
ALEXANDER JONES, University of Toronto

The Euclid Enigma

Euclid is usually said to have lived about 300 B.C. at Alexandria, and he is thought of primarily as a compiler and organizer of older work. I will argue that he was more likely active in the second half of the third century B.C., thus a contemporary of Archimedes and Eratosthenes, and that he was initially best known as an original mathematician working on the problems current in his time. Only in the time of the Roman Empire do we find his name almost exclusively associated with the text for which he is now remembered, the Elements.