Al-Hajjaj Encyclopedia Article

Al-Hajjaj

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Al-Hajjaj

fl. 786-d. 833

Arab scholar who was first to translate Euclid's *Elements,* and one of the first to translate the *Almagest* of Ptolemy, from Greek into Arabic. Al-Hajjaj actually translated the *Elements* twice, first for the caliph Harun al-Rashid (766-809), and later for another caliph, al-Ma'mun (786-833). As for the *Almagest,* the European name for this work comes from al-Hajjaj's translation of the title, *Kitab al-mijisti.*