1018-01-238 **Reviel Netz*** (`netz@stanford.edu`), Dept. of Classics, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305.
Ludic Proof: Greek Mathematics and the Alexandrian Aesthetic.

Why did Greek mathematics flourish at the third century B.C., and in Alexnadria's cultural sphere? One way of looking at this question is by locating Greek mathematics in terms of the cultural forces shaping it. Third century Alexandrian civilization was characterized by an experimental, "playful" approach to genre. This left its marks on the very characteristics of Greek mathematical writings of the time - especially those of the master playful mathematician, Archimedes - and may have even provided the cultural space for the rise of a ninor prose form - mathematics - into relative prominence. (Received March 07, 2006)