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Jawharī: al-‘Abbās ibn Sa‘īd al-Jawharī

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Flourished **Baghdad, (Iraq), 830**

Jawharī made solar, lunar, and planetary observations in Baghdad from 829 to 830, the data of which appeared in the astronomical handbook with tables that is sometimes referred to as *Kitāb al-Zīj*. Most likely, this is a reference to the *Mumtaḥan zīj*, which was apparently jointly authored by several astronomers at the court of the ‘Abbāsīd caliph **Ma’mūn**. Charged by the caliph with the task of providing appropriate instruments for the year-long series of astronomical observations at Damascus in 832–833, Jawharī selected **Khālīd ibn ‘Abd al-Malik al-Marwarrūdhī** to construct them. Jawharī also contributed to the accuracy of the calculated solar and lunar data; these results also appeared in the *Mumtaḥan zīj*. His astronomical writings were later consulted by **Shams al-Dīn al-Samarqandī**, a contemporary of **Naṣīr al-Dīn al-Ṭūsī**. In his work on the parallels postulate of Euclid, Ṭūsī noted the failure of Jawharī to prove the parallels postulate in the latter's commentary on Euclid's *Elements*; this treatise of Jawharī survives only in fragmentary references.

Selected References

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Sayılı, Aydın (1960). *The Observatory in Islam*. Ankara: Turkish Historical Society. (See chap. 2, "Al Mamūn's Observatory Building Activity," pp. 50-87, for a valuable discussion, beginning with a thorough analysis of early Islamic astronomical observations.)