré, A. G. (1783), *Cométographie ou Traité Historique et Théorique des Comètes.* Vol. 1 (Paris); Gundel, W. (1921) 'Kometen' *RE* vol. 11.1, 1143-93 (Stuttgart); Barrett, A. A. (1978) "Observations of Comets in Greek and Roman Sources before A.D. 410." *Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada* 72.81-106; Yeomans, D. (1991) *Comets: A Chronological History of Observation, Science, Myth and Folklore.* (New York); Kronk, G. (1999) *Cometography: A Catalog of Comets. Vol. 1: Ancient to 1799.* (Cambridge).

5. *The finest atlas of the heavens = Der prächtigste Himmelsatlas = L'atlas céleste le plus admirable* by Andreas Cellarius ; introduction and texts by Robert H. Van Gent ; based on the copy in the Universiteitsbibliotheek Amsterdam; directed and produced by Benedikt Taschen, London, Taschen, 2006, 240 pages.

Presentation by the Publisher:

This collection of celestial atlases by Dutch-German mathematician and cosmographer Andreas Cellarius (c. 1596 – 1665) brings back to life a masterpiece from the Golden Age of celestial cartography. First published in 1660 in Harmonia Macrocosmica, the complete 29 double-folio maps and dozens of unusual details reproduced here depict the world systems of Claudius Ptolemy, Nicolas Copernicus, and Tycho Brahe, the motions of the sun, the moon, and the planets, and the delineation of the constellations in various views. Cellarius's atlas, superbly embellished with richly decorated borders depicting cherubs, astronomers, and astronomical instruments, features some of the most spectacular illustration in the history of astronomy.

This reprint, made from the beautifully hand-colored and complete copy of the first edition in the Library of the Universiteit van Amsterdam, includes a copiously illustrated introduction by Robert van Gent, one of the leading Cellarius experts, summarizing the history of celestial cartography from antiquity to late 17th/early 18th century and illuminating the life and work of Andreas Cellarius. Van Gent also discusses the historical and cultural context and significance of the atlas and provides detailed descriptions of the astronomical and iconographical content of the plates, allowing modern readers to fully appreciate the masterwork of Andreas Cellarius and his publisher, Johannes Janssonius.

The book's detailed appendix includes a list of constellation figures with short descriptions of their origin and mythology, a list of star names found on the plates, a glossary of technical words, and a bibliography.

6. G. Saliba, *Islamic science and the making of the European Renaissance***,** Cambridge, Mass. - London, MIT Press, 2007, 315 p.

Presentation by the Publisher:

The Islamic scientific tradition has been described many times in accounts of Islamic civilization and general histories of science, with most authors tracing its beginnings to the appropriation of ideas from other ancient civilizations--the Greeks in particular. In this thought-provoking and original book, George Saliba argues that, contrary to the generally accepted view, the foundations of Islamic scientific thought were laid well before Greek sources were formally translated into Arabic in the ninth century. Drawing on an account by the tenth-century intellectual historian Ibn al-Nadīm that is ignored by most modern scholars, Saliba suggests that early translations from mainly Persian and Greek sources outlining elementary scientific ideas for the use of government departments were the impetus for the development of the Islamic scientific tradition. He argues further that there was an organic relationship between the Islamic scientific thought that developed in later centuries and the science that came into being in Europe during the Renaissance.

Saliba outlines the conventional accounts of Islamic science, then discusses their shortcomings and proposes an alternate narrative. Using astronomy as a template for understanding the progress of science in Islamic civilization, Saliba demonstrates the originality of Islamic scientific thought. He details the innovations (including new mathematical tools) made by the Islamic astronomers from the thirteenth to sixteenth centuries, and offers evidence that Copernicus could have known of and drawn on their work. Rather than viewing the rise and fall of Islamic science from the often-

narrated perspectives of politics and religion, Saliba focuses on the scientific production itself and the complex social, economic, and intellectual conditions that made it possible.

7. *Mechanics and cosmology in the medieval and early modern period.* Edited by Massimo Bucciantini, Michele Camerota, Sophie Roux, Firenze : L.S. Olschki, 2007, 210p.

Presentation by the Publisher:

The 64th volume of the series "Biblioteca di Nuncius" has been published by Olschki with the title "Mechanics and cosmology in the Medieval and Early Modern Period". Edited by Massimo Bucciantini, Michele Camerota and Sophie Roux, it contains the proceedings of the workshop "Mechanics and Cosmology" held in Florence from 25 to 27 November 2004. The main purpose of the book is to reconstruct the paths followed by mechanical and cosmological ideas in the crucial period between the first exposition of heliocentrism in the "De Revolutionibus" by Copernicus (1543) and the presentation of a new celestial mechanics in the "Principia Mathematica" by Isaac Newton (1687).
The book consists of three parts, coinciding roughly with three historical and conceptual periods. The first part aims at defining factors of permanence and factors of transformation from the Middle Ages onwards; the second part focuses on the early reception of Copernicus in different intellectual contexts; the essays in the third and last part are devoted to different interactions between cosmology and the new science of motion.

8. D. Juste, *Les Alchandreana primitifs : étude sur les plus anciens traités astrologiques latins d'origine arabe* (Xe siècle), Leiden, Brill, 2007, 726 p.

Presentation by the Publisher:

It is well known that medieval Europe owes most of its scientific learning to the translations of Arabic treatises made in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. The earliest Arabic infiltrations in Latin science are however much older. They can be traced back to the tenth century and to the making, in Catalonia, of a large corpus of astrological treatises: the *Alchandreana*. Based mainly on Arabic sources, but also on Hebrew and Latin sources, the *Alchandreana* constitute an exceptional testimony of cross-cultural exchanges between Christian, Arabic and Jewish scholars before the turn of the first millenium. This book offers a historical study, a technical analysis and a critical edition of the whole corpus.

Doctorate Thesis

Mohammad Bagheri, *Books I and IV of Kūshyār ibn Labbān's Jāmiʿ Zīj: An Arabic Astronomical Handbook by an Eleventh-Century Iranian Scholar*, Utrecht University, 2006

Kushyâr ibn Labbân was an Iranian astronomer and mathematician who flourished around 1000 A.D. His major astronomical work was a Zij [astronomical handbook with tables], called the Jâmi` Zîj [the Comprehensive Zij]. It is written in Arabic, the scientific language in the Islamic territories in Kushyâr's time, and it consists of four Books: I. Elementary operations; II. Tables; III. Cosmology; IV. Proofs. My Ph.D. dissertation contains a critical edition of the original Arabic text of Books I and IV, with English translation and commentary. This work will be the first part of the complete edition, translation and commentary of Kushyâr's Jâmi` Zij, which I hope to publish in the near future. When finished, this will be the first complete edition of the Jâmi` Zîj and the first English translation of any complete Zîj. Approximately more than 150 Zijes by different authors in the Islamic astronomical tradition (from the ninth to fifteenth centuries A.D.) have been preserved.

A Zîj usually contains tables with instructions to use them for the computation of solar, lunar and planetary positions. These computations are often based on the methods of Ptolemy's *Almagest* (ca. 150 A.D.). Zijes are often also provided with auxiliary trigonometrical tables, tables for lunar crescent visibility and prayer times, tables of geographical and stellar coordinates, astrological tables, materials on calendars and tables for calendar conversions. The total number of tables in a single Zij may be 150-200. Up till now, only a few studies have been done on Zijes by modern historians of science. Kushyâr's Jâmi` Zîj is interesting because it is a relatively early work, which contains separate Books III and IV on theoretical foundation (not provided in most other Zijes) and because Kushyâr's own innovations made his methods somewhat different from those in Ptolemy's *Almagest*. Kushyâr's chapter on calendars is of special historical interest. My edition of the Jâmi` Zî is based on nine different manuscripts, preserved in Istanbul (3 mss.), Cairo, Leiden (2 mss.), Berlin, Moscow and Alexandria. Only three of these manuscripts contain the entire text of the Jâmi` Zîj.

The text of this thesis can be found at the following address:
http://igitur-archive.library.uu.nl/dissertations/2007-0109-200521/UUindex.html

Publications and Projects of the Members of CHAMA

José Chabás, *From Toledo to Venice : The Alfonsine Tables of Prosdocimo de' Beldomandi of Padua (1424)*, JHA, vol. xxxviii (2007) 269-281.

Raymond Mercier, *The Standard Scheme of the Moon and Its Mean Quantities*, Arch. Hist. Exact Sci., vol. 61 (2007), 252-272.

S.M. R. Ansari, *On Ghulâm Hussain Jaunpûrî and his Works*, in 'The Encyclopaedia of the World of Islam (in Persian)', Tehran, edited by Golâm 'Alî Haddâd 'Âdel, Vol. XI (2007), pp. 387-389, Persian translation of the article by Farid Ghasemlou.

S.M.R. Ansari, *On Sawai Jai Singh*, submitted for ' The Encyclopaedia of Persian Language and Literature in the Subcontinent', Tehran. An abridged version of this article has been published also in *The Biographical Encyclopaedia of Astronomers*, editor-in chief: Thomas Hockey, Springer Science (Holland), 2007, Vol. I, pp. 585-586.

S. M. R. Ansari, *The First Comprehensive Book in Indo-Persian on Modern European Astronomy*, in Proceedings of the Fifth International Conference on Oriental Astronomy, edited by Chen, K.-Y., Orchiston, W., Soonthornthum, B., and Strom, R., Chiang Mai University, Chiang Mai (Thailand), 2006, pp. 81-90.

S.M.R. Ansari, *Early Modern Observatories in India,* in 'Science and Modern India: An Institutional History, ca. 1784-1947', Ed. Uma Das Gupta, to be published under the auspices of the Project of the History of Indian Science, Philosophy and Culture, General Editor, D. P. Chattopadhyaya, New Delhi, expected by the end of 2008.

Jyeshthadeva (16^{th} -17^{th} c.), *Yuktîbhâśa Ganita* (Mathematics), Vol.I, published by Hindusthan Book Agency, New Delhi, 2008. Vol. II (on Astronomy) will be published in a month or two. The text in the South Indian Language, Malayâlam, has been edited and translated into English by a well-known scholar, late K.V. Sarma, with explanatory notes by K. Ramasubramanian (Bombay), M. D. Srinivas and M. S. Sriram (Madras).

S. R. Sarma, *Indian Astronomical Instruments in German Collections*, paper read at the XXXth Conference of the German Orientalists, Freiburg , 24-28 September 2007. Selected talks edited by Rainer Brunner, Jens Peter Laut and Maurus Reinkowski, *On-line* Publication, Feb.2008, URL: http://orient.ruf.uni-freiburg.de/dotpub/sarma.pdf .

A. Tihon, *Ptolemaiou Procheiroi Canones*, vol. I (tables A1-A2),
part a : A. Tihon, *Les Tables Faciles de Ptolémée, édition d'après les manuscrits en onciale du IXe-Xe siècles*;
part b: R. Mercier, *Ptolemy's Handy Tables, Transcription and Commentary.*
(to appear in 2008-2009).

Periodicals

The last issue of *Suhayl* (Barcelona) Vol 6 (2006) includes the following papers of our interest:

Boris Rosenfeld, A Second Supplement to *Mathematicians, Astronomers, and other Scholars of Islamic Civilisation and their Works* (9-79)

Gerrit Bos and Tzvi Langermann, Pseudo-Galen, *al-Adwiya 'l-maktūma*, with the commentary of Hunayn ibn Ishaq (81-112)

Emilia Calvo and Roser Puig, *The Universal Plate Revisited* (113-157)

José Bellver, *Jābir b. Aflah on the four-eclipse method for finding the lunar period in anom*aly (159-248)

Reviews (249-253)
C. Alvarez-Millán : review of J. Lirola & J. M. Puerta, *Biblioteca de al-Andalus*, vols III & IV , Almeria, 2004-2006.
E. Calvo : review of Richard Lorch, *Al-Farghānī, On the Astrolabe*, Munich, 2005.

Arabic part :
Ahmad Djebbar, *Ibn 'Abdun's Epistle on Surface Measuring : A Witness to the pre-Algebraical Tradition* (addenda to *Suhayl* 2005, 5).

Youcef Guergour, edition of the *Introduction to the art of Geometry* of Qusta ibn Lūqā al-'Ba'labakī.

The last issue of the *Archives Internationales d'Histoire des Sciences*, vol. 57, N° 158, 2007 :

José Bellver, *Yabir B. Aflah en torno a la inclinación de los eclipses en el horizonte*, 3-23.

Josep Casulleras, *El cálculo de aspectos o la proyeccion de rayos en la Astrología medieval Árabe,* 25-46.

The last Issue of *The Journal of History of Astronomy*

The Contents is available at the following address: http://www.shpltd.co.uk/jha.html.

The provocative Journal Dio presents on its website Aubrey Diller's edition of Ptolemy's Geography, Book 8 : http://www.dioi.org/

News and Announcement

▫ Pictures and reviews on the VIIIth Oxford International Conference on Archaeoastronomy and Astronomy in Culture are available at : HTTP://MUZIEJUS.MOLETAI.LT/SEAC/

▫ New Series:

Interpretatio: Sources and Studies in the History and Philosophy of Classical Science

The IRCPS is pleased to announce the recent publication of

A. Mark Smith, *Alhacen's Theory of Visual Perception: A Critical Edition with English Translation and Commentary of the First Three Books of Alhacen's De aspectibus,* the Medieval Latin Version of Ibn al-Haytham's *Kitâb al-Manâẓir*.

This book is now available online for free browsing and searching at
http://www.ircps.org/publications/interpretatio/interpretatio01(Smith).htm.
(Those who wish to acquire this book on CD-R disk or in print should follow the instructions on this webpage.)

Interpretatio focuses on what was called science from antiquity up to the early modern period in cultures ranging from Spain to India, and from Africa to northern Europe. The aim of this series, which is to be published both online and in print, is to present fundamental texts in the history of science and to make them accessible to the modern reader by means of translations and interpretations that satisfy the requirements of specialists but still address the needs of non-specialists and general readers.

The Sources include reprints, editions, and translations of works in the pre-modern sciences and of treatises in which these sciences are subjected to critical examination. These texts are supplied with general introductions and philological or technical commentaries when appropriate, and supplemented by annotated bibliographies and lexica.

The Studies present the latest results of historical research and interpretation in analyzing these sciences, their place in their contemporary intellectual culture, and their impact on subsequent philosophical and scientific thinking. They include sustained treatments of single subjects as well as collections of essays on one or more related subjects.

This series is intended for readers interested in the history and philosophy of the various disciplines called science in the West from antiquity until the modern era, as well as in intellectual history and philology.

We invite prospective authors to discuss proposals for the series with the Editors, Alan C. Bowen and Francesca Rochberg. Please direct all correspondence to: Editors, *Interpretatio*, ircps@IRCPS.org.

▫ From Alex Jones:

... I have accepted an offer of a faculty position at the new Institute for the Study of the Ancient World at NYU, effective this summer (formally July 1). ISAW is a research institute devoted to the study of the old world civilizations (in principle all three continents) up to roughly AD 600. Its home is a grand house practically across the street from the Metropolitan Museum. It has a visiting scholar program already in operation, but so far no faculty except for the director, Roger Bagnall. Over the next few years the hope is to build up a faculty, both senior and junior rank, of eight to

twelve people spread over various disciplines and geographical regions. There will be a doctoral graduate program, with a very flexible structure by American standards.
I am looking forward to being an early part of this. Aside from giving me more time and resources for my own work, through the visitors and graduate program I hope that ISAW will be able to become something like the old History of Math department at Brown in its best days.

▫ from Anne Tihon:

Some years ago a new astronomical papyrus was discovered by the French papyrologist Jean-Luc Fournet (Paris) in Cairo. He asked me to collaborate in the edition and the analysis of the text. I have already presented a first survey of the contents at the Congress in Beijing (2005) and at the Bacon Symposium of Caltech (2007). This papyrus is important for a numbers of reasons: It is a long text (22 lines and tables on the recto, 32 lines on the recto), and seems to be an extract from an astronomical or astrological treatise. It mentions an observation of Hipparchus not known elsewhere (June 26th 158 BC), and uses tables different from those of Ptolemy. Finally, it gives an example set in the year A.D. 130, making it contemporary with Ptolemy. Jean-Luc Fournet and myself are now preparing the edition of the text. A recent visit at the IFAO in Cairo allowed us to make progress in the reading of the document. A provisional account of the text will be published in the Proceedings of the Caltech Symposium.

New e-mail address: Anne.Tihon@uclouvain.be

COMMISSION ON HISTORY OF ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL ASTRONOMY (CHAMA)

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