Origin of the Name "Mathematics"

Anatolius:

"Why is mathematics so named?"

"The Peripatetics say that rhetoric and poetry and the whole of popular music can be understood without any course of instructions. But no one can acquire knowledge of the subjects called by the special name ***mathematics*** unless he has first gone through a course of instruction in them; and for this reason the study of these subjects was called mathematics."

The word μάθημα from μαθείν means in first place "that which is learnt."

In Plato it is used in the general sense for any subject of study or instruction, but with a tendency to restrict it to the studies now called mathematics. By the time of Aristotle this restriction had become established.

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Greek Mathematical Works I

PYTHAGORAS AND THE BEAUTIFUL THEANO

Pythagoras teaching Theand

St. Anatolius

Bishop of Laodicea in Syria, one of the foremost scholars of his day in the physical sciences and in [Aristotelean](#) philosophy. There are fragments of ten books on arithmetic written by him, and also a treatise on time of the Paschal celebration. A very curious story is told by [Eusebius](#) of the way in which Anatolius broke up a rebellion in a part of Alexandria known as time Bruchium. It was held by the forces of Zenobia, and being strictly beleaguered by the Romans was in a state of starvation. The saint, who was living in the Bruchium at the time, made arrangements with the besiegers to receive all the women and children, as well as the old and infirm, continuing at the same time to let as many as wished profit by the means of escaping. It broke up the defence and the rebels surrendered. It was a patriotic action on the part of the saint, as well as one of great benevolence, in saving so many innocent victims from death. In going to Laodicea he was seized by the people and made bishop. Whether his friend [Eusebius](#) had died, or whether they both occupied the see together, is a matter of much discussion. The question is treated at length in the Bollandists. His feast, like that of his namesake the Patriarch of Constantinople, is kept on 3 July.

Acta SS., I, July; MICHAUD, *Biog. Univ.;* BARING-GOULD, *Lives of the Saints* (London, 1872).

Bishop, noted philosopher, and scientist in Alexandria, Egypt. He was the bishop of Laodicea in Syria, where he wrote ten books on mathematics. Eusebius, the historian, relates that Anatolius was faced with a rebellion in Alexandria, Egypt, while he was living there. The Romans had the part of the city known as the Bruchium under siege, and the people were starving. Anatolius parleyed with the Romans and managed to have the ill, the elderly, and the women and children released safely. The rebels surrendered as a result. Traveling to Laodicea, Anatolius was hailed by the people and made bishop.

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