

Seminar SAW History of Science, History of Text, 2011-2016
SAW Three-day Meeting

How do writings in the astral sciences
document mathematical practices and the practitioners?

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The use of physical devices to do computation. Selections from Ptolemy's Analemma, and Heron's Dioptra 35

Abstract - In this communication we examine a documentation concerning two different instruments used in the hellenistic world to make, among other things, astronomical computations. After a brief contextualisation of this documentation, the focus will be first on the aspects of the sources which describe the instruments and the way they describe it, and second on the way the operations with the instruments are described as well as their mathematical and astronomical meaning.