

The Book of Musical Knowledge The History, Technique, and Appreciation of Music, Together With Lives of the Great Composers; For Music-Lovers, Students, and Teachers by Arthur Elson The Book of Musical Knowledge.

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The only biographical information known about him is contained in his famed Book of Knowledge of Ingenious Mechanical Devices. Al-Jazari goes on to describe the improvements he made to the work of his predecessors, and describes a number of devices, techniques and components that are original innovations which do not appear in the works by his predecessors. Al-Jazari invented five machines for raising water, [1] as well as watermills and water wheels with cams on their axle used to operate automata, [24] in the 12th and 13th centuries, and described them in It was in these water-raising machines that he introduced his most important ideas and components. Al-Jazari also constructed a water-raising saqiya chain pump which was run by hydropower rather than manual labour, though the Chinese were also using hydropower for chain pumps prior to him. Saqiya machines like the ones he described have been supplying water in Damascus since the 13th century up until modern times, [25] and were in everyday use throughout the medieval Islamic world. This pump is driven by a water wheel, which drives, through a system of gears, an oscillating slot-rod to which the rods of two pistons are attached. The pistons work in horizontally opposed cylinders, each provided with valve-operated suction and delivery pipes. The delivery pipes are joined above the centre of the machine to form a single outlet into the irrigation system. This water-raising machine had a direct significance for the development of modern engineering. This pump is remarkable for three reasons: The first application of the double-acting principle. The conversion of rotary to reciprocating motion via the crank-connecting rod mechanism. This was more advanced than the suction pumps that appeared in 15th-century Europe, which lacked delivery pipes. It was not, however, any more efficient than the noria commonly used by the Muslim world at the time. The system had water from a lake turn a scoop-wheel and a system of gears which transported jars of water up to a water channel that led to mosques and hospitals in the city. Rosheim summarizes the advances in robotics made by Muslim engineers, especially al-Jazari, as follows: Unlike the Greek designs, these Arab examples reveal an interest, not only in dramatic illusion, but in manipulating the environment for human comfort. Thus, the greatest contribution the Arabs made, besides preserving, disseminating and building on the work of the Greeks, was the concept of practical application. This was the key element that was missing in Greek robotic science. The drink was stored in a tank with a reservoir from where the drink drips into a bucket and, after seven minutes, into a cup, after which the waitress appears out of an automatic door serving the drink. It features a female humanoid automaton standing by a basin filled with water. When the user pulls the lever, the water drains and the female automaton refills the basin. Rosheim describes it as follows: When more water is used, a second float at a higher level trips and causes the appearance of a second servant figure " with a towel! This operation was achieved through his innovative use of hydraulic switching. Professor Noel Sharkey has argued that it is quite likely that it was an early programmable automata and has produced a possible reconstruction of the mechanism; it has a programmable drum machine with pegs cams that bump into little levers that operated the percussion. The drummer could be made to play different rhythms and different drum patterns if the pegs were moved around. These included a portable water-powered scribe clock, which was a meter high and half a meter wide, reconstructed successfully at the Science Museum in [24] [40] Al-Jazari also invented monumental water-powered astronomical clocks which displayed moving models of the Sun, Moon, and stars. According to Donald Hill, al-Jazari described the most sophisticated candle clocks known to date. Wax collected in the indentation and could be removed periodically so that it did not interfere with steady burning. The bottom of the candle rested in a shallow dish that had a ring on its side connected through pulleys to a counterweight. As the candle burned away, the weight pushed it upward at a constant speed. The automata were operated from the dish at the bottom of the candle. No other candle clocks of this sophistication are known. Elephant clock The elephant clock described by al-Jazari is notable for several innovations. It was the first clock in which an automaton reacted after certain intervals of time in this case, a humanoid robot striking the cymbal and a mechanical

robotic bird chirping and the first water clock to accurately record the passage of the temporal hours to match the uneven length of days throughout the year. It included a display of the zodiac and the solar and lunar orbits , and an innovative feature of the device was a pointer in the shape of the crescent moon which travelled across the top of a gateway, moved by a hidden cart, and caused automatic doors to open, each revealing a mannequin , every hour. Another feature of the device was five automata musicians who automatically play music when moved by levers operated by a hidden camshaft attached to a water wheel. These included geared clocks and a portable water-powered scribe clock, which was a meter high and half a meter wide. The scribe with his pen was synonymous to the hour hand of a modern clock. Miniature paintings[edit] Alongside his accomplishments as an inventor and engineer, al-Jazari was also an accomplished artist. In *The Book of Knowledge of Ingenious Mechanical Devices*, he gave instructions of his inventions and illustrated them using miniature paintings, a medieval style of Islamic art. The musical robot band designed by al-Jazari. A table device automaton designed by al-Jazari. An illustration of a device invented by al-Jazari. A sketch of a device designed by al-Jazari.

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