This book contains a reconstruction of Thabit ibn Qurra’s On Talismans, based on recently-discovered Judaeo-Arabic text in the Cairo Genizah, which was probably written in Baghdad in the late ninth century. This text appears in Arabic, and quotations from it have been included in this edition. Editions of the major excerpts of, and quotations from, these two texts in Hebrew, Arabic, and Greek, have been added, and the Latin translation of another, (lost) Arabic version of Thabit’s text — the Liber prestigiorum Thibidi — made by Adelard of Bath, completes the volume. Adelard’s version adds elements of ceremonial magic (including prayers to spiritual forces) to the effects of the stars. The texts edited here are essential sources for our knowledge of the theory and practice of astrological talismans in the Middle Ages and early modern period.

Charles Burnett is Professor of the History of Arab/Islamic Influence in Europe at the Warburg Institute, University of London. His research centres on the transmission of texts, techniques and artefacts from the Arab world to the West, especially in the Middle Ages. Among his books in this subject area are The Transmission of Arabic Learning into Europe (1997), Arabic into Latin in the Middle Ages: The Translators and their Intellectual Context (2017) and Adelard of Bath: The First French Philosopher (2019). Gideon Bohak holds the Jacob M. Alkow Chair for the History of the Jews in the Ancient World at Tel Aviv University, and teaches at the Department of Jewish Philosophy and Talmud. His research focuses on the history of Jewish magic and on the magical, mystical, astrological and divinatory texts from the Cairo Genizah. His most recent books include Ancient Jewish Magic: A History, Cambridge, 2018, and A Fifteenth-Century Manuscript of Jewish Magic, Los Angeles, 2014 (Hebrew).
This book contains a reconstruction of Thabit ibn Qurra’s On Talismans, based on a recently-discovered Judaeo-Arabic text in the Cairo Genizah and the Latin versions. On Talismans, probably written in Baghdad in the late ninth century, was the most authorita-

tive medieval text on the procedure for making talismans that de-

pend for their efficacy on the natural influences of the stars. The

Genizah manuscripts also include the first nine talismans of the On

the Images on the Deism of the Sages attributed to Pseudo-

eriopod, a work which forms a natural complement to Thabit’s text and is therefore

here included in this edition. Major excerpts of the Middle Ages I-II

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Thabit ibn Qurra On Talismans

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Liber prestigiorum Thrabidis of Adelard of Bath
Thābit ibn Qurra *On Talismans* and Ps.-Ptolemy *On Images 1-9* Together with the *Liber prestigiorum Thebidis* of Adelard of Bath
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