

He wrote on logic, physics, metaphysics, astronomy, meteorology, botany, zoology, embryology, medicine, ethics, psychology, politics, economics, and literature. His treatises were used as textbooks in his school. But they were more than that. For they formed an encyclopedia of everything known in his time. This encyclopedia had no peer of rival for 2000 years until the French Encyclopedia in A. D. 1751 - 1765.³⁴

Aristotle who lived from 384 to 322 B. C. , set up a school, Lyceum, which rivaled the great Academy!³⁴ Aristotle has long been celebrated for giving us the key to the mastery of reasoning. Organon, his great book on logic, is that key.³⁵ He didn't write on Mathematics because he thought it was complete, but he was still a great mathematician.

It's yet, as a mathematician, Euclid's fame is not due to his own research. Few of the theorems in his textbooks are of his own. What Euclid did, and what made him great, was to take all the knowledge accumulated in mathematics to his time and codify it into a single work. In doing so, he evolved, as a starting point, a series of axioms and postulates that were admirable for their brevity and elegance.³⁶

"Euclid's Elements in 300 B. C. superseded all preceding Greek writings on mathematics."³⁷

We know his (Euclid) Elements, whose influence has not been equaled in the history of science. For twenty centuries, the great mathematicians of Greece, Egypt, Persia, Arabia, and India got their first stimulus from it. Each pupil copied the manuscripts in order to have one of his own.

The first printed edition of Euclid appeared just ten years before Columbus found the New World. One by one, there followed more than 1000 other editions-in more copies, in more languages, than any other book with the exception of the Bible.³⁸

34 Leon Perry, The Mathmen, page 51

35 Ibid

36 Isaac Asimov, Asimov on Numbers, page 134

37 "Mathematics". Encyclopedia Americana, volume 17, page 395

38 Leon Perry, The Mathmen, page 53

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