

Johannes Thomann, Continuity and Discontinuity of the Sciences in the 5th to the 10th Centuries A.D.

Mario Capasso, Paola Davoli & Natascia Pellé (edd.), Proceedings of the 29th International Congress of Papyrology. Lecce, 28 July - 3 August 2019 = Quaderni dell'Istituto superiore universitario di formazione interdisciplinare. 2 (Lecce, 2022) II, pp. 957-967.

[http://siba-ese.unisalento.it/index.php/29th\\_ICP/issue/view/1881](http://siba-ese.unisalento.it/index.php/29th_ICP/issue/view/1881)

The question of continuity and discontinuity is addressed with four case studies on the disciplines of astronomy, medicine, alchemy, and mathematics. Astronomy disappeared from papyrological records for three and a half centuries from papyrological records. The same holds for alchemy which disappeared for at least four centuries. Literary and archaeological sources point to a longer survival of astronomy at Alexandria for about a century. Medicine survived on a very basic and practical level. The same can be said of mathematics.

2022-0128