

Conference Shaping the sciences of the ancient world

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A historical approach to philology

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The critical edition of the mathematical texts of Greek Antiquity: questions of method

Abstract - The availability of written sources from Greek antiquity implies not only the existence of medieval manuscripts (or the discovery of papyrus) but also the conception of critical editions that can provide a reliable text, able to bridge or reduce the gap between the witnesses of the text and the original work. Such an undertaking requires the application of critical methods which have been in constant evolution along with the progress of history of the texts which must be both rigorous and flexible since each manuscript tradition requires a specific treatment. My contribution aims at showing the evolution of requirements in editing Greek mathematical texts, and also the risks linked to this enterprise and the effects of editorial choices on the interpretation of the content.