

Seminar SAW History of Science, History of Text, 2011-2016
SAW Three-day Meeting

How do writings in the astral sciences
document mathematical practices and the practitioners?

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John of Murs' eclipse computation in the Escorial O II 10

Abstract - The Manuscript Escorial O II 10 contains a set of commonly used astronomical treatises in the context of the faculty of arts in Paris at the end of the 13th and beginning of the 14th centuries. Its main interest lies in the autograph notes that John of Murs, an important 14th century astronomer, made in the margins of this manuscript throughout most of his intellectual career concerning a wide range of scientific and non-scientific topics. Among those notes, two sets related to the observation of two successive solar eclipses (1333 and 1337) will be examined. Two directions of analysis will be explored. First, we will examine how these notes inform us about John of Murs' interrelated astronomical and mathematical practices in these eclipses observations. This will lead us to an awareness of some more editorial choices made by John of Murs in these notes, the meaning of which will be pondered.