



AL-KHWARIZMI

MATHEMATICIAN

In about 820, Muhammad ibn Musa Al-Khwarizmi, a Muslim mathematician living in Bagdad, wrote a book presenting the first systematic solution of linear and quadratic equations. In the twelfth century (several hundred years later!) *The Compendious Book on Calculation by Completion and Balancing* was translated into Latin; the Latinized title of his book (*Al-Jabr*) is the source of the word "algebra." A second book by Al-Khwarizmi (which has only been preserved in its Latin translation) introduced the numerals we use today (0-9) and decimal positional number system to the Western world. Al-Khwarizmi's name for this publication was rendered in Latin as *Algoritmi* - and is the source for the term "algorithm."

