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It is important to note that which bears on this book's main thesis, is critiqued in this volume. This can, then, be seen as a critique of the contents of that literature, and/or the conclusions reached therein. The scrutiny to which those conclusions are now subjected is necessitated by new evidence that has raised doubts about their validity.

The terms "Islamic science" and "Arabic astronomy," used extensively in this book, call for an explanatory comment. "Islamic science," is intended to designate those sciences that were developed in the Islamic civilization and which did not fall within the sphere of disciplines usually designated with the Arabic expression *al-funūn al-kawnīya* (Islamic sciences). The latter