

Menelaus of Alexandria Encyclopedia Article

Menelaus of Alexandria

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Menelaus of Alexandria

c. 70-c. 130

Greco-Roman astronomer and mathematician who wrote a number of works, of which only his *Sphaerica* survives. The latter dealt with spherical triangles, and like most of his writings involved the application of mathematics to astronomy. The titles of selected other works by Menelaus have been translated as "On the Knowledge of the Weights and Distribution of Different Bodies," "The Book on the Triangle," and "Three Books on the Elements of Geometry." Ptolemy (c. 100-170) recorded astronomical observations made by Menelaus in Rome on January 14, 98.