
Benno van Dalen
The author investigates a number of possible indications for scientific exchange between Andalusia and Iran in the second half of the 13th century. She first mentions the political contacts that existed between Alfonso X and various courts in the Eastern Islamic world, especially that of Hülegü Khan in Maragha. Then she discusses a number of similarities between astronomical achievements of Alfonso and those of astronomers at the Maragha observatory. These include:

1) the so-called cuadrante sennero vs. the double quadrant of al-‘Urḍī;
2) the addition of an alidade to the armillary sphere;
3) the occurrence of the value $23;32,30$ for the obliquity of the ecliptic in the Tunesian astronomical handbook of Ibn Ishāq and an Arabic handbook written in Tibet in 1366, whose contents might have passed through Maragha;

4) the occurrence of a model for trepidation in the Tadhkira of Naṣīr al-Dīn al-Ṭūsī;

5) the use of the so-called “meridian of water” in a number of geographical tables from Iran; and

6) the addition of planetary influences for all stars in the Alfonsine and Ṭūsīan recensions of the Suwar al-kawākib by ʿAbd al-Raḥmān al-Ṣūfī.

The author concludes that many of the sources involved require further study before the connections can be established with certainty.

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