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Hypatia

Hypatia of Alexandria, Egypt 370-415, born and died there, was the first woman mathematician who contributed to the art of math by writing commentaries on several important works of mathematics, something which takes a proficient understanding of the math in order to complete. She was raised and taught by her mathematical father, Theon of Alexandria. Theon himself was an accomplished and educated man who was said to have been a professor of mathematics at the University of Alexandria then later the head of the university. Other reputable sources say he was the director of the museum of Alexandria; Either way, he was a learned man who passed his genius down to his daughter.

Hypatia was educated in arts, literature, sciences, and philosophy. She eventually came to become the head of the Platonist School at Alexandria in about 400 AD. Her works/commentaries, which she possibly assisted her father in doing, included Plotemy's *Almagest*, a new version of Euclid's *Elements* before the original was lost, Diophantus's *Arithmetica*, Apollonius' *Conics*, and some of Plotemy's astronomical works.

As the Christian religion began to take over in Alexandria, Hypatia and her paganism began to be persecuted. To the point that one day some Nitrian monks who were a fanatical sect of Christians, took Hypatia and murdered her, making her a martyr.

After that scene, Alexandria was no longer the same kind of place of learning that it was before.

Some African American scholars vie for Hypatia being dark colored, but it is hard to say since we did not have Kodachrome or digital cameras back then...it would make sense geographically but then again we just don't know.

Sources:

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