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► **To cite this version:**

José Chabás, Bernard R Goldstein. Adaptations of the Oxford Tables to Paris, Mantua, and Louvain. *Journal for the History of Astronomy*, 2018, 49 (1), pp.99-115. 10.1177/0021828617752698. hal-02552956

HAL Id: hal-02552956

<https://hal.science/hal-02552956>

Submitted on 23 Apr 2020

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Adaptations of the Oxford Tables to Paris, Mantua, and Louvain*

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Abstract

The Oxford Tables of 1348, also called *Tabule anglicane*, were computed for the meridian of Oxford in the framework of Alfonsine astronomy. They had a remarkable success, for they are extant in a good number of Latin manuscripts, and they were adapted repeatedly. This paper focuses on these adaptations: the *Tabule Parisiensis*, with radices for the year 1368 complete and the meridian of Paris, extant in Hebrew and Latin manuscripts; the version made by Mordecai Finzi, with radices for 1443 complete and the meridian of Mantua, preserved in a unique Hebrew manuscript; and the partial adaptation by Henry Baers printed in Latin in Louvain in 1528.

Keywords

Alfonsine Tables, Oxford Tables of 1348, *Tabule Parisiensis*, Mordecai Finzi, Henry Baers.

Introduction

The Oxford Tables, known at the time as *Tabule anglicane*, are a set of astronomical tables compiled for the meridian of Oxford by William Batecombe, with radices for 1348 following the Parisian Alfonsine Tables.¹ This set is normally accompanied by a short text on its use, beginning *Vera loca omnium planetarum in longitudine ac latitudine...*, and consists of at least five different groups of tables: (i) mean motion tables, presented in *anni collecti* and *anni expansi* (with a period of 20 years), single years from 1 to 20, months, days, and hours, following the format in John of Lignères's Tables for 1322 and in his *Tabule magne* (ca. 1325)² and the period of 20 years found in the Toledan Tables and many others previous sets; (ii) a table for the true longitude of the Sun in a year, as a function of its mean longitude, following the presentation displayed by John Vimond, another early Alfonsine astronomer, ca. 1320;³ (iii) a double argument table for the true longitude of the Moon, where the entries represent the true elongation between the two luminaries, as a function of mean lunar anomaly and mean elongation, similar in structure to that in John of Lignères's *Tabule magne*, but with different entries; (iv) five double argument tables for the true longitudes, one for each planet, as a function of their respective mean anomaly and mean center, which clearly depend

* This research has been undertaken in the frame work of ALFA, a European Research Council project (Consolidator grant 2016 agreement no. 723085) funded for 2017-2022.

¹ See J. D. North, "The Alfonsine Tables in England", in Y. Maeyama and W. G. Saltzer (eds.), *Prismata: Festschrift für Willy Hartner* (Wiesbaden, 1977), pp. 269–301. Reprinted in J. D. North, *The universal frame: historical essays in astronomy, natural philosophy, and scientific method* (London, 1989), pp. 327–359.

² E. Poulle, "John of Lignères", in *Dictionary of Scientific Biography*, 7, pp. 122–128 (New York, 1973).

³ J. Chabás and B. R. Goldstein, "Early Alfonsine Astronomy in Paris: The Tables of John Vimond (1320)", *Suhayl*, 4, 2004, pp. 207–294.

on those in the *Tabule magne*; and (v) five double argument tables, one for each planet, again as a function of their respective mean anomaly and mean center, which have no counterpart in other similar previous sets of tables. All tables strictly adhere to Alfonsine astronomy, which was recast in the 1320s in Paris based on the non-extant tables produced by the astronomers in the service of Alfonso X, King of Castile and León, in the 1270s, and share all its geometrical models and numerical parameters.⁴ However, in contrast to the Parisian Alfonsine Tables which use signs of 60°,⁵ these tables all use zodiacal signs of 30°.

I. The Oxford Tables in Paris

The Oxford Tables were disseminated widely throughout Europe and, in particular, the double argument tables for the planets are preserved, often isolated from the rest of the set, in a few dozen manuscripts. Presumably, the main reasons for their success are that these compact double argument tables give directly quantities that in previous sets had to be computed appealing to various tables; they depend neither on the geographical location of the observer nor on a specific date, and are thus both user-friendly and universal. These characteristics may explain why several astronomers adapted the rest of the Oxford Tables to other meridians. This is the case of the anonymous *Tabule Parisiensis*, recompiled for the meridian of Paris and with radices for 1368. It is immediately seen that the difference between the radices of the two sets mentioned so far is 20 years, exactly the same period used in the mean motion tables for Oxford. Thus, for the adaptation of the new set the author had only to take care of the difference in longitude between Oxford and Paris, 5;4° or 0;20,16h, a value, by the way, that had been used 20 years earlier for compiling the Oxford Tables from the tables set up for Paris.⁶ In this sense, the *Tabule Parisiensis* provide an infrequent example of back and forth transmission between two main centers of astronomical activity, Paris and Oxford.

The *Tabule Parisiensis* are associated with two different texts in Latin. One has the incipit, *Cum astrologis solis inter omnis philosophos...*, and we have found it in two manuscripts, both also containing the tables: Cambridge, Gonville and Caius College, MS 110/179, 101–191 (tables), 192–195 (canons), henceforth, MS Cl; and Vatican, Biblioteca Apostolica, MS Pal. lat. 1436, 37r–39r (canons), 42r–87r (tables), henceforth, MS VI.⁷ In both manuscripts the canons have eight chapters in common, dealing with general characteristics of the tables such as the use of signs of 30°, the definition of the beginning of the day at noon of the previous day in the civil calendar, and the fact that the radices are set for 1368, complete (i.e., noon, Dec. 31, 1368), and are computed for the meridian of Paris. There follow explanations of the true positions of the Sun, the Moon, and the planets, as well as of the revolution of the years and the 8th sphere, thus indicating the use of tropical coordinates, as in the Oxford Tables and elsewhere in Alfonsine astronomy. The chapter on the motion of the 8th sphere provides some specific data: (1) the motion between Ptolemy's and Alfonso's time is 17;8°,⁸ (2) the motion from Alfonso's time to the end of 1368 it is 1;22,18,43°, and

⁴ J. Chabás and B. R. Goldstein, *The Alfonsine Tables of Toledo*. Archimedes: New Studies in the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, 8 (Dordrecht and Boston, 2003).

⁵ E. Ratdolt (ed.), *Tabule astronomice illustrissimi Alfontij regis castelle* (Venice, 1483).

⁶ For these values in the Oxford Tables, see for example, Vatican, Biblioteca Apostolica, MS Pal. lat. 1376, 381rb, lines 5-9.

⁷ As the canons and tables of the *Tabule Parisiensis* are extant both in Latin and in Hebrew, we have added an “l” or an “h”, respectively, to the sigla assigned to the manuscripts. A description of Cl (later half of the 14th c.) can be found in Pedersen 2002, pp. 96–97. For a description of VI (mid 15th c., composed in what is now Belgium), see Schuba 1992, pp. 224–226; a copy online is accessible at: http://digi.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/diglit/bav_pal_lat_1436?ui_lang=ger.

⁸ On the value 17;8° for precession from the time of Ptolemy to the time of King Alfonso X see, e.g., J. Chabás and B. R. Goldstein, *A Survey of European Astronomical Tables in the Late Middle Ages* (Leiden and Boston,

(3) correctly gives the sum of these two quantities, $18;30,18,43^{\circ}$.⁹ The common text ends with *Et isti canones tibi sufficiant ad presens*. However, manuscript VI has eight additional chapters, concerning retrogradation, the lunar nodes, the length of the day, and the latitude of regions, among other topics. In manuscript CI, the canons are followed by a text (ff. 196–197), beginning *Ad intelligendum tabulas astronomiae necessario oportet scire...*, consisting of a series of definitions and short explanations of astronomical concepts such as radix, solar apogee, retrogradation, ascending node, solar year, etc., reminiscent of the contents of the eight additional chapters in MS VI.

The other text begins *Ad habendum noticiam et introitum in tabulis Parisiensibus...*, and it is extant in Dijon, Bibliothèque municipale, MS 447, 63r–70v, and Paris, Bibliothèque nationale de France, MS 7287, 87r–91r.¹⁰ There are no tables associated with either of them. This text differs substantially from the preceding one; it is divided into nine chapters that explain the use of the tables and indicate that they were composed for the meridian of Paris, with radices set for year 1368, complete. In the chapter on the motion of the 8th sphere, there is a worked example for October 20, 1443, complete. The canons in the manuscript in Paris are followed by the same text with definitions of astronomical concepts (ff. 91r–92r), beginning *Ad intelligendum tabulas astronomiae necessario oportet scire...*, as was the case in MS CI. The same text is found in yet another manuscript, Paris, Bibliothèque nationale de France, MS 7295A, 99r–v and 114r, where it is not associated with the *Tabule Parisiensis*.

This set of tables for Paris is also found in a Hebrew version, based on the Latin, but the canons in the Hebrew manuscripts differ from each other as well as from their counterparts in Latin. As we shall see, there are also differences between the Hebrew and Latin versions concerning the radices for 1368. The three Hebrew copies of the *Tabule Parisiensis* are: Munich, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, MS Heb. 343, 104b–107a (canons), 154a (canons to the latitude tables), 108a–166a (tables), henceforth MS Mh; Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS Reggio 14, 57a–93a (tables), 57a–60a in the margins only (canons), henceforth MS Oh; Parma, Biblioteca Palatina, MS 2112, 35a (canons to the latitude tables), 35b–48a (latitude tables only), henceforth MS Ph. Note that MS Ph has no information on radices, apogees, or longitudes. In Mh 104b, 154a, and Ph 35a the name of the translator is given as Solomon ben Davin of Rodez (ca. 1370, (southern France); but no author or translator is named in MS Oh.¹¹

2012), p. 185. MS VI has a variant reading of $17;28^{\circ}$. See also M. Comes, “Al-Şūfī como fuente del libro de la ‘Ochava Espera’ de Alfonso X”, in “*Ochava espera*” y “*astrofísica*”: *textos y estudios sobre las fuentes árabes de la astronomía de Alfonso X*, ed. by M. Comes, H. Mielgo, and J. Samsó (Barcelona, 1990), 11–113, especially p. 16.

⁹ Mh, 105b, has the same information, with the variant $1;23,18,43^{\circ}$ instead of $1;22,18,43^{\circ}$. Oh, 59a–b, agrees with the Latin except for the sum, which is given as $25;10,18,43^{\circ}$. We have not succeeded in recomputing the difference given for the motion of the 8th sphere from Alfonso’s time to the end of 1368 ($18;28,46^{\circ}$). We have considered the epoch of Alfonso to be December 31, 1251, in which case we obtain $18;28,46^{\circ} - 17;14,28^{\circ} = 1;14,18^{\circ}$. Taking the time of Alfonso to mean May 31, 1252 (the date of his accession to the throne), the result is $18;28,46^{\circ} - 17;14,45^{\circ} = 1;14,1^{\circ}$. Both values are far from that given in the text.

¹⁰ On this 15th century manuscript kept in Paris, see J.-P. Boudet, *Lire dans le ciel* (Bruxelles, 1994), pp. 26–35. The scribe of the manuscript is a certain Martinus, working “in Cabeolo” (see item 14). This place, hitherto unidentified, could be Chabenil or Chabeuil (Drôme) in the vicinity of Valence, France, as indicated in the online version of the *Dictionnaire topographique du Département de la Drôme: Districte de Valence*, Paris, 1891: <http://cths.fr/dico-topo/dictionnaires/fichiers/DT26IntroductionAnnexes.pdf>.

¹¹ On Solomon ben Davin, a disciple of Immanuel Bonfils (ca. 1350, Tarascon), see M. Steinschneider, *Mathematik bei den Juden*, 2nd ed. (Hildesheim, 1964), p. 166, and E. Renan and A. Neubauer, *Les écrivains juifs français du XIV^e siècle* (Paris, 1893), pp. 763–766. In MS Mh, 104b, the canons begin: “Solomon ben Davin of Rodez, student, said...”; this is sometimes abbreviated to the initials in Hebrew AŠDT [= *Amar Šelomo Davin Talmid*]. The term “student” (here used as a term expressing humility) also occurs after the name of Moses Farissol Botarel, where the initials are NFT [= *Ne’um Farissol Talmid*]. On Farissol Botarel, an

Moreover, not all five manuscripts contain full versions of this set of tables, notably MS Cl lacks some tables corresponding to the true positions of the planets and MSS Mh and Ph are the only ones with tables for planetary latitudes.

1. Radices and mean motions: Cl, 101–107; Vl, 42r–45r; Mh, 108a–112a; Oh, 57a–60b.

There are 4 subtables for the mean motions. The first displays the radices for 1368 complete (noon of the last day in December) and the mean motions for each year from 1y to 20y, then for every 20y to 100y, for every 100y to 1000y, and finally for 2000y, for each quantity indicated in Tables 1 and 2. The three other subtables provide entries for the months in a year, the days in a month, and the hours in a day for each quantity.

Table 1: Radices for 1368 complete and mean motions in a year in the Latin MSS

	Radix	Mean motion in 1y
Revolution (motion)	176;34, 0°	87;19, 6°
Revolution (time)	5;46,16h*	5;49;16h
Mean solar argument	6s 18;38,58,44 ^{o*}	11s 29;45,39,22°
Mean elongation	8s 17;41,49,56 ^{o*}	4s 9;37,23,15°
Mean lunar anomaly	1s 6;49,44,12 ^{o*}	2s 28;43,14,50 ^{o*}
Ascending node	9s 1; 2, 0 ^{o*}	0s 19;21,55 ^{o*}
Saturn, mean center	11s 29;12,34°	0s 12;13,35°
Saturn, mean anomaly	1s 7;14, 6 ^{oa}	11s 17;32, 5°
Jupiter, mean center	4s 23;55,26°	1s 0;20,29°
Jupiter, mean anomaly	11s 2;17,56 ^{ob}	10s 29;25,10°
Mars, mean center	1s 14;19,39°	6s 11;17, 6°
Mars, mean anomaly	3s 20; 8,30°	5s 18;28,34 ^{oc}
Venus, mean center	6s 18;24,58,44 ^{od}	11s 29;45,39,22°
Venus, mean anomaly	0s 18;50, 5°	7s 15; 1,42°
Mercury, mean center	2s 19;10,49°	11s 29;45,39°
Mercury, mean anomaly	0s 26;24,51°	1s 23;56,47°
Access and recess	2s 9;33,48°	0s 0; 3, 5°
Apogees and fixed stars	0s 10; 3, 2°	0s 0; 0,27°

* Illegible in Cl.

a. Vl: 1s 7;24,6°.

b. Vl: 11s 2;17,58°.

c. Vl: 5s 18;28,24°.

d. Vl: 6s 18;38,58,44°.

The entries for the mean elongation and the mean lunar anomaly in Table 1 agree exactly with recomputation with the Parisian Alfonsine Tables for Dec. 31, 1368, noon, Paris (= Dec. 30, 1368, 23;12h after noon, Toledo, for the difference between Paris and Toledo is 0;48h). This means that the moment in time for the radices is secure. Nevertheless, the entry for the mean solar argument, 6s 18;38,58,44°, differs from the value recomputed with the Parisian Alfonsine Tables for

astronomer of the late fifteenth century, see B. R. Goldstein and J. Chabás, “The Astronomical Tables of Moses Farissol Botarel”, *Suhayl*, 15, 2016–2017, pp. 29–65.

that time, 6s 18;27,55°, that is, the difference is about 0;11°, which corresponds to the solar motion in about 4½h. The entry for the mean center of Venus, 6s 18;24,58,44°, should be the same as that for the mean solar argument, but this is not the case here (the minutes differ, but the seconds and thirds agree).

Table 2 lists the radices in the two Hebrew manuscripts for noon, Dec. 31, 1368 for three different cities. The entries in the column headed “Horizon of Avignon” have been recomputed with the Parisian Alfonsine Tables for Dec. 30, 1368, 22;30h after noon, Toledo; those in the column headed “Horizon of Paris” have been recomputed with the Parisian Alfonsine Tables for Dec. 30, 1368, 23;12h after noon, Toledo, taking the difference in longitude between Toledo and Paris as 12° or 0;48h; and those in the column headed “Horizon of Lyon” have been recomputed with the Parisian Alfonsine Tables for Dec. 30, 1368, 22;52h after noon, Toledo. The columns for Avignon and Lyon have no counterparts in the Latin copies of the *Tabule Parisiensis* that we consulted. In the *editio princeps* of the Parisian Alfonsine Tables the longitudes of these three cities are the same, 22;20°,¹² but here they differ. The time difference between Paris and Avignon of 0;42h corresponds to a difference in longitude of 10;30°, and the time difference between Paris and Lyon of 0;20h corresponds to 5°. In fact, the longitudes of Avignon and Lyon are virtually identical and differ from that of Paris by about 2½°. It has not been determined if these additional columns come from an undiscovered Latin version of these tables or if they were added in the Hebrew version.

Table 2: Radices in the two Hebrew MSS for 1368 complete.

Marginal notes in Oh in Latin (Hebrew script)	Mean Radices	Horizon of Avignon	Horizon of Paris	Horizon of Lyon
<i>argumentum solis</i>	[Mean] solar argument	6s 18;33,16°	6s 18;34,59°	6s 18;24, 9°
<i>elongationis lune</i>	[Mean] elongation of the Moon	8s 17;20,31 ^a	8s 17;41,49	8s 17;31,40
	[Mean] lunar anomaly	1s 6;26, 0	1s 6;49,44	1s 6;38,51
<i>caput draconis centri</i>	Ascending node	9s 1;18,53	9s 1;19, 0	9s 1;19,40
	Saturn, [mean] center	11s 29;12,30	11s 29;12,34	11s 29;12,32
<i>argumentum saturni</i>	Saturn, [mean] anomaly	1s 7;12,26	1s 7;14, 6	1s 7;13,19
<i>centri jovis</i>	Jupiter, [mean] center	4s 23;55,17	4s 23;55,26	4s 23;55,22 ^b
	Jupiter, [mean] anomaly	11s 2;16,26	11s 2;17,56	11s 2;17,10
<i>martis</i>	Mars, [mean] center	1s 14;18,44	1s 14;19,39	1s 14;19,13
	Mars, [mean] anomaly	3s 20; 7,42	3s 20; 8,30	3s 20; 8, 7
<i>venuris</i>	Venus, [mean] center	6s 18;23,11 ^c	6s 18;24,59 ^d	6s 18;24, 9 ^e
	Venus, [mean] anomaly	0s 18;49, 1	0s 18;20, 5	0s 18;29,34
<i>mercurii</i>	Mercury, [mean] center	2s 19; 9, 2	2s 19;10,49	2s 19;16,29 ^f
	Mercury, [mean] anomaly	0s 26;19,25	0s 26;24,51	0s 26;22,16
<i>motus equesius [equationis]</i>	Motion of the 8th sphere	2s 9;33,48	2s 9;33,48	2s 9;33,48
<i>equasionis</i>	and its correction	0s 8;28,41	0s 8;28,44 ^g	0s 8;28,44 ^h
<i>vetus abogeum [apogeum]</i>	Motion of the apogees and the fixed stars	0s 10; 3, 2	0s 10; 3, 2 ⁱ	0s 10; 3, 2 ^j
	Motion of the apogees with their corrections	0s 18;31,42 ^k	0s 18;31,42 ^l	0s 18;31,42 ^m

¹² Ratdolt (*Op. cit.*, n. 5), m5r.

- a. With Oh: 31; Mh: 38.
- b. With Oh: 23; Mh: 24.
- c. With Oh: 23; Mh: 33.
- d. With Oh: 24; Mh: 34.
- e. With Mh: 24; Oh: 54.
- f. With Oh: 16; Mh: 56.
- g. With Mh; Oh blank.
- h. With Mh; Oh blank.
- i. With Mh; Oh mg: these four radices [for Paris and Lyon] are all equal [to the radices for Avignon].
- j. With Mh; Oh blank, see note i.
- k. With Mh; Oh: 8.
- l. With Mh; Oh blank, see note i.
- m. With Mh; Oh blank, see note i.

Radices for the revolution, both in motion and in time, are given in the two Hebrew manuscripts (Mh, 108a, and Oh, 57b) as 176;34,0° and 5;46,16h, respectively, for Paris, and 176;34,6° and 5;46,9h, respectively, for Lyon. Those for Paris are in agreement with their counterparts in the Latin manuscripts with the following exceptions: mean solar argument, ascending node, Saturn (mean anomaly), Venus (mean center and mean anomaly). The entries in the row for the mean solar argument are textually secure, but seem to have been miscopied or miscomputed. In the column for Paris, the text has 6s 18;34,59° but, as indicated above, recomputation with Parisian Alfonsine Table for Dec. 30, 1368, 23;12h after noon, Toledo, yields 6s 18;27,55° (the difference of about 0;7° corresponds to the solar motion in about 3 hours). The entry for the mean center of Venus should be the same as that for the mean solar argument, but this is not the case here. However, the entry in the Hebrew MSS for the mean center of Venus agrees with the corresponding entry in the Latin MSS (see Table 1). This suggests that the entries for the mean center of Venus for all three horizons are to be preferred over the entries for the mean solar argument. Still, the recomputed values for these three entries, 6s 18;26,12° (Avignon), 6s 18;27,55° (Paris), and 6s 18;27,6° (Lyon), differ systematically from the entries in Table 2 by 0;3°.

MS VI, 45r, and MS CI, 107, have a separate table with radices for Liège displaying values of the apogees of the Sun and the five planets. In Table 3 we present the apogees in the Latin and Hebrew MSS of the *Tabule Parisiensis*, as well as those in one manuscript of the Oxford Tables (Vienna, Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, MS 2440, 21r).

Table 3: Apogees

Planet	Latin MSS	Hebrew MSS	Oxford Tables
Sun and Venus	2s 29;57, 5,42°	2s 29;57, 6°	2s 29;41,51°
Saturn	8s 11;55,24,46	8s 11;55,25	8s 11;40,10
Jupiter	5s 22; 8,42,46	5s 21;59,20 ^a	5s 21;53,28
Mars	4s 13;43,55,46	4s 13;43,56	4s 13;28,41
Mercury	6s 29;11,15,46	6s 29;11,16	6s 28;56, 1

- a. With Oh; Mh: 5s 21;39,20.

Note that the values for the apogees in the Latin and Hebrew manuscripts agree, but for Jupiter, where there is a difference of 0;9,23°. When comparing the values in the Oxford Tables with

those in MS VI, we find a difference of $0;15,15^\circ$ in all cases. However, this is not true for Jupiter in the Hebrew manuscripts, indicating that the Hebrew tradition, as represented by manuscripts reported here, introduced a faulty value (or was based on a faulty Latin tradition).

2. Equation of the 8th sphere, lunar latitude, and solar declination: Cl, 108; VI, 45v; Mh, 112b; Oh, 61a.

These three tables are not found among the Oxford Tables, but are characteristic of Alfonsine astronomy. All have a maximum value for argument 90° : $9;0^\circ$ for the equation of the 8th sphere, $5;0^\circ$ for lunar latitude, and $23;33^\circ$ for solar declination. In MS VI, the equation of the 8th sphere and the lunar latitude are found in the same table, as is the case of Mh and Oh.

3. Equation of center and first station: Cl, 109; VI, 46r; Mh, 113a; Oh, 61b.

This table is not found among the Oxford Tables. It is a single table for all planets, with a common double column for the argument, given at intervals of 6° from $0s\ 0^\circ$ to $6s\ 0^\circ$, and their complement to $12s$. For each planet two columns are displayed: one for the equation of center and another for the first station, both given in degrees and minutes (see Table 4). The values for the equation of center are strictly Alfonsine and those for the first station agree with those in the Toledan Tables.

Table 4: Equation of center and first station in MSS Cl, VI, Mh, and Oh (excerpt)

Argument (s, °)	Saturn		Jupiter		Mars		Venus		Mercury	
	Equ.	Sta. 3[s]	Equ.	Sta. 4[s]	Equ.	Sta. 5[s]	Equ.	Sta. 5[s]	Equ.	Sta. 4[s]
0 0 12 0	0; 0	22;44	0; 1	4; 5 ^b	0; 0	7;28	0; 0	15;51	0; 0	27;14
0 6 11 24	0;40	22;45	0;36	4; 5	1; 5	7;33	0;13	15;53	0;17	27;12
0 12 11 18	1;17	22;47 ^a	1;11	4; 6	2;10	7;38	0;26	15;54 ^c	0;33	27; 8
...										
3 0 9 0	6;31	24;11	5;57	5;42	11;23	13;25	2;10	17;11	3; 1	24;37
3 6 8 24	6;30	24;19	5;57	5;50	11;24	13;57	2;10	17;17	3; 2	24;34
...										
5 24 6 6	0;43	25;28	0;39	7;11	1;20	19;11	0;14	18;20	0;19	24;41
6 0 6 0	0; 0	25;30	0; 0	7;11	0; 0	19;15	0; 0	18;21	0; 0	24;42

a. Mh and Oh: 22;46.

b. VI: 4;3.

c. VI: 15;55.

The entries for first station in Table 4 are displayed in degrees and minutes but the number of signs is not specified. In the Hebrew MSS the number of signs is given above and below the column for each planet, whereas in VI, it is given just above the entries for 90° and 180° for each planet.

4. True solar position: Cl, 110–111; VI, 46v–47r; Mh, 113b–114a; Oh, 62a–b.

This table for the true longitude of the Sun is exactly the same, but for scribal errors, as the corresponding one in the Oxford Tables, and it is said to be valid for any place and any time, as indicated in the title in MS VI, *Tabula veri loci solis pro omni loco et tempore constituta*, which, however, adds *data incipiens ab anno Christi completo 1368*. The argument is displayed for each integer degree beginning in Cancer and represents the mean solar longitude. The entries, in signs, degrees, and minutes are the true solar positions and result from adding the Alfonsine solar equation to the corresponding mean position: see Table 5. It is readily seen that the extreme entries are $+1;52^\circ$ (at Psc 30°) and $-2;28^\circ$ (at Vir 30°). The difference between these two values is $4;20^\circ$, which is twice the value of the Alfonsine maximum solar equation, $2;10^\circ$.

Table 5: True solar position (excerpt)¹³

	Cnc 0	diff.	Leo 1	...	Cap 6	diff.	...	Gem 11	diff.
1	0;40	58	29;37					1;43 ^b	58
			Leo						
2	1;39 ^a	58	0;35					2;41	58
...									
29	27;41	58	26;52		29;47	62		28;44 ^c	58
					Aqu				
30	28;39	58	27;51		0;49	62		29;42	58

a. Mh and Oh: 1;38.

b. Mh and Oh: 1;42.

c. Cl: 28;42.

5. True longitude of the Moon: Cl, 112–125; VI, 47v–54r; Mh, 114b–120a; Oh, 63a–68b.

As was the case for the table for the true longitude of the Sun, this table for the Moon is exactly the same, but for scribal errors, as the corresponding one in the Oxford Tables, and it is also valid for any place and any time. It is a double argument table, with mean lunar anomaly, α -bar, displayed at intervals of 6° , at the head of the columns, and mean elongation, η -bar, at intervals of 3° , at the left side of the table (in the Hebrew manuscripts, on the right side). The entries are given in signs, degrees, and minutes, and represent the elongation between the mean Sun and the true Moon. We display selected columns and rows, in particular the last row, for a mean elongation of $6s\ 0^\circ$ and $12s\ 0^\circ$, contains entries which result from adding the mean lunar longitude to the equation of lunar anomaly: see Table 6 (transcribed from the Latin MSS with variants from the Hebrew MSS). It is readily seen that the extreme values of the equation of anomaly occur when mean lunar anomaly is $3s\ 6^\circ$ and $8s\ 24^\circ$, where the values for the equation of anomaly are, respectively, $-4;56^\circ$ and $+4;56^\circ$, which are indeed the characteristic parameters of Alfonsine astronomy.¹⁴

¹³ In the Hebrew MSS the column headed “difference” is mostly blank.

¹⁴ For a detailed analysis of this particular table, see J. Chabás and B. R. Goldstein, “The Moon in the Oxford Tables of 1348”, *Journal for the History of Astronomy*, 47, 2016, pp. 159–167.

Table 6: Elongation between the mean Sun and the true Moon (excerpt)

η -bar	α -bar								
	0s 6°	...	3s 6°	...	6s 0°	...	8s 24°	...	12s 0°
0s 3°/ 6s 3°	0s/ 6s 2;27		11s/5s 28; 4		0s/ 6s 3; 5		0s/ 6s 7;56		0s/ 6s 2;56
0s 6°/ 6s 6°	0s/ 6s 5;23		0s/ 6s 1; 2		0s/ 6s 6;10		0s/ 6s 10;57 ^d		0s/ 6s 5;52
...									
1s 0°/ 7s 0°	0s/ 6s 28;44		0s/ 6s 24;36 ^a		1s/ 7s 0;54		1s/ 7s 5;24		0s/ 6s 29;15
...									
2s 0°/ 8s 0°	1s/ 7s 27;59		1s/ 7s 23;21		2s/ 8s 1;45		2s/ 8s 6;34		1s/ 7s 28;37 ^f
...									
3s 0°/ 9s 0°	2s/ 8s 29;18		2s/ 8s 22;26		3s/ 9s 0; 0		3s/ 9s 7;44 ^e		3s/ 9s 0; 0
...									
4s 0°/10s 0°	4s/10s 0;45		3s/ 9s 23;25 ^b		3s/ 9s 28;15		4s/10s 6;39		4s/10s 1;23
...									
5s 0°/11s 0°	5s/11s 0;12		4s/10s 24;36 ^c		4s/10s 29; 6		5s/11s 5;24		5s/11s 0;45
...									
6s 0°/12s 0°	5s/11s 29;32		5s/11s 25; 4		6s/12s 0; 0		6s/12s 4;56		6s/12s 0; 0

a. Mh and Oh: 24;33.

b. VI: 23;27.

c. VI: 24;46.

d. VI: 10;59.

e. VI: 7;43.

f. VI and Mh: 28;38.

6. True longitude of the planets: Saturn (Cl, 126–137; VI, 54v, Mh, 120b–126a; Oh, 71b–77b), Jupiter (Cl, 138–149; Mh, 126b–132a; Oh, 78a–84a), Mars (Cl, 150–165; Mh, 132b–140a; Oh, 69a–71a, 84b–86b, 95b–98a), Venus (Cl, 166–179; VI, 74v–81r; Mh, 140b–147a; Oh, 87a, 93b–95a, 98b–102b), and Mercury (Cl, 180–191; VI, 81v–87r; Mh, 147b–153a; Oh, 87b–93a).

For each planet we are given a double argument table, where the argument at the head of the table is its mean anomaly, α -bar, at intervals of 6°, and the argument at the left side (right side in Hebrew) of the table is its mean center, κ -bar, also at intervals of 6°. The entries represent the true longitude of the planet, in signs, degrees, and minutes: see Table 7 for the case of Venus and Figure 1 for the case of Mercury. These five tables agree, but for copyist's errors, with those in the Oxford Tables. They were analyzed by North (1977), who established the dependence of the Oxford Tables on the *Tabule magne* compiled by John of Lignères.

Table 7: True longitude of Venus (excerpt).¹⁵

¹⁵ In this table mean anomaly is given at intervals of 6°, except for mean anomaly from 5s 0° to 7s 0°, where the intervals are 3°. In Oh the transitions from one zodiacal sign to the next in columns (after the first column) are not marked, and so the user of this copy might associate the entry with the wrong sign. And on some pages in Oh the zodiacal signs are missing entirely.

κ -bar (s, °)	0s 6°		...	3s 0°		...	α -bar 6s 0°		...	9s 0°		...	12s 0°	
	(°)	(°)		(°)	(°)		(°)	(°)		(°)	(°)		(°)	(°)
0 6	Cnc	8; 4	...	Leo	10;49	...	Cnc	4;58 ^f	...	Gem	0; 17	...	Cnc	5;34
0 12	Cnc	13;56 ^a	...	Leo	16;41	...	Cnc	10;14	...	Gem	6; 9	...	Cnc	11;26
...														
3 0	Lib	0;57	...	Sco	3;58 ^e	...	Vir	21;58 ^g	...	Leo	22;32	...	Vir	28;27
...														
6 0	Cap	2;15	...	Aqr	6; 0	...	Sgr	29;42	...	Sco	23;24	...	Sgr	29;42
...														
9 0	Ari	3;29 ^b	...	Tau	6;52	...	Ari	7;25	...	Aqr	25;26	...	Ari	0;57 ⁱ
...														
11 24	Gem	26;20 ^c	...	Cnc	29; 7	...	Gem	24;21	...	Tau	18;35	...	Gem	23;50
12 0	Cnc	2;12 ^d	...	Leo	4;57	...	Gem	29;42	...	Tau	24;27 ^h	...	Gem	29;42

a. Oh: 13;16.

b. Vl: 3;13.

c. Vl: 25;29.

d. Vl: 2;43.

e. Vl: 4;58.

f. Vl: 4;57.

g. Oh: 22;32.

h. Oh: 20;27.

i. Oh: 0;27.

<<Insert Figure 1 about here.>>

<<Caption>> Figure 1. The first page of the table for the longitude of Mercury in the *Tabule Parisiensis*: Vatican, Biblioteca Apostolica, MS Pal. lat. 1436, 81v, where the zigzag line indicates the limit of each zodiacal sign. Note that the first zodiacal sign in the column between the argument and the entries is Scorpio.

Tabula summe q[ua]ntitatis cu[m] v[er]o m[od]o m[od]o longit[ud]inis

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
0	0	1	4	9	16	25	36	49	64	81	100	121	144	169	196	225	256	289	324	361	400	441	484	529	576	625	676	729	784	841	900	961	1024	1089	1156	1225	1296	1369	1444	1521	1600	1681	1764	1849	1936	2025	2116	2209	2304	2401	2500
1	1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
2	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	32	34	36	38	40	42	44	46	48	50	52	54	56	58	60	62	64	66	68	70	72	74	76	78	80	82	84	86	88	90	92	94	96	98	100	
3	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36	39	42	45	48	51	54	57	60	63	66	69	72	75	78	81	84	87	90	93	96	99	102	105	108	111	114	117	120	123	126	129	132	135	138	141	144	147	150	
4	4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36	40	44	48	52	56	60	64	68	72	76	80	84	88	92	96	100	104	108	112	116	120	124	128	132	136	140	144	148	152	156	160	164	168	172	176	180	184	188	192	196	200	
5	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100	105	110	115	120	125	130	135	140	145	150	155	160	165	170	175	180	185	190	195	200	205	210	215	220	225	230	235	240	245	250	
6	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72	78	84	90	96	102	108	114	120	126	132	138	144	150	156	162	168	174	180	186	192	198	204	210	216	222	228	234	240	246	252	258	264	270	276	282	288	294	300	
7	7	14	21	28	35	42	49	56	63	70	77	84	91	98	105	112	119	126	133	140	147	154	161	168	175	182	189	196	203	210	217	224	231	238	245	252	259	266	273	280	287	294	301	308	315	322	329	336	343	350	
8	8	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72	80	88	96	104	112	120	128	136	144	152	160	168	176	184	192	200	208	216	224	232	240	248	256	264	272	280	288	296	304	312	320	328	336	344	352	360	368	376	384	392	400	
9	9	18	27	36	45	54	63	72	81	90	99	108	117	126	135	144	153	162	171	180	189	198	207	216	225	234	243	252	261	270	279	288	297	306	315	324	333	342	351	360	369	378	387	396	405	414	423	432	441	450	
10	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110	120	130	140	150	160	170	180	190	200	210	220	230	240	250	260	270	280	290	300	310	320	330	340	350	360	370	380	390	400	410	420	430	440	450	460	470	480	490	500	

Summa

7. Planetary latitudes: Saturn (Mh, 154b–156a; Ph, 35b–37a), Jupiter (Mh, 156b–158a; Ph, 37b–39a), Mars (Mh, 158b–161a; Ph, 39b–42a), Venus (Mh, 161b–164a; Ph, 42b–45a), and Mercury (Mh, 164b–166a; Ph, 45b–48a).

As was the case with the tables for the longitude of the Sun, the Moon, and the five planets, these double argument tables for the latitudes of the planets are valid for any geographical position of the observer and for any time. There is a double argument table for each planet, and both arguments agree with those used in the table for planetary longitudes. The argument at the head of the table is its mean anomaly, α -bar, at intervals of 15° , and the argument at the left side (right side in Hebrew) is its mean center, κ -bar, at intervals of 6° . The entries are given in degrees, and minutes, with an indication whether the latitude is North or South: see Table 8 for the case of Saturn. The five tables agree, but for copyist's errors, with those in the Oxford Tables.

Table 8: Latitude of Saturn (excerpt)

κ -bar (s, °)	α -bar									
	0s 15°	1s 0°	...	3s 0°	...	6s 0°	...	9s 0°	...	0s 0°
	(°)	(°)		(°)		(°)		(°)		(°)
0 6	1;12 N	1;13 N	...	1;25 N	...	1;44 N	...	1;25 N	...	1;10 N
0 12	1; 1 N	1; 2 N	...	1;13 N	...	1;29 N	...	1;12 N	...	1; 0 N
...										
3 0	1;25 S	1;27 S	...	1;45 S	...	2; 6 S	...	1;41 S	...	1;23 S
...										
6 0	1;19 S	1;20 S	...	1;36 S	...	1;58 S	...	1;36 S	...	1;19 S
...										
9 0	1;42 N	1;45 N	...	2; 3 N	...	2;31 N	...	2; 8 N	...	1;43 N
...										
11 24	1;28 N	1;30 N	...	1;45 N	...	2;10 N	...	1;45 N	...	1;27 N
12 0	1;20 N	1;22 N	...	1;36 N	...	1;58 N	...	1;36 N	...	1;20 N

N = North; S = South.

II. The Oxford Tables in Mantua

Mordecai Finzi (*fl.* 1440–1475) was responsible for another version of the Oxford Tables in Hebrew, with radices for noon, Dec. 31, 1443, Mantua, Italy, uniquely preserved in Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS Lyell 96, 3b–8a (canons), 8b–11a (radices), 12b–74b (tables), henceforth MS Lh.¹⁶ Finzi was familiar with several sets of astronomical tables in Hebrew and translated some Latin texts on

¹⁶ Finzi's tables in MS Lh were first identified as a version of the Oxford Tables by B. R. Goldstein: see his "Descriptions of astronomical instruments in Hebrew", *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, 500 (1987), pp. 105–141, on p.120.

astronomy into Hebrew. On occasion he mentioned unnamed Christian collaborators.¹⁷ In particular, the colophon to Finzi's version of the Oxford Tables indicates that he completed the translation in Mantua in 1441 "with the help of a Christian" (MS Lh, 8a; cf. Langermann 1988, p. 26). Although the tables were translated from Latin, the canons were rearranged by Finzi. On f. 8b (margin), the coordinates of Mantua are given: longitude (from the West) 31;45°, latitude 45;10°. On f. 4a the longitude of Oxford (MS: in the city of *Osonia* in *Anglia*) is given as 17;56° from the western limit: this is consistent with the longitudinal distance from Oxford to Paris, given as 5;4° in the Oxford Tables, for the sum, 23;0° from the West, is the longitude of Paris (which also results from taking the longitude of Toledo to be 11°, and Paris to be 12° (= 0;48h) from Toledo).

On f. 5b Finzi translated a marginal note in his archetype:

Know that from the time of the investigation [*hitbonenut*]¹⁸ by Ptolemy to the time of the investigation by Alfonso the eighth sphere, as well as the fixed stars and the apogees, moved 17;8°, and from the time of the investigation by Alfonso to 1360 of the Incarnation [it moved] 1;9,8°. ¹⁹ Hence, from the time of the investigation by Ptolemy to 1360 of the Incarnation the orb of the zodiac — that moves with its constellations — moved 18;17,8°. At the time of Ptolemy's investigation, the [more] advanced star on the horn of Aries, which is the beginning of the constellation Aries, was distant from the beginning of the fixed orb of the zodiac 6;40°. ²⁰ It follows that at the end of year 1360 of the Incarnation it was distant from the fixed beginning of Aries 24;57,8°.

According to Finzi, this passage was not part of the original canons to the tables of 1348; rather, it was a marginal gloss in the Latin copy on which he based his translation. In the canons to the *Tabule Parisiensis* there is a similar passage (see above): precession from the time of Ptolemy to that of Alfonso is 17;8° (as in Finzi) and, from the time of Alfonso to the end of 1368, 1;22,18,43° (which is not in Finzi).

A surprising feature of Finzi's version of the Oxford Tables is a table of oblique ascension for geographical latitude 51;50° (Lh, 13a) which, according to a copy of the Oxford Tables in Latin, is the latitude of Oxford (see Florence, Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana, MS San Marco 185, 118r). Although we have not found this table for oblique ascension in the Latin copies of the Oxford Tables, it is included in the tables compiled by the Englishman William Rede (d. 1385), a set of astronomical tables derived from the Parisian Alfonsine Tables and adapted for the meridian of Oxford, with radices for 1340 (see, e.g., Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS Digby 97, 19v–20r). The canons to Rede's set explicitly state that the latitude of Oxford is 51;50°. It would thus seem that Finzi's Latin copy of the Oxford Tables had a table of oblique ascension for the latitude of Oxford, computed by Rede or perhaps, by one of his colleagues at Merton College, Simon Bredon or John Ashenden. To be sure, a table for latitude 51;50° would be of no use for someone in Mantua whose latitude, according to Finzi, is 45;10°, as noted above.

Of greatest interest in Finzi's tables for Mantua are the radices for Mantua and the computation of them that depend directly on the radices in the Oxford Tables for 1348 (Lh, 10b). In each case he begins with the radix for Mantua, noon, Dec. 31, 1348, that he seems to have computed

¹⁷ See Y. T. Langermann, "The Scientific Writings of Mordekhai Finzi", *Italia*, 7, 1988, pp. 8–11, 15–32. Reprinted in Y. T. Langermann, *The Jews and the Sciences in the Middle Ages* (Aldershot, 1999), Essay ix.

¹⁸ In a parallel passage in the Hebrew version of the *Tabule Parisiensis*, the term is *h<. >aqira*: Mh, 105b; Oh, 59a.

¹⁹ Taking the time of Alfonso to be May 31, 1252, and 1360 to mean Dec. 31, 1360, we recompute the difference to be 1;9,8° (= 18;23,53° – 17;14,45°), in agreement with the text.

²⁰ See G. J. Toomer, *Ptolemy's Almagest* (New York, 1984), p. 360: γ Ari.

from the radices for Oxford (same date), by applying the distance between Mantua and Oxford: see Table 9, row 1. The same radices as those in row 1 appear in a list on Lh, 17a, where the heading is on two lines: (1) Radices for the year 1348 according to the Christians; (2) Radices for the beginning of 1349 for the longitude of Mantua. Then in Lh, 10b, row 2, he introduces the motion in 95 years (= 1443 – 1348), and in row 3 he gives the sum of the entries in the preceding two rows. Finally, he subtracts the motion of the eighth sphere and the results in row 4 are the radices for Mantua, noon, Dec. 31, 1343. We have compared Finzi's results with those based on the Parisian Alfonsine Tables for Toledo, Dec. 30, 1343, 22;37h after noon for, given the data cited by Finzi, the difference in longitude from Mantua to Toledo is 20;45° (= 31;45° – 11;0°), or 1;23h. We also checked the entries in row 1, where the time difference between Mantua and Oxford is about 0;55h = 1;23h (Mantua–Toledo) – 0;48h (Toledo – Paris) + 0;20,16h (Paris – Oxford). Among the motions tabulated, those in lunar elongation from the Sun and lunar anomaly are the swiftest; hence they are most affected by this time difference. The radix in the Oxford Tables for Dec. 31, 1348 for the lunar elongation is 4s 4;27,13°, and the motion in elongation in 0;55h is 0;27,56° [= (12;11,27° · 0;55)/24]; the difference is 4s 3;59,17° [text: 4s 4;0,8°]. The radix in the Oxford Table for Dec. 31, 1348 for lunar anomaly is 11s 27;18,0°, and the motion in anomaly in 0;55h is 0;29,56° [= (13;3,54 · 0;55)/24]; the difference is 11s 26;48,4° [text: 11s 26;48,8°]. The agreement is acceptable for the lunar elongation and very close for lunar anomaly. For the planets the recomputed values of the radices for Dec. 31, 1443, noon, Mantua, are very close to the text, with the exception of Jupiter, where the difference is – 0;16,57° (= 8s 20;19,38° – 8s 20;36,35°). This difference is due to the radix for 1348, where Finzi agrees closely with the entry in the Oxford Tables (Finzi: 8s 16;56,0° vs. 8s 16;56,8°). However, the value computed for the center of Jupiter with PAT for Dec. 31, 1348 is 8s 17;13,14° (Finzi – PAT = – 0;17,14°). With this correction, the difference in the center of Jupiter for Dec. 31, 1443, Mantua, is less than 0;1°. Here is additional proof that Finzi depended on the Oxford Tables rather than directly on the Parisian Alfonsine Tables.

Table 9. Finzi, radices for Dec. 31, 1443, noon, Mantua (= Dec. 30, 1443, 22;37h after noon, Toledo); recomputations according to the Parisian Alfonsine Tables [PAT] are displayed in brackets

Table 9a.

	solar anom.	lunar elong.	lunar anom.	asc. node
(1) Their radices	6s 18;30, 4°	4s 4; 0, 8°	11s 26;48, 8°	3s 25;40,18°
(2) Their motion in 95 years	11s 29;57,32	11s 24;35, 4	2s 28;59, 0	1s 7;25, 0
(3) Sum	6s 18;27,36	3s 28;35,12	2s 25;47, 8	2s 18;15,18*
[PAT		3s 28;34, 8	2s 25;44,24	2s 18;15,46]
(4) We subtract from this anomaly the motion of the [eighth] sphere to obtain the appropriate solar anomaly [1]	6s 17;30,35			
[PAT	6s 17;30,29°]			

* Finzi adds: We subtracted the motion of the ascending node from its radix to obtain its true position.

Table 9b.

	center of Saturn	center of Jupiter	center of Mars
(1) Their radices	3s 24;46,10°	8s 16;56, 0°	5s 26;25,15°
(2) Their motion in 95 years	2s 22;16,12	0s 4;20,39	6s 4; 6,31
(3) Sum	6s 17; 2,22	8s 21;16,39	0s 0;31,46
(4) Subtract from them the motion of the [eighth] sphere [1]	6s 16; 5,21	8s 20;19,38	11s 29;34,45
[PAT	6s 16; 5,19°	8s 20;36,35°	11s 29;34,39°]

Table 9c.

	anom. Venus	anom. Mercury	center of Mercury
(1) Their radices	6s 15;11,58°	0s 11;55,25°	obtained when we subtract its combined difference from the solar anomaly
(2) Their motion in 95 years	5s 1;53, 0	5s 6;22, 0	
(3) Sum	11s 17; 4,58	5s 18;17,25	2s 18;16,25
[PAT	11s 17; 2, 7°	5s 18;14,12°	2s 18;16,19°]

Comment.

[1] The amount subtracted is 0;57,1°.

The entries in the version of the Oxford Tables in MS Lh agree with those in the Latin version, but for minor variants: daily position of the Sun (Lh, 17b–18a), elongation of the Moon from the Sun (Lh, 18b–25a), Saturn (Lh, 25b–31a), Jupiter (Lh, 31b–34a), Mars (Lh, 34b–45a), Venus (Lh, 45b–52a), Mercury (Lh, 52b–58a; 58b–59a are blank), latitude of Saturn (Lh, 59b–62a), latitude of Jupiter (Lh, 62b–65a), latitude of Mars (Lh, 65b–68a), latitude of Venus (Lh, 68b–71a), and latitude of Mercury (Lh, 71b–74a). On Lh, 9b, and again on 17a, Finzi lists the planetary apogees, and they all agree exactly with the planetary apogees in the Oxford Tables: see Table 3, column 4.

III. The Oxford Tables in Louvain

About a century later, the instrument-maker and printer Henri Baers or Vekenstyl published in Louvain a set of tables under the title *Tabule perpetue longitudinum ac latitudinum noviter copulate ad meridiem alme universitatis Lovanienses* (1528).²¹ After a short text explaining the use of the tables and displaying several worked examples for 1520, we find tables for the equation of time, animodar, mean motions and equations of the celestial bodies, latitude of the Moon and the five planets, proportions, geographical coordinates, and equation of the houses for geographical latitude

²¹ For a facsimile of the *Tabule perpetue*, together with a French translation and commentary, see E. Pouille and A. De Smet, *Les tables astronomiques de Louvain de 1528* (Brussels, 1976).

51°. All tables use signs of 30 degrees, as is the case of many sets in the Alfonsine tradition, including the Oxford Tables.

The table for animodar (B.i^v–B.ii^v) gives the time from conception to birth in weeks, days, hours, and minutes. This table is the same as that found in Abraham Zacut's *Almanach perpetuum* published in Leiria, Portugal, in 1496 and later reprinted in 1502 and 1525.²² Moreover, the chapter on nativities in Baers' canons was taken almost word-by-word from the corresponding canons in the Latin version of the *Almanach perpetuum*.

In the *Tabule perpetue* for Louvain, the mean motion tables give radices for 1520, 1540, and 1560, collected years in periods of 20 years, and then in single years from 1 to 20, as is the case in several previous sets of tables, including the Oxford Tables.

The tables for planetary latitudes are presented as five double argument tables, one for each planet, with mean anomaly, α -bar, at the head of the table and mean center, κ -bar, at the left of the table. The entries, the format, and the intervals of the two arguments agree with those in the corresponding tables in the Oxford Tables. However, the presentation is slightly different because, for the superior planets, Baers shifted the rows in order to present southern and northern latitudes on separate pages. So, the table for the latitude of Saturn begins at κ -bar = 1s 18° (the text erroneously gives 1s 12°), that for Jupiter at κ -bar = 4s 0°, and that for Mars at κ -bar = 3s 12°. In all three cases the first column is for α -bar = 0s 15°. We note that in the case of Saturn, the table is especially flawed, for several rows are missing and others do not have the proper entries. For Venus and Mercury, this typographical solution was no longer possible and, instead of using a zigzag dividing line between northern and southern latitudes as in the manuscript copies, it was decided to print the latitude tables of the inferior planets in two colors, black and red, with an explanation below the table indicating that the color used for southern latitudes is black and that for northern latitudes is red.

The *Tabule perpetue* for Louvain do not mention the Tables of Oxford or Zacut's tables, from which they were derived. It is of interest that this was the first publication of the Tables of Oxford, at least partially, almost two centuries after their compilation.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to Gad Freudenthal and Y. Tzvi Langermann for their help with Hebrew terminology, to Ofer Elior who provided valuable assistance in obtaining an electronic copy of Finzi's tables (MS Lh), and to the anonymous referee for his/her comments.

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²² See J. Chabás and B. R. Goldstein, *Astronomy in the Iberian Peninsula: Abraham Zacut and the Transition from Manuscript to Print*. Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, 90, Part 2. (Philadelphia, 2000), pp. 86, 150–153.