

A New Reading of *Method* Proposition 14 : Preliminary Evidence from the Archimedes Palimpsest (Part 2)

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I Introduction¹

In the first part of this article (*SCIAMVS* 2(2001): 9–29) we published an edition of The Archimedes Palimpsest, coll. 110v–105r, containing about half of the text of what Heiberg called ‘*Method* proposition 14’. The text was especially interesting in that it included a previously unsuspected application of Lemma 11 of the *Method* (= *Conoids and Spheroids*, prop. 1) with a proportion involving infinitely many objects. We briefly touched on the implications of this new reading for the history of Greek ideas concerning infinity, and for Archimedes’ position in the history of the pre-calculus.

The full text of proposition 14 begins before, and ends after, the text published in the first part. The columns 110v–105r constitute together one side (the second one) of a single Archimedes folio, 105–110. The proposition apparently begins at the very beginning of that folio, and ends on another folio (158–159). A year ago, when the first part was published, we had available to us digital images for 110v–105r alone. Now that we possess the digital images for the entire proposition we complete and revise the edition accordingly. In terms of columns of text as defined by Heiberg, we now publish five new columns, which, together with the four previously published, cover the entire proposition. The new columns are printed as bold in the sequence:

110r. col. 1 – 105v. col. 1 – 110r. col. 2 – 105v. col. 2 – 110v. col. 1 – 105r. col.
1 – 110v. col. 2 – 105r. col. 2 – 158r. col. 1

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