

Hero of Alexandria Encyclopedia Article

Hero of Alexandria

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Hero of Alexandria

c. 10-c. 75

Greek physicist, also known as Heron, who in addition to his famous work in mechanics wrote a number of mathematical texts. Among these are *On the Dioptra*, which examines surveying; *Mechanica*, a work for architects; *Metrica*, on measurement; and *Stereometrica*, on the measurement of three-dimensional objects. An example of the mathematical information included in Hero's writing is a formula for finding square roots first developed by the Babylonians almost two millennia before his time.