Theon of Alexandria Encyclopedia Article

Theon of Alexandria

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Theon of Alexandria

335?-405?

Greek mathematician and astronomer who wrote a commentary on Ptolemy's *Algamest* that also provides information on older lost books. A member of the Museum of Alexandria, Theon produced rewritings of texts by earlier authors. His version of Euclid's *Elements* was more popular than the original, but he added errors that were to remain for centuries. His lost works include texts on an astronomical instrument (the astrolabe), omens, and the rising of the Nile. He was the father of Hypatia.