



Eastern Wisdom and Learning: The Study of Arabic in Seventeenth-Century England

By G. J. Toomer

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This book narrates the extraordinary growth in the study of Arabic in England from the late sixteenth century, when it was almost non-existent, to the end of the seventeenth. In this masterly and original study, Professor Toomer gives the first detailed account of this growth, set against the religious and political background in England and Europe. He shows how trade with the Ottoman Empire and mistrust of Islam influenced the study of Arabic. Finally, he traces the course and causes of the drastic decline in Arabic studies towards the end of the century.

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Editorial Review

Review

"The book contains a large amount of valuable information. It is highly readable and the lives of the men described could lend themselves to the best of historical fiction."--*American Historical Review*

From the Back Cover

This book narrates the extraordinary growth in the study of Arabic in England from the late sixteenth century, when it was almost non-existent, to the end of the seventeenth. By its high point around 1666, England was preeminent among European countries in the study of Arabic. Permanent chairs of Arabic had been established at Oxford and Cambridge, and specialized presses in Oxford and London had produced important Arabic works. In this masterly and original study, Professor Toomer gives the first detailed account of this process, set against the religious and political background in England and in Europe. He shows how trade with the Ottoman Empire and mistrust of Islam influenced the study of Arabic. Finally, he traces the course and causes of the drastic decline in Arabic studies towards the end of the century.

About the Author

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