

**A Paraphrased Latin Version of  
Euclid's *Optica*  
A Text of *De visu* in MS Add.17368,  
British library, London**

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## I Introduction

The present article provides for the first time a paraphrased version of Euclid's *De visu* which is a Latin translation of his *Optica*. It has already been acknowledged that there are many versions of it. Out of thirty-three MSS now known to be extant, Lindberg[1975] distinguishes seven versions according to the difference of *incipits* for definition 1 and proposition 1. Moreover, he notices that some manuscripts have alternative enunciations for one or more of their propositions, which are drawn from *De radiis visualibus*, the most popular Arabo-Latin translation of Euclid's work. Our manuscript of *De visu*, which is contained in MS Add.17368, British library, London, belongs to this category of manuscripts. In order to investigate the historical significance of our manuscript, let us begin by picking out those manuscripts of this type from Lindberg[1975], which may be arranged in chronological sequence.

### **MSS of *De visu* with alternative enunciations drawn from *De radiis visualibus***

- **Version 1 (6 MSS out of 21)**

- #1. London, British Museum, MS Add. 17368, fols.60r-69r. 12th c.
- #2. Oxford, Bodleian Lib., MS Auct. F. 5.28, fols. 17(57)r-24(64)r. 13th c.
- #3. Oxford, Bodleian Lib., MS Corpus Christi Coll. 251, fols. 1r-7v. 13th c.
- #4. Venice, Bibl. Naz. Marciana, MS Zanetti Lat. 332 (Valentinelli XI.6), fols.242r-251v. 13th c.
- #5. Erfurt, Wissensch. Bibl., MS Ampl. Q.385, fol. 210r. 14th c. Fragment
- #6. Leeuwarden, Provinciale Bibl., MS B.A.Fr.57, fols.59r-68r. 15th c.