Aladdin's Lamp: How Greek Science Came to Europe Through the Islamic World

John Freely
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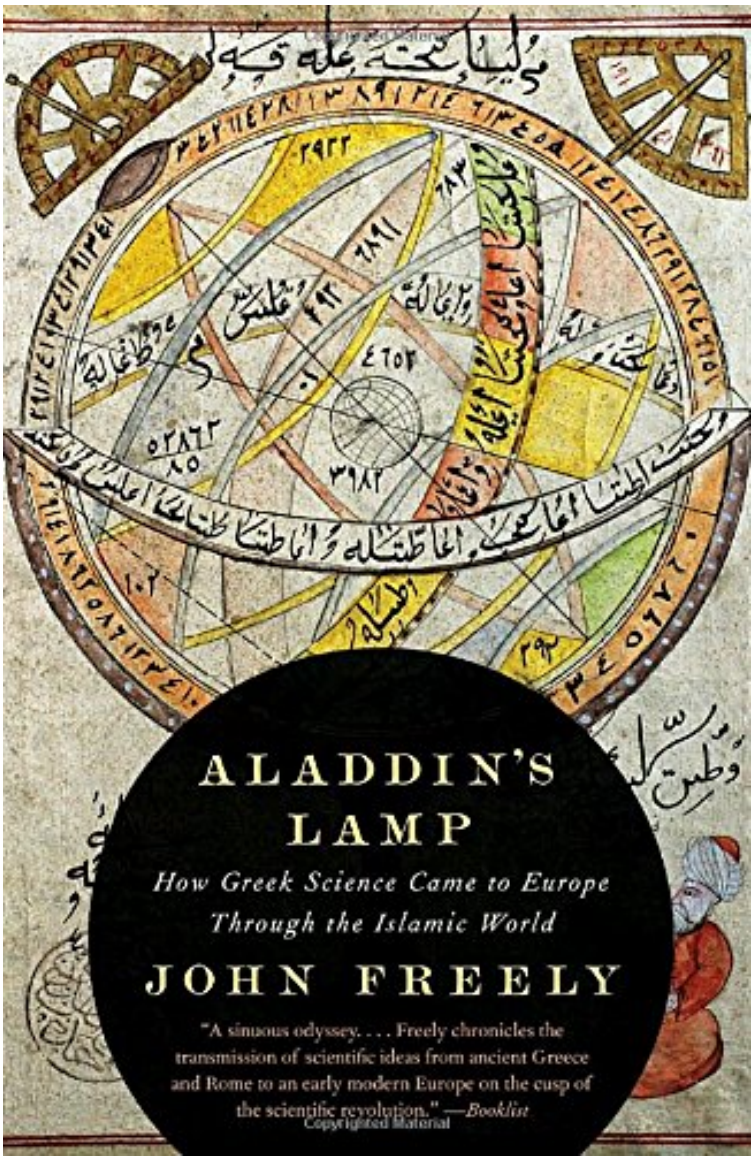

#728083 in Books 2010-03-09 2010-03-09Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x .62 x 5.15l, .68 #File Name: 0307277836320 pages | File size: 67.Mb

John Freely : Aladdin's Lamp: How Greek Science Came to Europe Through the Islamic World before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Aladdin's Lamp: How Greek Science Came to Europe Through the Islamic World:

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the following review helpful. A chore to readBy CeresI gave this book two stars only because of the subject matter. Any attempt to broaden one's cultural knowledge and expectations deserves some praise.But the praise stops there. I can not imagine a more dull and tedious book. The author's approach is to devote each chapter to an Islamic city, more or less in the historical order in which they came to prominence, and then list every scholar whose works might be considered scientific. (Astrology counts.) There is no attempt to amplify the discussion, to bring to life any of the figures mentioned or to put things into a broader historical context.A dry and dusty tome.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Perfect Condition (almost pretty new) of the book, without any sign of wear.By stamatis v.It was Amazing to see that the "used" book, came to me almost a perfect new one, on time.Many Thanks indeed!.Sincerely Stamatios Vasileiadis

Aladdins Lamp is the fascinating story of how ancient Greek philosophy and science began in the sixth century B.C. and, during the next millennium, spread across the Greco-Roman world, producing the remarkable discoveries and theories of Thales, Pythagoras, Hippocrates, Plato, Aristotle, Euclid, Archimedes, Galen, Ptolemy, and many others. John Freely explains how, as the Dark Ages shrouded Europe, scholars in medieval Baghdad translated the works of these Greek thinkers into Arabic, spreading their ideas throughout the Islamic world from Central Asia to Spain, with many Muslim scientists, most notably Avicenna, Alhazen, and Averros, adding their own interpretations to the philosophy and science they had inherited. Freely goes on to show how, beginning in the twelfth century, these texts by Islamic scholars were then translated from Arabic into Latin, sparking the emergence of modern science at the dawn of the Renaissance, which climaxed in the Scientific Revolution of the seventeenth century.

From Publishers WeeklyEurope's debt to Islamic scholarship is counted up in this sketchy intellectual history. Freely (Strolling Through Athens), a historian of science, surveys the work of ancient Greek thinkers from Pythagoras through Aristotle and Ptolemy in astronomy, mathematics, physics and medicine. He then recounts how this learning, mostly forgotten in Western Europe during the Dark Ages, was preserved in medieval Islamic capitals, where Arabic translations of Greek scientific texts sparked an intellectual renaissance. Freely contends that Muslim scientists made important advances, but his case falls short with his shallow treatment of their worklittle more than a compendium of names, dates and translations. The book deepens when it analyzes the impact on European scientists, from the 11th century onward, of Latin translations of Greco-Arabic scientific texts. Ranging from 13th-century Oxford and the University of Paris to the Newtonian revolution, Freely shows how Western science developed in relation toand in controversy withancient Greek ideas about matter, light, motion and the structure of the heavens. His map of the route from ancient to modern science is informative and intriguing, but it's more of a chronology than a narrative of intellectual history. 33 illus, maps. (Feb. 18) From BooklistA historian of science, Freely chronicles the transmission of scientific ideas from ancient Greece and Rome to an early modern Europe on the cusp of the scientific revolution. Many ancients notions about nature were, Freely recounts, preserved from oblivion by scholars based in centers of Islamic learning such as Baghdad, Cairo, and Cordoba. Before reaching those destinations, Freelyprofiles the Greek sages, enumerating their surviving works and what information they held about mathematics, astronomy, and medicine,among other subjects. Leaving behind a roster of names that is likely familiar to the core audience, Freelys account then addresses Islamic rulers, such as the first caliphs of the Abbasid dynasty around 800, who sponsored translations into Arabic of Greek texts. Freely ranges over the names of Islamic scholars so occupied, who served as arks for Greek science, and of original thinkers who formulated such topics as algebra, all of which reached the West in the cultural diffusion Freely describes. A sinuous odyssey through scientific ideas, Freelys work will most appeal to tastes for intellectual history. --Gilbert Taylor From the shores of classical Asia Minor, through Athens and Alexandria, Freely takes the reader on a fascinatingstroll along the route whereby the scientific knowledge developed in the ancient Greek world was translated into Arabic inIslamic Baghdad and Andalusia, and ultimately found its way back to Europe via translations from Arabic into Latin.The path he traces is one well worth traveling, and, as always, his intimate knowledge of the Mediterranean world,adds a unique dimension to his writing. This, coupled with his early training as a physicist, ensure that whatin lesser hands might be a tiresome trek, is indeed a fascinating introduction to the history of science and the transmission of knowledge. Heath W. Lowry, Ataturk Professor of Ottoman and Modern Turkish Studies, Princeton University Mr. Freely, a professor of physics and the history of science at Bogazici University in Istanbul, is good on individual scientists, such as the ninth-century mathematician al-Khwarizmi, the inventor of algebra. (Our word derives from the Arabic al-jabr.) Or Ibn al-Haytham, the 11th-century physicist from Cairo who made pioneering advances in optics. Mr. Freely includes lucid diagrams, together with magnificent color plates taken from illuminated manuscripts. Eric Ormsby, Wall Street Journal A chewy study of the preservation and transportation of classical Greek thought. . . . Freely extensively documents Islamic works that gave us words like algebra and algorithm and dusted off the even more ancient Hindu numerals now universally employed. Kirkus A sinuous odyssey. . . . Freely chronicles the transmission of scientific ideas from ancient Greece and Rome to an early modern Europe on the cusp of the scientific revolution. Booklist Informative and intriguing. . . . Freely shows how Western science developed in relation

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