

Jacob Ben Tibbon Encyclopedia Article

Jacob Ben Tibbon

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Jacob Ben Tibbon

1236-1312

French Jewish mathematician and astronomer who translated several key works into Hebrew, and wrote a number of mathematical and astronomical treatises. Among the texts Jacob translated from Arabic were Euclid's (c. 325-c. 250 B.C.) *Elements* and Ptolemy's (c. 100-170) *Almagest*. In a treatise whose English title is *Jacob's Quadrant*, he explained the workings of a quadrant he had invented, and in his *Luhot* (Tables) he offered astronomical tables for the ascensions of stars over Paris. Dante Alighieri (1265-1321) mentioned the latter book in his *Divine Comedy*. Among the scientists influenced by Jacob's theories was Nicolas Copernicus (1473-1543).