

A TWO THOUSAND YEAR JOURNEY AROUND THE MEDITERRANEAN.



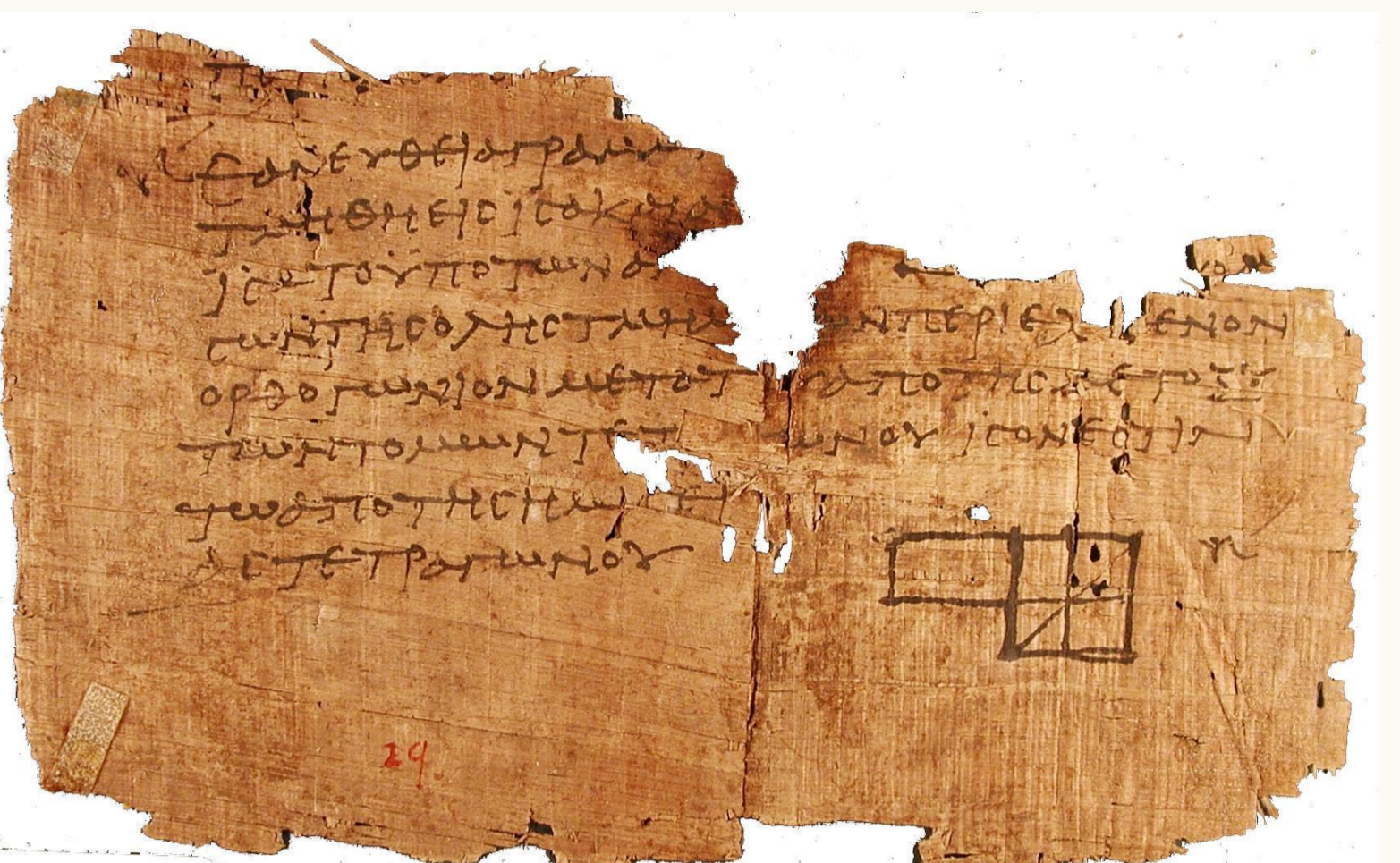
MEDITERRANEAN JOURNEYS OF EUCLID'S ELEMENTS



Euclid drawing a figure with a compass "L'école d'Athènes", Raphaël (Vatican Museum)

Euclid, a Greek mathematician of the 3rd century B.C.E., probably lived in Alexandria. His work "The Elements", is considered to be one of the founding texts of mathematics. It is the oldest known mathematical work written with a concern for scientific rigor and logic. It is the synthesis of mathematics known in this time.

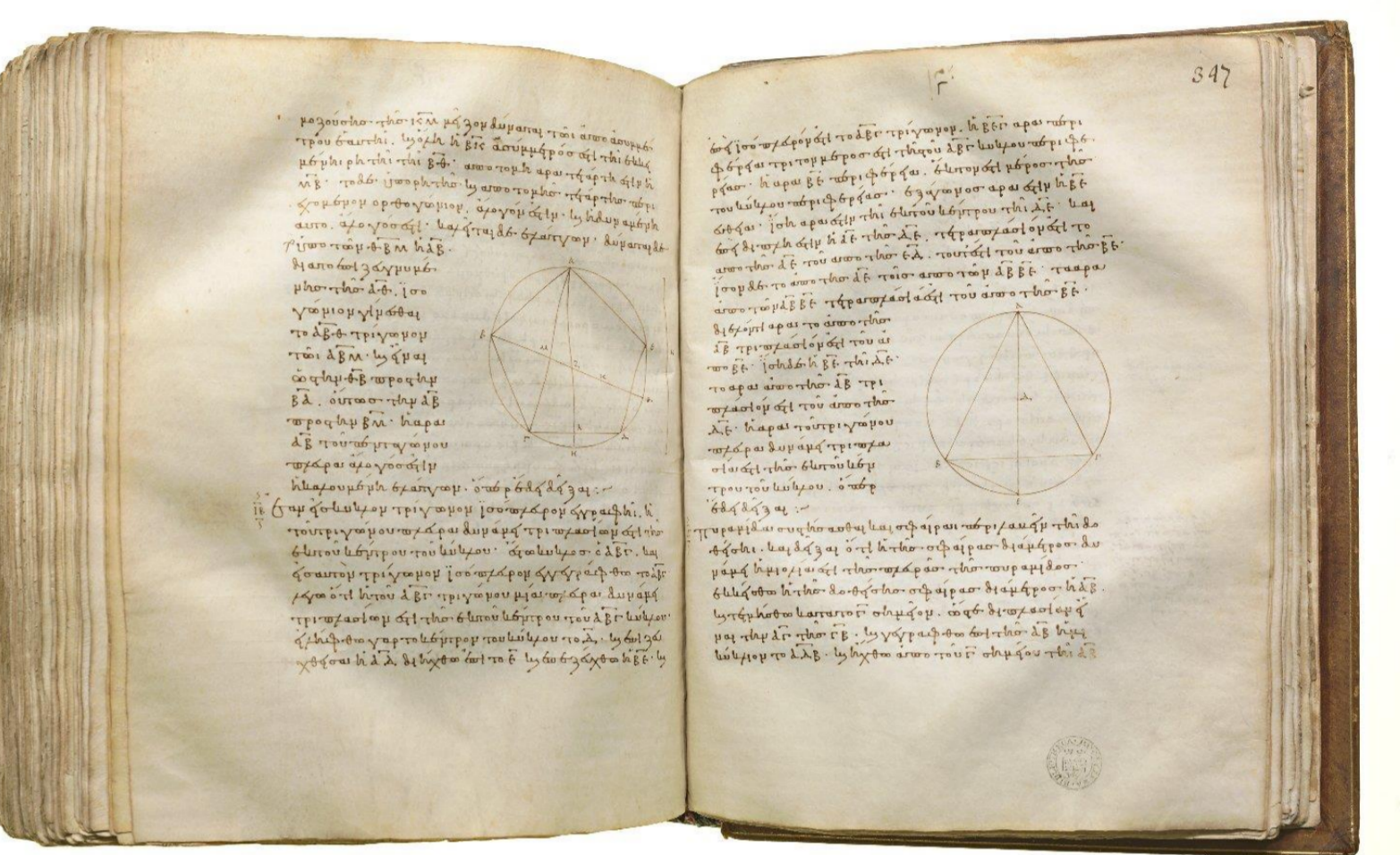
Before reaching us, mathematicians have translated "The Elements" in their language, have studied, commented on, and corrected it.



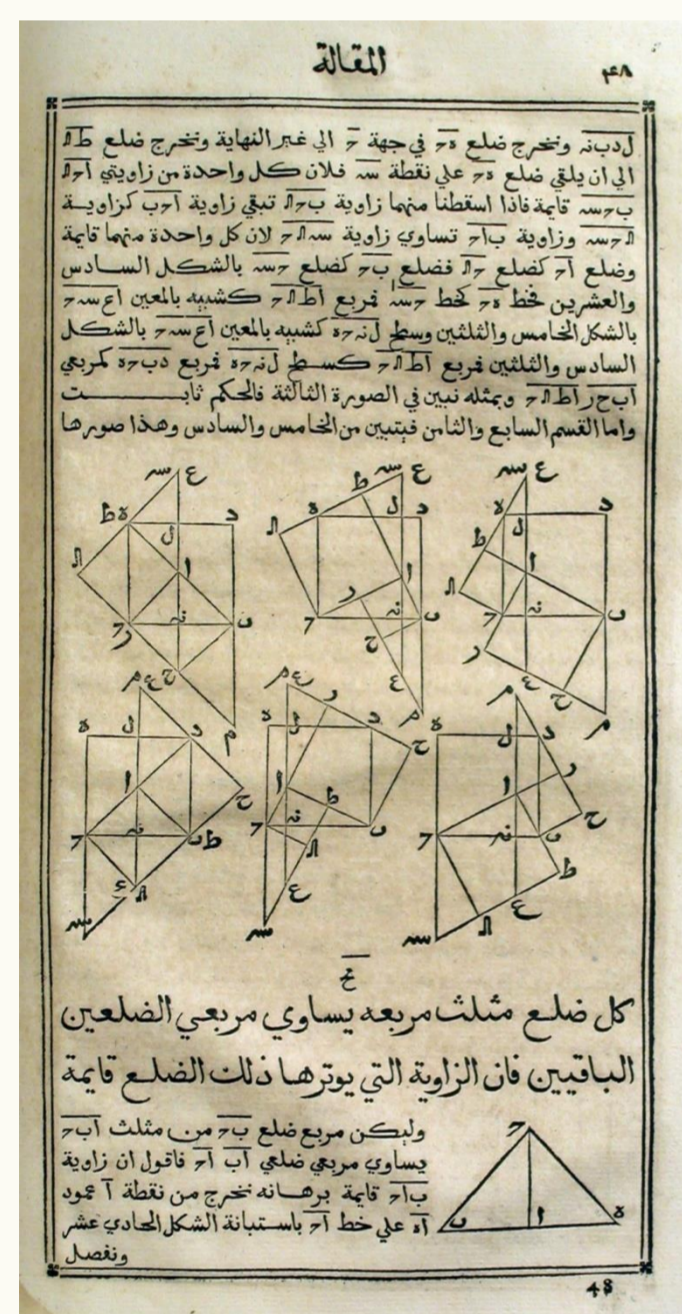
Papyrus Oxyrhynchus (circa 100 AD) Proposition II-5

The Elements : Euclid (3rd century B.C.E.)

Copies and Greek commentaries (from the 3rd century B.C.E. to the 4th century B.C.E.)
The oldest copies available on papyrus date from the 1st century C.E. There are many subsequent manuscripts: copies were corrected, commented on and sometimes supplemented (together with mistakes).



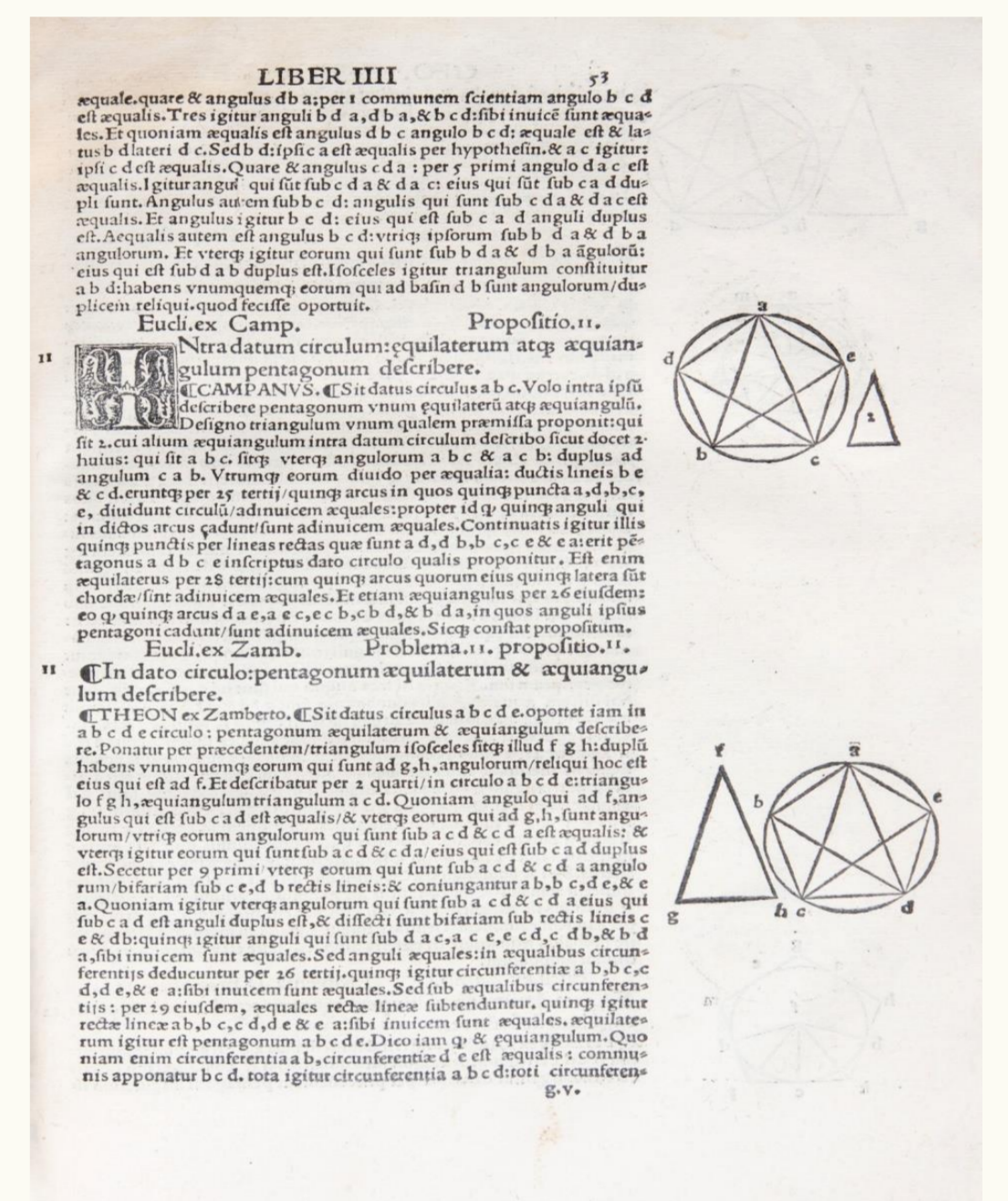
Prop. XIII-12, Theon copy of the text. University of Oxford



Translation and comments, by Al Tusi

Arabic translations (from the 7th century to the 8th century)
They circulated throughout the Arab world from 754 on. There are at least fifty translations.

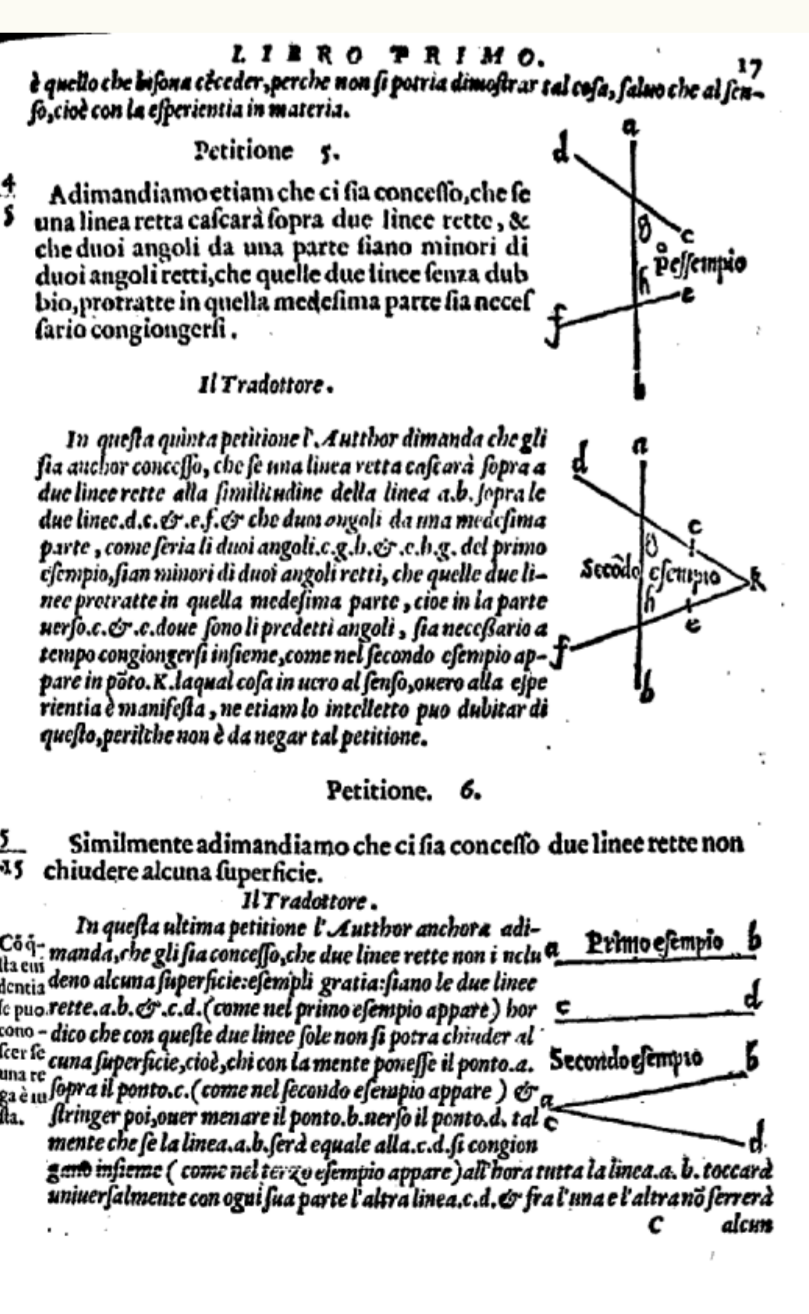
Latin translations (from the 10th century)
They were made from Greek and Arabic manuscripts.



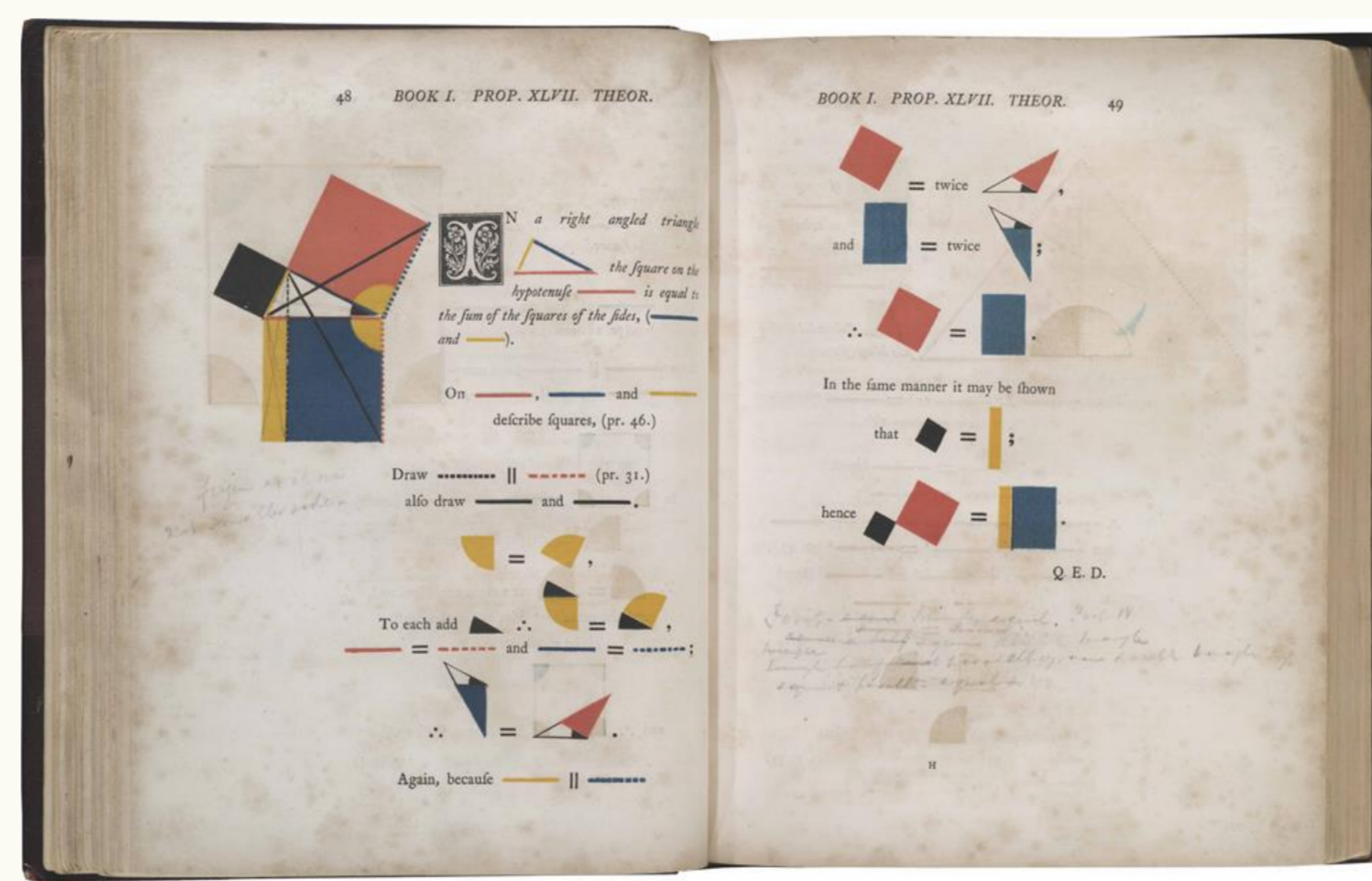
Latin edition. First edition printed in France comparing the commentaries of Theon Campanus and Zamberti.

Scholars of all backgrounds and faiths met in **Toledo and Sicily**. Latin, Greek, Arabic and Hebrew were in use in these important centers of translation.

Translations in Italian, French, English, ... (from the 16th century.)

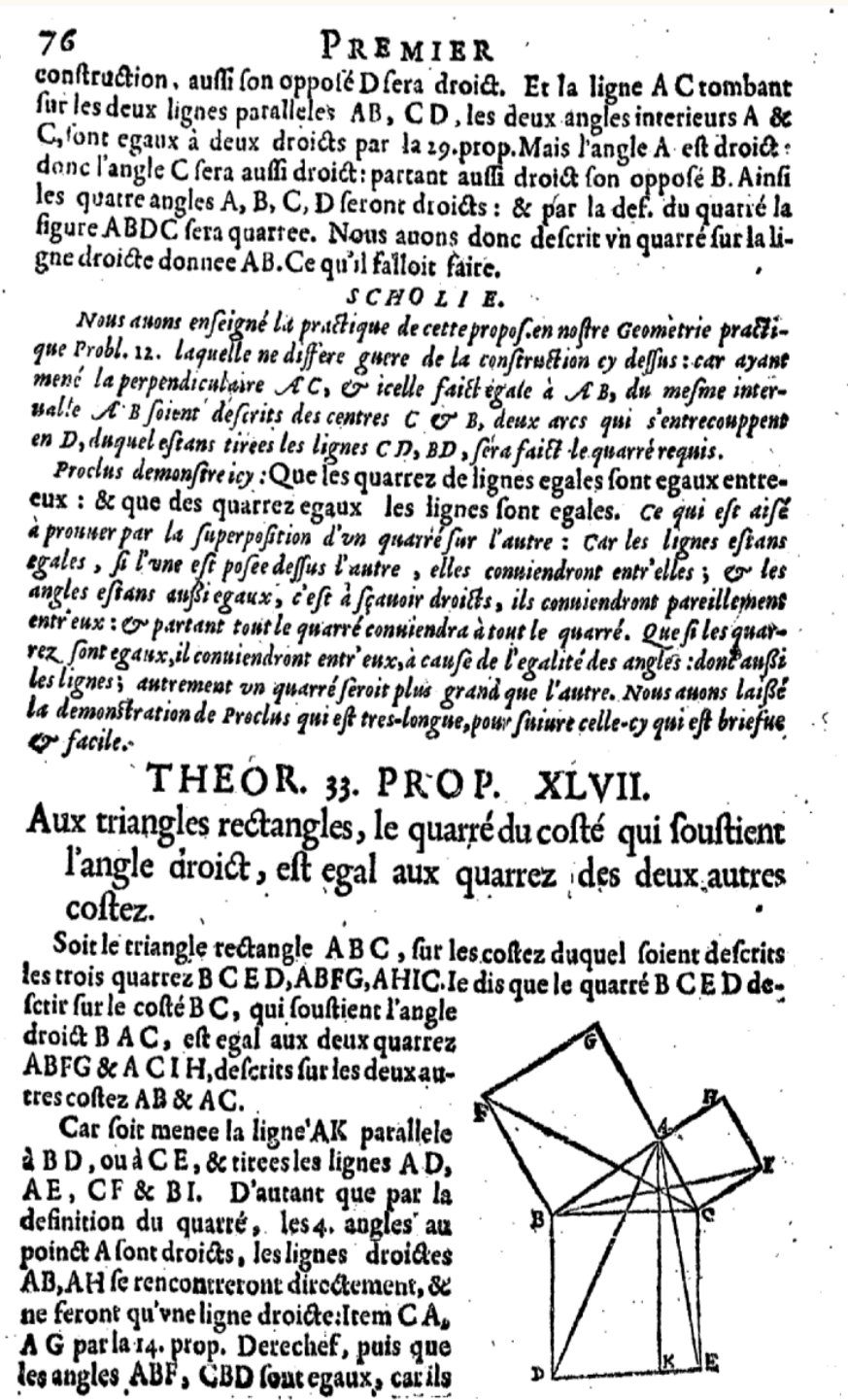


Italian translation, due to Niccolò Tartaglia, published in Venice in 1586. The translator, like many others before him, inserted his comments.



English Edition, Oliver Byrne (London 1847)

Prop I-47, trans. D. Henrion, Paris 1632, Source Gallica.bnf.fr



The Elements were one of the first printed works (in Venice in 1482). Only the Bible has more published editions