Ibn Muadh Al-Jayyani Encyclopedia Article

Ibn Muadh Al-Jayyani

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Contents

Ibn Muadh Al-Jayyani Encyclopedia Article.....1

Contents.....2

Ibn Muadh Al-Jayyani.....3

Ibn Muadh Al-Jayyani

989-after c. 1079

Spanish Moor mathematician and astronomer who made important contributions to geometrical mathematics. Born in Córdoba, Spain, Ibn Muadh was evidently in Cairo from 1012 to 1017 and moved to Jaén in Spain where he wrote his most important works. *On ratio* was a defense of the fifth book of Euclid's *Elements* in which he introduced the concept of "number" as one of the five mathematical magnitudes essential to defining ratio. His *The Book of Unknown Arcs of Sphere* was evidently the first treatise on spherical trigonometry. In his *On the Dawn or On Twilight and the Rising of Clouds* he determined by refraction that the sun was 18° below the horizon at dawn and end of twilight, providing a means of estimating the height of the atmosphere.