The Beginnings of Greek Mathematics

He is unworthy of the name of man who does not know that the diagonal of a square is incommensurable with its side.

PLATO

3.1 The Geometrical Discoveries of Thales

Greece and the Aegean Area

The Greeks made mathematics into one discipline, transforming a varied collection of empirical rules of calculation into an orderly and systematic unity. Although they were plainly heirs to an accumulation of Eastern

knowledge, the Greeks fashioned through their own efforts a mathematics more profound, more abstract (in the sense of being more remote from the uses of everyday life), and more rational than any that preceded it. In ancient Babylonia and Egypt, mathematics had been cultivated chie y as a tool, either for immediate practical application or as part of the special knowledge be tting a privileged class of scribes. Greek mathematics, on the other hand, seems to have been a detached intellectual subject for the connoisseur. The Greeks' habits of abstract thought distinguished them from previous thinkers; their concern was not with, say, triangular elds of grain but with "triangles" and the characteristics that must accompany "triangularity." This preference for the abstract concept can be seen in the attitude of the different cultures toward the number $\sqrt{2}$; the Babylonians had computed its approximations to a high accuracy, but the Greeks proved that it was irrational. The notion of seeking after knowledge for its own sake was almost completely alien to the older Eastern civilizations, so that in the application of reasoning to mathematics, the Greeks completely changed the nature of the subject. Plato's inscription over the door of his Academy, "Let no man ignorant of geometry enter here," was not the admonition of an eccentric but rather a tribute to the Greek conviction that through the spirit of inquiry and strict logic one could understand a person's place in an orderly umirvierse.

All history is based on written documents. Although documentation concerning Egyptian and Babylonian mathematics is often very precise, the primary sources that can give us a clear picture of the early development of Greek mathematics are meager. In Greece, there was no papyrus such as was available in Egypt, no clays as in Babylonia. Such "books" as were written must have been very few; and with the passing of time and ravages of the elements, little original material has survived. Consequently, early Greek history is a morass of myths, legends, and dubious anecdotes, preserved by writers who

The Beginnings Of Greek Mathematics

Sir Thomas Heath

The Beginnings Of Greek Mathematics:

The Beginnings of Greek Mathematics A. Szabó, 2013-03-09 When this book was first published more than five years ago I added an appendix on How the Pythagoreans discovered Proposition 11 5 of the Elements I hoped that this appendix although different in some ways from the rest of the book would serve to illustrate the kind of research which needs to be undertaken if we are to acquire a new understanding of the historical development of Greek mathematics It should perhaps be mentioned that this book is not intended to be an introduction to Greek mathematics for the general reader its aim is to bring the problems associated with the early history of deductive science to the attention of classical scholars and historians and philos ophers of science I should like to conclude by thanking my translator Mr A M Ungar who worked hard to produce something more than a mechanical translation Much of his work was carried out during the year which I spent at Stanford as a fellow of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences This enabled me to supervise the work of transla tion as it progressed I am happy to express my gratitude to the Center for providing me with this opportunity Arpad Szabo NOTE ON REFERENCES The following books are frequently referred to in the notes Unless otherwise stated the editions are those given below Burkert W Weisheit und Wissensclzaft Studien zu Pythagoras Philo laos und Platon Nuremberg 1962 Grants and Awards for the Fiscal Year Ended ... National Science Foundation (U.S.),1982 **Classics in the History of Greek** Mathematics Jean Christianidis, 2013-04-18 The twentieth century is the period during which the history of Greek mathematics reached its greatest acme Indeed it is by no means exaggerated to say that Greek mathematics represents the unique field from the wider domain of the general history of science which was included in the research agenda of so many and so distinguished scholars from so varied scientific communities historians of science historians of philosophy mathematicians philologists philosophers of science archeologists etc while new scholarship of the highest quality continues to be produced This volume includes 19 classic papers on the history of Greek mathematics that were published during the entire 20th century and affected significantly the state of the art of this field It is divided into six self contained sections each one with its own editor who had the responsibility for the selection of the papers that are republished in the section and who wrote the introduction of the section It constitutes a kind of a Reader book which is today one century after the first publications of Tannery Zeuthen Heath and the other outstanding figures of the end of the 19th and the beg ning of 20th century rather timely in many respects A History of Greek Mathematics, Volume II Sir Thomas Heath, 2013-09-16 Volume 2 of an authoritative two volume set that covers the essentials of mathematics and features every landmark innovation and every important figure including Euclid Apollonius and others The Beginnings of Greek Mathematics Árpád Szabó.1978 **A History of Greek Mathematics** Sir Thomas Little Heath, 1921 A History of Greek Mathematics: From Aristarchus to Diophantus Thomas Heath, 1981-01-01 Volume 2 of an authoritative two volume set that covers the essentials of mathematics and features every landmark innovation and every important figure including Euclid Apollonius and others

A Short History of Greek Mathematics James Gow,2010-06-24 The complete history of Greek mathematics from the origins of arithmetic to the key works of Pythagorus Euclid and Archimedes A New History of Greek Mathematics Reviel Netz,2022-09-01 The ancient Greeks played a fundamental role in the history of mathematics and their ideas were reused and developed in subsequent periods all the way down to the scientific revolution and beyond In this the first complete history for a century Reviel Netz offers a panoramic view of the rise and influence of Greek mathematics and its significance in world history He explores the Near Eastern antecedents and the social and intellectual developments underlying the subject s beginnings in Greece in the fifth century BCE He leads the reader through the proofs and arguments of key figures like Archytas Euclid and Archimedes and considers the totality of the Greek mathematical achievement which also includes in addition to pure mathematics such applied fields as optics music mechanics and above all astronomy This is the story not only of a major historical development but of some of the finest mathematics ever created Selections Illustrating the History of Greek Mathematics V1 Ivor Bulmer Thomas, 2011-05-01

Unveiling the Magic of Words: A Report on "The Beginnings Of Greek Mathematics"

In a global defined by information and interconnectivity, the enchanting power of words has acquired unparalleled significance. Their capability to kindle emotions, provoke contemplation, and ignite transformative change is truly aweinspiring. Enter the realm of "**The Beginnings Of Greek Mathematics**," a mesmerizing literary masterpiece penned with a distinguished author, guiding readers on a profound journey to unravel the secrets and potential hidden within every word. In this critique, we shall delve into the book is central themes, examine its distinctive writing style, and assess its profound impact on the souls of its readers.

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The Beginnings Of Greek Mathematics Introduction

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