



From the Curator C. H. JOSTEN

MUSEUM OF THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE
OLD ASHMOLEAN BUILDING, BROAD STREET OXFORD

Telephone OXFORD 3997

December 13, 1954.

Dear Monsieur Michel,

In the absence of Dr. Josten who is away on holiday, I am replying to your letter of December 9th. We are most grateful to you for the trouble you have taken to assist us in the matter of the astrolabe by 'Abd al-A'immah^h.

As you say, if there were a well-known family of astrolabists by the name of 'Abd al-A'immah, it is odd that they should not be mentioned by Chardin, and therefore it does seem possible that we are concerned with a single 'Abd al-A'immah of the eighteenth century, who redecorated older instruments. However, this does not explain why on this particular instrument he should have put a date, 986 A.H., which does not even fall within the reign of Shāh 'Abbās I, in whose reign the instrument is explicitly stated to have been made (on the kursi).

Your last letter confirms our doubts about the wisdom of buying this instrument, and we shall return it to the dealer who offered it to us.

Yours sincerely,

Francis Maddison

Assistant Curator.

Monsieur Henri Michel,
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Belgium.