NEWS

Magic Square for 2012*

178	210	192	211	189	220	255	222	184	151
183	154	176	224	226	252	234	174	171	218
219	233	163	249	160	240	236	162	168	182
152	229	164	200	203	206	193	237	172	256
221	253	235	205	194	199	204	166	155	180
216	169	158	195	208	201	198	250	232	185
186	170	251	202	197	196	207	157	231	215
187	173	239	159	248	161	165	238	228	214
213	230	225	177	175	156	167	227	254	188
257	191	209	190	212	181	153	179	217	223

This magic square with the magic sum 2012 carries our greetings and good wishes for the year 2012 to the readers of the *Indian Journal of History of Science.* When you add the numbers in the ten cells in any vertical column, horizontal row or diagonal, you will always get the magic sum 2012. The basic pattern for this magic square and the method how to manipulate it to yield any

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desired sum was discussed by Jafar Sharif. He was lived in the first half of the nineteenth century at Eluru, now in the West Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh.

He was the official Dubash or translator of the East India Company and wrote the *Qanoon-e-Islam, or the Customs of the Moosulmans of India;* comprising a full and exact account of their various Rites and Ceremonies, from the moment of their birth till the hour of death.

The book was 'composed under the direction of, and translated [from the original Urdu] by G. A. Herklots, M.D., Surgeon on the Madras Establishment,' and was published by Parberry, Allen, and Co., London, in 1832.

Chapter 32 of the book deals with the 'science of *tukseer* (or numbers)' and teaches how to construct diverse types of magic squares for therapeutic or occult purposes. In his new edition of the book, the well-known ethnologist William Crooke rearranged the material and even rewrote some parts, with the consequence that there crept in several errors in the section on magic squares. The Wikipedia notes that 'in his role as an editor he has been viewed sometimes as adopting an interventionist approach.' The original edition of the book, which has not been easily accessible so far, is luckily available now in Google. It is an important source for the history of magic squares in India.