

SEEING EUCLID

a networked exhibition of Euclidean texts – summer 2018

Euclidean geometry has held sway in Europe for nearly two and a half thousand years. It has been used by surveyors to map fields and architects to design buildings, and studied by generations of schoolchildren. Early thinkers turned to it as a source of philosophy; later readers saw in it a monument to the genius of the Greeks, or an exercise for improving the mind. Today Euclid is commemorated in place names, on postage stamps, and even as an interplanetary satellite.

The *Elements of Geometry* was written by Euclid of Alexandria around 300BCE and transmitted through the medieval world in Greek, Arabic, Latin and other languages. In the seventeenth century the *Elements* enjoyed a particular resurgence. Nearly 300 editions of the text appeared between 1482 and 1700, ranging in size from

large library tomes to small pocket-books. Today, more than 1900 copies of these editions are extant in libraries and repositories across Britain and Ireland.

Throughout summer 2018, the 'Seeing Euclid' network of exhibitions will highlight the legacy of Euclid's *Elements* in Early Modern Britain and Ireland, with displays of books and other artefacts from the first two hundred years of Euclid in print. Curated by the research project 'Reading Euclid', based at the University of Oxford and funded by the AHRC, the exhibition is a collaboration between nearly thirty institutions across Britain and Ireland. Visit us at seeingeuclid.org for a map of the participating locations, where you can also find stories about how people lived with, read, used and abused the *Elements of Geometry*, a most long-lived and wide-ranging cultural artefact.



PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

England

University of Cambridge
Canterbury Cathedral
Eton College
University of Leeds
University of Leicester
Lincoln Cathedral
University of Liverpool
John Rylands Library, University of Manchester
Newcastle University
University of Oxford
Winchester College
York Minster

[London]

Middle Temple Library
Royal College of Physicians
Royal Society of London
Senate House Library, University of London
University College London

Wellcome Collection
Westminster School

Northern Ireland

Armagh Robinson Library

Scotland

University of Aberdeen
University of Glasgow
Royal Observatory of Edinburgh
University of St Andrews

Wales

National Library of Wales

Ireland

Edward Worth Library, Dublin
Marsh's Library, Dublin
Maynooth University

