LEN BERGGREN, Simon Fraser University, British Columbia A tenth-century mathematician: Abu al-Jud, his life and work

Although the standard biographical sources are silent on Abu al-Jud, Omar Khayyam tells us he solved an algebra problem, leading to a cubic equation, that none of his contemporaries had been able to solve. Our survey of his works, which we report in this talk, suggests that he was indeed a talented mathematician. But he was also one who occasionally 'rushed into print' he had checked all the details of his argument and who was embroiled in a nasty controversy with a contemporary on the solution of a major unsolved problem.