
Rédaction
During the early Yuan dynasty, in the last third of the 13th century, many Muslim scholars were brought to China by the Mongol rulers. A group of astronomers presumably of Iranian origin was active at the Islamic Astronomical Bureau in the Yuan capital near current-day Beijing, which had been founded by emperor Khubilai Khan. The astronomical handbook produced by these astronomers is extant in three different Chinese translations, whereas further traces of it can be found in various Chinese commentaries, an Arabic manuscript from the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, and a Persian manuscript at the Oriental Institute in St. Petersburg. Recently the research on
Islamic astronomy in China has been most actively carried out by the authors of the three publications listed above. In these articles, van Dalen describes the sources available for such studies, Yano shows that one of the planetary equations includes an error also found with al-Bīrūnī, and Shi Yunli discusses the Chinese translation prepared in Korea and instruments that could have been used to verify and extend the original work. [Ce compte rendu concerne également les n° 318 et 319]