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*Diamonds, Rings, and Squares: Eastern Magic in Western Hands*

In medieval Islamic mathematics there were two basic methods for constructing odd-order magic squares: the so-called “diamond” technique and another, more sophisticated one that can be understood in terms of a virtual torus. The West produced the first detailed description of the latter technique during the Renaissance period. Using historical evidence, including that of art, this paper makes an attempt to trace some of the possible routes of this intercultural scientific reception—in order to get closer to the understanding of the cosmological-spiritual background of these centuries-old mathematical problems.