

# **Alexandria in Egypt, the Native Town of the Natural Sciences**

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(dedicated to B.L. van der Waerden)**

**Key words:** Alexandrians, Aristarchos, Archimedes, Eratosthenes, Apollonios, Ptolemy, heliocentric hypothesis, epicycle and mobile eccentric, distance earth/sun, Equant and Keplerian motion

## **SUMMARY**

Looking at Alexandria as the native town of natural sciences the most interesting question will be: What happened to the heliocentric idea of Aristarchos of Samos? Has the group of the famous Alexandrian scientists, Aristarchos of Samos, Archimedes of Syracuse, Eratosthenes of Kyrene and Apollonius of Perge, be able to develop this idea further to a complete methodology of celestial mechanics? Did they at least have had the mathematical tools at hand? Did some Greeks use the heliocentric concept? The paper will give a possible answer to those questions: It was not only possible for them, it is also likely that they did it and that this methodology was used by all “other astronomers” at the time of Hipparch.