

BIBLIOTECA DI
NUNCIUS
STUDI E TESTI
LXXVI



THE BAROULKOS
AND
THE MECHANICS OF HERON

a cura di

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CONTENTS



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MMXVI

The three books of Heron's *Mechanics* contain the first systematic theory of the simple and compound machines in the history of science and many other remarkable matters about theoretical and practical mechanics, including three interesting unknown theories by Archimedes. This treatise began to circulate among Western researchers through an Arabic manuscript discovered by Camille Carra de Vaux, who published it together with its French translation in 1893. A German critical edition by Ludwig Leo Nix (1900) and an English one by Aage Gerhardt Drachmann (1963) were then published after this edition.

The new critical edition, presented here with all its sources, is the consequence of the unexpected discovery of four Persian manuscripts, all concerning the second book of this important treatise on mechanics, which opened unexplored field research and offered new perspectives, both philological and scientific, in interpreting this text.

At the same time, analysis of the work has revealed passages very similar to corresponding passages of works of Leonardo da Vinci and Galileo Galilei, advancing the possibility that Italian scientists of the Renaissance may have been familiar with all or at least part of Heron's *Mechanics*.

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FINITO DI STAMPARE
PER CONTO DI LEO S. OLSCHKI EDITORE
PRESSO ABC TIPOGRAFIA • SESTO FIORENTINO (FI)
NEL MESE DI GIUGNO 2016

