1056-01-307   **Abdulalim Abdullah Shabazz*** (`shabazza@gram.edu`), Grambling State University, Dept of Mathematics and Computer Science, 403 Main Street, PO Box 4257, Grambling, LA 71245. *The Number Zero: Its Origin and Use.*

From the third millennium on, the Egyptians had already developed the decimal notation and used the number zero, indicated by the spaces they left where the zero would be placed today. This way of recording numbers appeared in China, India, Persia and Babylonia, and in general, in the Middle East, East, North, West and Central Africa. It appeared in Spain and Portugal during the eight and ninth centuries, and after the thirteenth century in the rest of Europe. Not only did the use of zero in the decimal place-value system make ease of representing numbers however large or small it made ease of calculations with numbers. (Received September 22, 2009)