

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-06296-1 - *Quaestiones Archimedae*
Edited by Johan Ludvig Heiberg
Frontmatter
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Quaestiones Archimedae

Published in 1879, this Latin dissertation was the first substantial work on Archimedes by the Danish philologist and historian Johan Ludvig Heiberg (1854–1928), who the following year embarked on editing the three-volume *Archimedis Opera Omnia* (also reissued in this series). Much later, in 1906, he discovered a palimpsest containing previously unknown works by the Greek mathematician. The *Quaestiones* includes chapters on the life of the famous scientist of Syracuse, a discussion of his works and explanations of his mathematical and scientific ideas, as well as a survey of the extant codices known to the author. It also contains the Greek text, edited and annotated by Heiberg, of Archimedes' *Psammites* (*The Sand Reckoner*), a mathematical enquiry into how many grains of sand would fit in the universe. This includes mention of a heliocentric solar system, speculation about the size of the Earth, and Archimedes' other views on astronomy.

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*Hanc dissertationem Facultas philosophica Uniuersitatis Hau-
niensis dignam iudicat, quae ad Doctoris honorem et nomen auc-
tori comparandum publico auditorum examini subiiciatur.*

Ante diem III Id. Sepibr. MDCCCLXXVIII.

J. L. Ussing,
pro decano

TYPIS I. COHENII.

Praefatio.

Mathematicorum Graecorum operibus haec fere fortuna fuit, ut statim renascentibus humanioribus litteris edita, a mathematicis uerterentur et uersa legerentur, a philologis uero neglegerentur tamquam ab humanitatis studiis communibus remotiora. Si qui historiae artis mathematicae cognoscendae studiosi ea tractabant, eorum nihil intererat artem criticam exercere. Qua re factum est, ut perpaucae sint editiones, ad eum codicem, qui primus se obtulerat, nec ea, qua nunc utimur, diligentia factae. His demum annis quorundam mathematicorum opera ex codicibus denuo collatis a uiris et matheseos et linguae Graecae peritis edita sunt, uelut Procli a Friedleinio (Lipsiae 1873), Heronis (Berolini 1864) et Pappi (ibid. 1875—1877) ab Hultschio. Quod nondum contigit Archimedi, omnium mathematicorum Graecorum facile principi. Nam editionem nouissimam eius scriptorum, quæ prodiit Oxonii 1792, incredibili neglegentia esse confectam, iam diu constat inter omnes, quicumque ea usi sunt. Uelut Nizzius in interpretatione Germanica (Stralsund. 1824) sic iudicat (p. IX): So viel Verdienst sich Torelli erworben hat, so sauber das Aüssere dieser Ausgabe ist, so streng muss man

doch die unverantwortliche Nachlässigkeit rügen, mit welcher Robertson, dem die Herausgabe übertragen war, die Correctur besorgt hat, indem fast keine Seite fehlerlos geblieben ist. Eodem modo iudicat Gomperz (Beiträge zur Kritik u. Erklärung griech. Schriftsteller III p. 24): Nur die tiefe Entfremdung, die bis vor nicht langer Zeit zwischen der classischen Philologie und der Geschichte der Wissenschaften bestanden hat, lässt es begreifen, kann es aber freilich nicht im mindesten entschuldigen, dass die Werke eines der grössten wissenschaftlichen Genies aller Zeiten, dass die Schriften des Archimedes sich noch im Zustande der traurigsten Verwahrlosung befinden — dass dies (die Oxforder Ausg.) die jüngste Ausgabe ist, gereicht den Philologen zu tiefer Schmach. Et magnam copiam argumentorum ipse postea adferam. Itaque operae pretium me facturum esse duxi, si aliquid ad nouam editionem Archimedis operum parandam conferre possem, ideoque codices, quorum quidem exstant collationes, recensere et aestimare institui, ut cognoscerem, quantum cuique tribuendum esset. Qua in re usus sum collationibus editioni Torellianae adiectis; sed de codicibus Parisiensibus multa mecum communicauit Carolus Graux, uir doctissimus et humanissimus, qui idem ab H. Omont, iuueni strenuo, impetrauit, ut ad opusculum de arenae numero codices Parisienses meum in usum summa diligentia totos conferret. Pro hac eorum summa beneuolentia et studio hoc loco gratias, quam possum maximas, utrique agere liceat. Quae his subsidiis adiutus de codicum auctoritate et origine reperire potui, hoc libello proposui, et ut appareret, quam rationem in edendo Archimede sequendam putarem, simul-

que ut magis etiam confirmarem, quae de codicibus aestimandis dixissem, Archimedis libellum de arenae numero e codicibus emendatum addidi. Simul praemisi nonnulla, quae ad illustranda Archimedis de mathematicis disciplinis merita pertinerent. Scio equidem, me hanc quaestionem latissime patentem minime absoluisse, sed tamen spero, hanc rem aliquanto plenius et copiosius, quam antea factum est, a me esse tractatam.