In 1974, Sa'idan published an article in *Isis*, "The arithmetic of Abû'l-Wafâ’" [1974], devoted to the arithmetical treatise of the famous Baghdad mathematician and astronomer al-Bûzjâni (940–998). The complete Arabic text of this treatise, based on manuscripts held at Leiden University and the Cairo National Library, was edited by Sa'idan in Amman in 1971 [1971a] together with an introduction, commentary, and ample references to the Arithmetic of al-Karaji (d. ca. 1030). The treatise of al-Bûzjâni is a very famous arithmetical text containing the only known instance of negative numbers called *dayn* or "debt."

At the conference devoted to the millennium of al-Birûnî held in Karachi, Pakistan in 1973, Saïdan lectured on "The trigonometry of al-Birûnî" (published in [1979a]). Three years later, at the International Symposium for the History of Arabic Science, Saïdan spoke on "Number theory and series summation in two Arabic texts" (published in [1978c]). In 1977, he published the Cartography of al-Birûnî [1977b] and the *Treatise on Amicable Numbers* by Thâbit ibn Qurra (836–901) [1977a], and in 1978 he published "Theory of numerical triangles of Abû Ja'far al-Khâzin," a study on the theory of Pythagorean triples in the treatises of al-Khâzin (d. ca. 965).

Saïdan also edited the complete mathematical treatises of Ibn Sinâ, together with an introduction and commentary [1983a]. These treatises played an important role in the history of geometry since Ibn Sinâ’s treatise *On the mensuration of a parabola* is the first in the history of mathematics to use a general affine transformation of plane figures (polygons and segments of parabolas), and his treatise on the construction of conic sections is the first to employ a plane projective transformation mapping a circle onto a hyperbola.

My correspondence with Saïdan began when he was living in Khartoum and I was in Moscow. We often exchanged copies of Arabic manuscripts, printed texts, and our own publications. The death of Saïdan is an enormous loss for historians of mathematics around the world.

Boris A. Rosenfeld
Department of Mathematics
Pennsylvania State University
University Park, Pennsylvania 16802

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PUBLICATIONS OF AHMAD SALÎM SA‘ÎDÂN (1914–1991) ON THE HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS AND ASTRONOMY IN ISLAMIC CIVILIZATION, AND LIST OF MEDIEVAL ARABIC TEXTS PUBLISHED BY HIM

Compiled by Jan P. Hogendijk

Many of the late Professor Saïdan’s books and articles contain editions of medieval Arabic texts not only on arithmetic and algebra, but also on geometry and astronomy. Because a large number of these editions seem to be virtually unknown outside of the Arabic world, I have added to the bibliography a separate list of the sources which Professor Saïdan edited, ordered chronologically according to author. Each source is identified by a translation of its title and a reference
to Sezgin’s Geschichte des arabischen Schrifttums and Matveivskaya and Rozenfeld’s Mathematicians and Astronomers of the Medieval Islam and Their Works (8–17th c). The bibliography and the list of sources contain cross-references; the items in the bibliography are abbreviated as [1960a], [1960b], etc., and the sources as A, B1, B2, etc. The following notation is also used:


MAMS 116M3 = treatise No. M3 of author No. 116 in Vol. 2 of MAMS


*  = not seen.

The following bibliography is selective in the sense that not all brief articles in journals in the Arabic world have been mentioned.

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