

geometric objects were introduced in Euclid's *Elements* by Heron of Alexandria, 400 years after the work was completed.^[4] More concretely, Russo shows how the theory of tides must have been well-developed in Antiquity, because several pre-Newtonian sources relay various complementary parts of the theory without grasping their import or justification (getting the empirical facts wrong but the theory right).

Hellenistic science was focused on the city of Alexandria. The emerging scientific revolution in Alexandria was ended when Ptolemy VIII Physcon came to power. He engaged in mass purges and expulsions of all intellectuals. Other centers of Hellenistic science mentioned in Russo's book were Antioch, Pergamon, Cyzicus, Rhodes, Syracuse and Massilia.

He also concludes that the 17th-century scientific revolution in Europe was due in large part to the recovery of Hellenistic science.^[5] *The Forgotten Revolution* has received mixed reviews, praising Russo's enthusiasm but noting that his conclusions outreach his sources.^{[6][7][8][9]}

L'America dimenticata

In *L'America dimenticata*, Russo suggests that the Americas were known to some European civilizations in ancient times, probably discovered by the Phoenicians or the Carthaginians, but that the knowledge was lost under Roman expansion in the second century BC.^[10]

Russo notes paintings dating to the Roman period and representing American fruits (*Ananas*), and small Mesoamerican toys representing wheeled trucks, when the wheel had not been invented nor used in pre-Columbian times.

With the collapse of the Hellenistic world under the attacks of the Romans around the middle of the 2nd century BC (specifically, the destruction of Corinth and Carthage in 146 BC and the expulsion of the scientific elite from Alexandria in 145 BC), these geographic notions were lost. Later Ptolemy incorrectly identified the Blessed Islands with the Canaries and since it was known that the Blessed Islands were at the antipodes relative to the eastern part of China, Ptolemy made ends meet by erroneously enlarging the longitude of all known places, and shrinking the width of a degree of longitude (500 instead of 700 stadia).

With this correction Lucio Russo manages to pinpoint the position of the mythical Thule, reached in the 4th century BC by explorer Pytheas, on the coast of Greenland. In addition he sheds a new light on an obscure sentence of Pliny according to which Hipparchus would have enlarged the ecumene (the known world) by 26,000 stadia.^[11]

See also

- Antikythera mechanism, a Hellenistic astronomical computer, which, according to Russo, is a proof of the high level of knowledge in science and technology reached during Hellenism

References

1. Geoffrey R. Grimmett, "The Work of Lucio Russo on Percolation", "Mathematics and Mechanics of Complex Systems", vol. 4, N° 3–4, pp. 199–211
<http://msp.org/memocs/2016/4-3/p02.xhtml>
2. M. Talegrand "On Russo's approximate zero-one law", "Annals of Probability", 22, (1994), 1576–1587
3. Lucio Russo, *Flussi e riflussi: indagine sull'origine di una teoria scientifica*, Milan, Feltrinelli, 2003, ISBN 88-07-10349-4.

4. Graffi, Sandro, review of *La rivoluzione dimenticata*, *Notices Amer. Math. Soc.*, vol. 45, no. 5, May 1998.[1] (<https://www.ams.org/notices/199805/review-graffi.pdf>)
5. Lucio Russo, *The Forgotten Revolution: How Science Was Born in 300 BC and Why It Had to Be Reborn*, Berlin, Springer, 2004, ISBN 978-3-540-20396-4.
6. Michael Rowan-Robinson, "Praising Alexandrians to excess (<http://physicsweb.org/articles/review/17/4/1/1>)."
Review of *The Forgotten Revolution*, *Physics World* vol. 17, no. 4 (April 2004).
7. Gary B. Magee, Review of *The Forgotten Revolution*, *Economic Record*, 80 (2004): 475–476.[2] (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1475-4932.2004.00203.x/abstract>)
8. Samuel S. Kutler, *Read This!* The Mathematical Association of America Online book review column (20 September 2004).[3] (<http://www.maa.org/reviews/forgottenrevolution.html>)
9. Mott Greene, "The birth of modern science? (<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v430/n7000/full/430614a.html>)"
Review of *The Forgotten Revolution*, *Nature* 430 (5 August 2004): 614.
10. Lucio Russo, *L' America dimenticata. I rapporti tra le civiltà e un errore di Tolomeo. Seconda edizione con postfazione di obiezioni e risposte*, Milan, Mondadori, 2013, ISBN 978-88-6184-320-2 [4] (<https://www.amazon.it/LAmerica-dimenticata-rapporti-civilt%C3%A0-Tolomeo/dp/8861843085>)
11. Plinio, *Naturalis Historia*, II, 247

External links

- *Biografia* Lucio Russo (<https://web.archive.org/web/20080623085839/http://www.mediamente.rai.it/home/bibliote/biografi/r/russo.htm>)
-

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Lucio_Russo&oldid=1068388034"

This page was last edited on 28 January 2022, at 04:47 (UTC).

Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License 3.0; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.