

Proclus Diadochus

411 A.D. – 485 A.D.

Platonic teacher whose studies led him to the Academy in Athens, where he eventually became director. He opposed Christianity and defended paganism, writing a number of works on Platonic theology that influenced pseudo-Dionysius.

John Philoponus

490 A.D. – 570 A.D.

Christian philosopher in Alexandria who wrote critical commentaries on Aristotle and forwarded his own theories of light, space, and matter.

Dionysius the Areopagite

500 A.D. – 550 A.D.

Often "Pseudo-Dionysius" to distinguish him from the judge mentioned in Acts, this fifth-century mystic wrote a number of works, including the Celestial Hierarchy, which influenced the medieval world view.

al-Battani (Albategnius)

858 A.D. – 929 A.D.

Arab astronomer and mathematician who accurately determined the solar year to be 365 days, 5 hours, 46 minutes, and 24 seconds. His "al-Zij al-Sabi" influenced Brahe, Copernicus, and Kepler.

al-Farabi (Alpharabius)

872 A.D. – 950 A.D.

Arab cosmologist, logician, and historian who broke with the neo-Platonic trend in Arab philosophy to emphasize a more Aristotelian approach. Performed experiments on vacuum and hydraulics.

Jabir ibn Hayyan (Geber)

720 A.D. – 815 A.D.



Considered the "father of chemistry", his works influenced European alchemists, emphasizing systematic experimentation and precise measurements. He invented basic chemical lab equipment and procedures such as distillation and crystallisation. He worked as doctor to the Caliph of Kufa.

al-Khwarizmi (Algoritmus)

780 A.D. – 850 A.D.



Persian mathematician and astronomer whose Katib al-Jabr (the "algebra") presented methods to systematically solve linear and quadratic equations. His methods became known as "algorithms".

Hunain ibn Ishaq (Johannitius)

809 A.D. – 873 A.D.

Nestorian Christian scholar and physician, he translated scientific works from Greek into Arabic and Syriac, making classical Greek works of antiquity available to Islamic scholars (and subsequently to Latin scholars in Europe).

al-Farghani

820 A.D. – 861 A.D.

Wrote "Elements of Astronomy" to explain Ptolemy's "Almagest"; this work influenced European astronomy for centuries, and even provided Dante's background for the cosmology of "the Divine Comedy".

ibn Yunus

950 A.D. – 1009 A.D.

Egyptian astronomer and mathematician whose work the al-Zij al-Kabir al-Hakimi contained dozens of accurate observations, which must have required large astronomical instruments.

ibn al-Haytham (Alhazen)

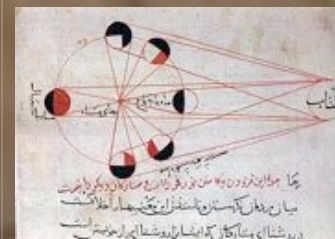
965 A.D. – 1039 A.D.



Father of Optics whose "Book of Optics" included experiments with lenses and mirrors, and an exposition on refraction, reflection, and the dispersion of light into colors (spectrum).

al-Biruni (Alberuni)

973 A.D. – 1048 A.D.



Scientist, primarily researching physics and chemistry, as well as historian, who incorporated ideas from India in his theories, which emphasized an experimental methodology. Twenty-two of his nearly 150 works still survive

ibn Sina (Avicenna)

980 A.D. – 1037 A.D.

Considered the foremost physician of his time; his works on medicine combined his own experience with the teachings of Galen and Aristotle, and influenced medical studies in the early Italian universities.

ibn Rashd (Averroes, the "Great Commentator")

1125 A.D. – 1198 A.D.



Averroes' commentaries on Aristotle provided the impetus for St. Thomas Aquinas' attempts to create a coherent single world view reconciling Aristotelian science and philosophy with Christian theology.

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