Ibn Al-Banna Encyclopedia Article

Ibn Al-Banna

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1256-1321

Arab mathematician and astronomer who was the first to treat a fraction as a ratio of two numbers, and the first to use the term *almanac* (*al-manakh,* or "weather," in Arabic) for a book of astronomical data. Al-Banna, who spent most of his career in Morocco, wrote some 82 books on a number of subjects, including an algebraic treatise and an introduction to the *Elements* of Euclid (c. 325-c. 250 B.C.). His most important mathematical writings were *Talkhis amal al-hisab (*Summary of arithmetical operations), and *Raf al-hijab,* a commentary on the *Talkhis.*