
**The algebra of
Mohammed ben
Musa. Edited and
translated by Frederic
Rosen**

Khuwarizmi Muhammad ibn

**Title: The algebra of Mohammed ben Musa.
Edited and translated by Frederic Rosen**

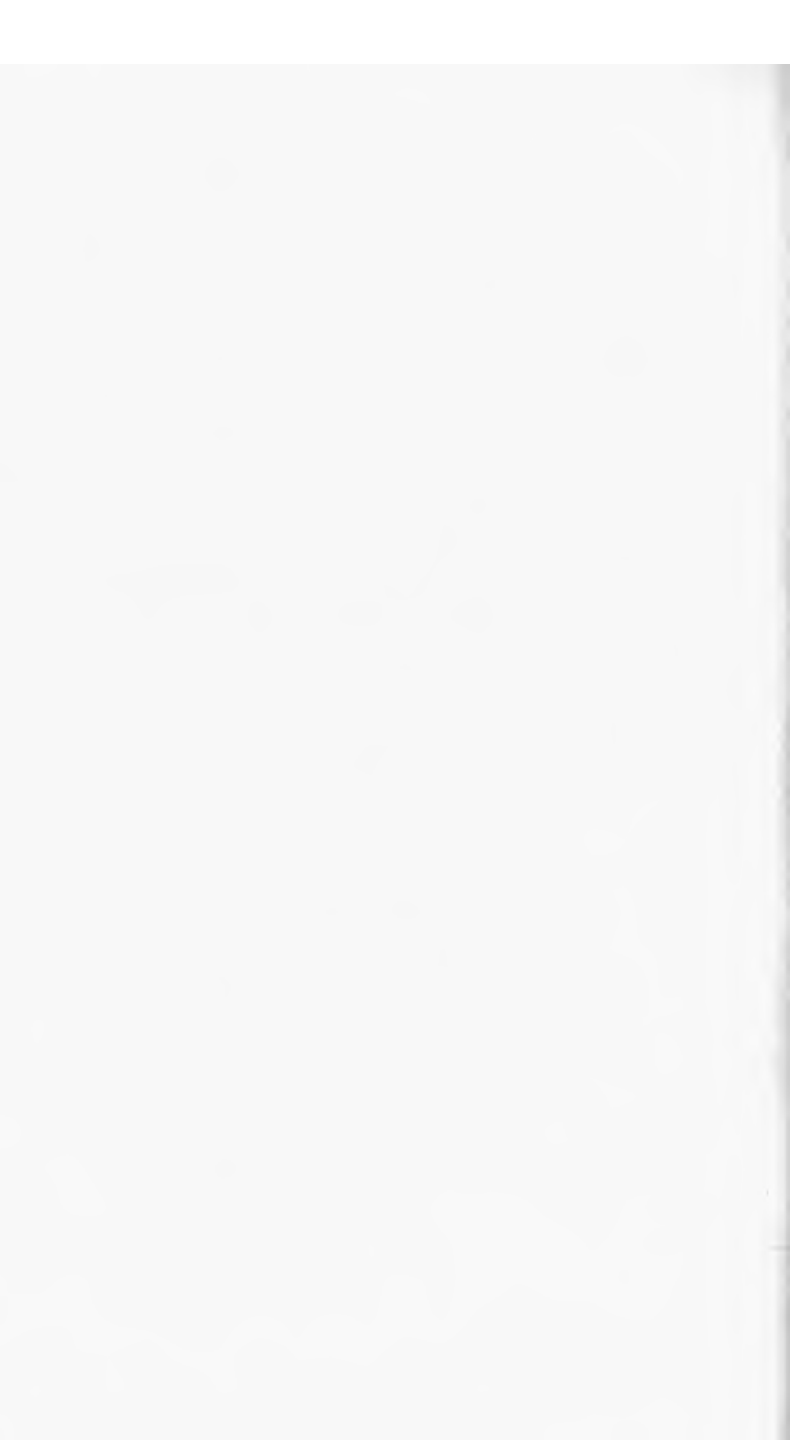
Author: Khuwarizmi Muhammad ibn

This is an exact replica of a book. The book reprint was manually improved by a team of professionals, as opposed to automatic/OCR processes used by some companies. However, the book may still have imperfections such as missing pages, poor pictures, errant marks, etc. that were a part of the original text. We appreciate your understanding of the imperfections which can not be improved, and hope you will enjoy reading this book.



Book Renaissance

www.ren-books.com



五山先生集

卷之五

1971

1972

1973

1974

1975

1976

1977

1978

1979

1980

THE
ALGEBRA
OF
MOHAMMED BEN MUSA.

EDITED AND TRANSLATED

BY

FREDERIC ROSEN.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THE ORIENTAL TRANSLATION FUND:

AND SOLD BY

J. MURRAY, ALBEMARLE STREET;

PARBURY, ALLEN, & CO., LEADENHALL STREET;

THACKER & CO., CALCUTTA; TREUTTEL & WUERTZ, PARIS;

AND F. FLEISCHER, LEIPZIG.

1831.



QA
32
K45

PRINTED BY
J. L. COX, GREAT QUEEN STREET,
LONDON.

P R E F A C E.

IN the study of history, the attention of the observer is drawn by a peculiar charm towards those epochs, at which nations, after having secured their independence externally, strive to obtain an inward guarantee for their power, by acquiring eminence as great in science and in every art of peace as they have already attained in the field of war. Such an epoch was, in the history of the Arabs, that of the Caliphs AL MANSUR, HARUN AL RASHID, and AL MAMUN, the illustrious contemporaries of CHARLEMAGNE; to the glory of which era, in the volume now offered to the public, a new monument is endeavoured to be raised.

ABU ABDALLAH MOHAMMED BEN MUSA, of Khowarezm, who it appears, from his preface, wrote this Treatise at the command of the Caliph AL MAMUN, was for a long time considered as the original inventor of Algebra. “*Hæc ars olim a MAHOMETE, MOSIS Arabis filio, initium sumsit: etenim hujus rei locuples testis LEO-*

NARDUS PISANUS.” Such are the words with which HIERONYMUS CARDANUS commences his *Ars Magna*, in which he frequently refers to the work here translated, in a manner to leave no doubt of its identity.

That he was not the inventor of the Art, is now well established; but that he was the first Mohammedan who wrote upon it, is to be found asserted in several Oriental writers. HAJI KHALFA, in his bibliographical work, cites the initial words of the treatise now before us,* and

* I am indebted to the kindness of my friend Mr. GUSTAV FLUEGEL of Dresden, for a most interesting extract from this part of HAJI KHALFA's work. Complete manuscript copies of the *كشف الظنون* are very scarce. The only two which I have hitherto had an opportunity of examining (the one bought in Egypt by Dr. EHRENBURG, and now deposited in the Royal Library at Berlin—the other among RICH's collection in the British Museum) are only abridgments of the original compilation, in which the quotation of the initial words of each work is generally omitted. The prospect of an edition and Latin translation of the complete original work, to be published by Mr. FLUEGEL, under the auspices of the Oriental Translation Committee, must under such circumstances be most gratifying to all friends of Asiatic literature.