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MODERN FUNDAMENTAL OPERATIONS IN AN EARLY ARABIC FORM: 'ANABĪ'S HEBREW COMMENTARY ON IBN LABBĀN'S KITĀB FĪ UṢŪL ḤISĀB AL-HIND

by Martin LEVEY and Marvin PETRUCK

(Reçu le 6 avril 1961)

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1. QŪSHYAR IBN LABBĀN.

The apogee of Arabic science in the Orient came in the course of the tenth and eleventh centuries. This was especially true in mathematics. For example, special mention may be made of Abū al-Wafā' (940-ca. 997) who was one of the last great translators from the Greek and also was a commentator on Euclid, Diophantos, and Ptolemy [2]. There was also abū Kāmil Šuǧā', the Egyptian calculator, who flourished ca. 900 and elaborated upon the algebra of al-Khwārizmī. It was abū Kāmil who influenced later European mathematics through Leonardo Fibonacci. Then there were Thābit b. Qurra (908-946), al-Isfahānī (end of tenth century), abū Ja'far al-Khāzin (d. between 961 and 971), and others. It was a period when not only were the older works translated and improved upon from the Greek and Arabic but there were also many original works.

Abū al-Hasan Qūshyār ibn Labbān b. Bāshahrī al-Jīlī (971-1029) was one of this group [3]. He was a Persian and also wrote on astrology and astronomy. Qūshyār was variously cited as Qusyan, Qushiyad, Goshar, Lakusiar, and Gossar [4]. Other