

Proclus Lycaeus (412-485 A.D.)

- born in Constantinople (modern Istanbul), the capital of the Eastern Roman Empire
 - [the Western Empire was mostly gone by then, and formally ended in 476 A.D. when the Ostrogothic king Odoacer deposed the last emperor.]
- educated in Alexandria, where he apparently studied rhetoric, philosophy, and mathematics
- he eventually became head of the Academy in Athens, which continued as a centre of learning, especially in philosophy, as Alexandria declined
- he is mainly remembered as a philosopher nowadays
 - his version of neo-Platonism was very ~~noted~~ influential on both Islamic and Christian medieval philosophy and theology
 - he wrote a number of works on philosophy, some original and some commentaries on Plato
- he matters for us because he wrote a commentary on Euclid's Elements in which he gives a sketch of the history of Greek mathematics, and especially the mathematicians associated with Plato

His signature quote on mathematics is:

Wherever there is number, there is beauty.

[I guess this means spreadsheets are art.]

Our final "contestant" is something of a transitional figure. Although the Ostrogoths conquered Italy, life went on under the new regime:

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Anicius Manlius Severinus Boethius (c. 480 - 524 A.D.), commonly called Boethius

- Roman nobleman, held various offices under the Ostrogothic kings
- philosopher, mainly remembered nowadays for his Consolation of Philosophy, written in prison before he was executed
- he wrote various other original works on philosophy, theology, and education
 - this included several mathematics textbooks:
 - De arithmetica (c. 500 A.D.), apparently based on a book by Nichomachus of Gerasa (c. 60 - 120 A.D.)
 - De musica (c. 510 A.D.), based on lost works by Ptolemy and the aforementioned Nichomachus.
 - a work on geometry of which only fragments survive.
- his scheme for organizing education (well, higher education after basic literacy and numeracy) became the standard in medieval Europe:
 - First, learn the trivium: grammar, logic, rhetoric.
 - Then, the quadrivium: music, astronomy, geometry, & arithmetic.
 - [Compare to Pythagoras' division of mathematics.]
 - Then, specialize in theology, philosophy, medicine, etc.

This is the end! It's been fun!