

Math History Resources-Movies

Constantine Caratheodory: Video and Study Guide. by Vicki L. Hill An exceptionally good piece of work. Not only is the video captivating but there is a comprehensive study guide which comes with the video.

The Archimedes Palimpsest . 1999, This was available at the Walters Gallery back when the palimpsest was first there. I don't know if it's still available or if it's been updated, but it is excellent.

Fermat's Last Tango. This is a DVD from the Clay Mathematics Institute. This musical (yes, "musical") is about Wile's proof and if you listen carefully it's pretty accurate historically. Its "stars" include Pythagoras, Newton, Euclid & Gauss.

The 9 **Project Mathematics!** videos from Cal Tech are all about 22-30 minutes long, but are designed to be broken into shorter segments. You can check their web site at <http://www.projectmathematics.com/>
<<https://e2k.exchange.umkc.edu/exchweb/bin/redirect.asp?URL=https://e2k.exchange.umkc.edu/exchweb/bin/redirect.asp?URL=http://www.projectmathematics.com/>> . The MAA sells them too at <http://www.maa.org>
<<https://e2k.exchange.umkc.edu/exchweb/bin/redirect.asp?URL=https://e2k.exchange.umkc.edu/exchweb/bin/redirect.asp?URL=http://www.maa.org>> . Two in particular have historical interest: "The Tunnel of Samos", 1995, and " Early History of Mathematics", 2000.

Qubba for Al Kashi, 1995, AMS.

Our department bought a series of 8 history of mathematics films around 1974, each around 25-30 min., that we have since transferred to video tape. Here's all I know about them:

Made in 1974, Open University, England, BBC TV

Part of: History of Mathematics, A Second Level Course

Maybe you can contact them to see if they still sell them.

On the **Video Math Festival** tape from the ICM (International Congress of Mathematicians) August 1998 in Berlin, available from Springer, are two short videos "On Archimedes' Path" (4:20), and "The Shadows of Alexandria" (3:59) on Eratosthenes. All the other short videos are of interest of course, but none so historical.

Proof, the NOVA program on Wiles proof of Fermat's Last Theorem

[N is a Number](#) on Erdos' life.

Shape of Space
video published by Key Curriculum Press; it's an interview with Jeff Weeks taken from the PBS series "Life by the Numbers."

[Infinite Secrets—The Genius of Archimedes](#) NOVA

[Newton's Dark Secrets](#) NOVA

Some of the old "[Ascent of Man](#)" video series by Professor Bronowski (Spelling?) have excellent bits on math history. Part of "Music of the Spheres" is concerned with Pythagoras, "Starry Messenger" has Galileo, and "Majestic Clockwork" has bits from Newton to Einstein. The part dealing with Galileo in the "Starry Messenger" makes one aware of the utter horror of the inquisition better than any reading of it could. I use pieces from these in class and hope that students will watch the entire videos on their own.