

Zeitschrift: L'Enseignement Mathématique
Herausgeber: Commission Internationale de l'Enseignement Mathématique
Band: 4 (1958)
Heft: 1: L'ENSEIGNEMENT MATHÉMATIQUE

Artikel: SOME NOTES ON THE ALGEBRA OF AB KMIL SHUJ': A FUSION OF BABYLONIAN AND GREEK ALGEBRA
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Kurzfassung
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-34628>

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SOME NOTES ON THE ALGEBRA
OF ABŪ KĀMIL SHUJĀ':
A FUSION OF BABYLONIAN AND GREEK ALGEBRA

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(*Reçu le 7 mars 1957*)

- A. Theory and practice in the Golden Age of the Arabs.
- B. The classical equation $x^2 + 21 = 10x$.
 - 1. Euclid Book II, proposition 5.
 - 2. Heron's solution.
 - 3. Al-Khwārizmī's solution.
 - 4. Abū Kāmil's solution.
- C. Other examples of Abū Kāmil's methodology.
- D. Fusion of Babylonian and Greek algebra.

A. THEORY AND PRACTICE IN THE GOLDEN AGE
OF THE ARABS.

Abū Kāmil Shuja' (c. 900) was a product of the Golden Age of the Arabs. In this period, the Arabs were more than transmitters of the ancient and Hellenistic knowledge and learning. It is to the credit of the Muslims that they made many solid contributions both in the establishment of new facts and in their utilization. In turn, this higher organization of theoretical investigation and practical learning led eventually to the path of modern scientific methodology.

In chemistry, for example, the Muslims were responsible for the tremendous growth of industrial processes, pharmacy and iatro-chemistry as well as a furtherance of the development of chemical technique and apparatus. Simultaneously, experimental chemistry thrived as it had never done previously. Not only did they maintain their interest in the theoretical aspects of chemical reactions in the laboratory, but the Muslims furthered