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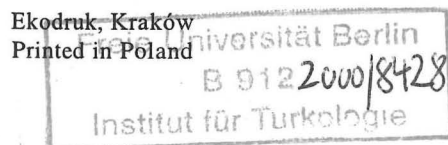
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CONTENTS

Articles

- Adam BIENIEK, Claudius Ptolemaeus in the Eyes of the Arabs in the
Example of al-Qazwīnī 5
- Renata CZEKALSKA, Nirālā (On the 100th Anniversary of the Poet's Birth) 23
- Tomasz GACEK, Diacritics in the Analysis of the Middle Persian Book Script .. 35
- Jan-Peter HARTUNG, A Contribution of Islamic 'Revivalists' to Moder-
nity: The Ġamā'at-i islāmī as a Practical Approach for the Realization of
an Islamic Concept of History 41
- Anna KRASNOWOLSKA, Šab-e Čelle 55
- Agnieszka KUCZKIEWICZ - FRAŚ, About the Suffix -cī in Hindi 75
- Edmondo LUPIERI, Sex and Blood: Some New Approaches to the Apoca-
lypse of John 85
- Barbara MICHALAK - PIKULSKA, Gibran Khalil Gibran's Significance
and Role in Arabic and World Literature and His Creative Reception in
the World 93
- Barbara MICHALAK - PIKULSKA, Looking at the Problem of Iraqi Agresion
on Kuwait on the Basis of "Muḏakkirāt ġundī Irāqī" 101
- Bożena PROCHWICH - STUDNICKA, The Mystical Dimension of Šalāḥ
'Abd Aṣ-Šabūr's Poetry 107
- Dariusz ROZMUS, Al-Barānis 119
- Yusef SH'HADEH, To Live in Exile in the World of Illusions (The Alien-
ated Hero in the Early Stories of Ghassān Kanafānī) 129
- Ewa STALA, The Possible Origins of Spanish 'Camiz' 137
- Danuta STANULEWICZ, Multi-Category Morphemes and Relational Ele-
ments in Chinese 141
- Diane STEIGERWALD, La mystique de Jalāl al-Dīn Rūmī (m. 672/1273)
par la danse cosmique des derviches tourneurs 147
- Gábor TAKÁCS, History of Pero k in Afro-Asiatic Perspective 157
- Gábor TAKÁCS, Marginal Remarks on the Classification on Ancient Egyp-
tian within Afro-Asiatic and Its Position Among African Languages 175
- Gábor TAKÁCS, An Additional Note to the Discussion on the Obscure Words
of Papyrus Ebers 99,10-12 197

Review articles

- Bruno W. W. DOMBROWSKI, The Most Important Trait of the Seleucid
Kingdom's History? 199

Bruno W. W. DOMBROWSKI, <i>Qumranologica VIII</i>	207
Edward SŁAWIŃSKI, <i>The Newest Handbook on Uralic Languages</i>	225

Reviews

Metin Akar, <i>Doğu Akdeniz – Türk Dili ve Edebiyatı Dergisi</i> , Band 1 (1998) (by Elif Dilmaç)	251
Çağdaş Türk Edebiyatına Eleştirel Bir Bakış (by Grażyna Zajac)	254
Larry Clark, <i>Turkmen Reference Grammar</i> (by Marek Stachowski)	258
Steve Seegmiller, <i>Karachay</i> (by Ewa Siemienieć - Gołaś)	260
<i>Studia Judaica</i> 1, No. 1 (1998) (by Zdzisław J. Kapera)	262

Chronicle

Barbara MICHALAK - PIKULSKA, 35th International Congress of Asian and North African Studies, Budapest, 7-12 July 1997	264
Barbara MICHALAK - PIKULSKA, XIX Congress of Union Européenne des Arabisants and Islamisants, Halle - Germany, August 30 - September 3, 1998	265
Felipe SEN, First Egyptological Meeting at the Autonomous University of Madrid	267
Felipe SEN, XXXV Annual Assembly of the Spanish Orientalist Associa- tion and IV Symposium on Oriental Cultures	268
Janusz RYDZEWSKI, Exposition "Toutankhamon des steppes de l'Ukraine" dans le Musée Archéologique de Cracovie	269

Manuscripts for publication, books for review, and all correspondence

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ADAM BIENIEK

CLAUDIUS PTOLEMAEUS IN THE EYES OF THE ARABS IN THE EXAMPLE OF AL-QAZWĪNĪ

Introduction

Zakariyā' ibn Muḥammad ibn Maḥmūd al-Qazwīnī (1203-1283) - an Arabic cosmographer and geographer lived and worked mainly in Damascus. He travelled a lot in Syria, Persia and Iraq, where he held the position of *qāḍī* (judge). The author of the two eminent works: *Kitāb 'ağā'ib al-maḥlūqāt wa ḡarā'ib al-mawḡūdāt* (*Marvels of Created Things and their Singularities*) - a cosmography considered the best of the kind in Arabic literature (hence the nickname of *Arabic Pliny*); and *Kitāb āṭār al-bilād wa aḥbār al-'ibād* (*Souvenirs of Lands and Human Lore*) - a sort of universal geography, was known for his careful citing of the sources. Among others he quoted various ancient Men of Science. In this article we will refer to Al-Qazwīnī's views on *Claudius Ptolemy*.

Life and Work of Ptolemy

"Out of Greece came *Biṭlīmūs* (Ptolemy), the author of 'Almagest', who managed to know the movements of the caelestial spheres along with star orbits on the basis of mathematical reasons. He also mentioned that some of the stars move from the west eastwards and some others in the opposite direction. Some of them move quickly while the others slowly. Some stars rotate, some others revolve yet still others circle. The movements of the stars are subjected to the movements of the spheres¹ - and those in turn are divided into the ones which go round the Earth and the others that do not.

¹ See: al-Fārābī in: *Al-Fārābī, Kommentarii k' "Almagestu" Ptolemeya*, edit. by A. Kubiesova and G. ad-Dabbāh, Aḥma-Ata 1975, p.49-53.