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<b>Digital.Bodleian collection(s)</b>	Christ Church – Byzantine Manuscripts collection
<b>Language(s)</b>	Greek
<b>Title</b>	<i>On the Section of a Cylinder</i>
<b>Date of origin</b>	1704
<b>Place of origin</b>	England
<b>Roles</b>	Serenus, Antissensis, 4th century AD [author]

Greek manuscript on *De sectione cylindri* ascribed to Serenus, which was copied from three codices then held at the Royal Library in Paris for Henry Aldrich and placed by him at the disposal of Edmund Halley for his 1710 edition *Apollonii Pergaei conicorum libri octo et Sereni Antissensis De sectioni cylindri & conii libri duo*.

It seems likely that from the seventh century the two surviving works of Serenus and the commentary of Eutocius were bound with the *Conics of Apollonius*. Thodorus Metochita read them together early in the fourteenth century. A Latin translation of Serenus' *De sectione cylindri* and *De sectione conii* was published by F. Commandinus at the end of his *Apollonũ conicorum libri quatri* (Bologna, 1566).

The Greek text was first published by E. Halley in *Apollonii Pergaei Conicorum libri octo et Sereni Antissensis De sectione cylindri et conii libri duo* (Oxford, 1710).

A definitive critical edition with Latin translation was published by E. Nizze, *Serenus von Antissa: Ueber den Schnitt des Cylinders* (Stralsund, 1860) and *Ueber den Schnitt des Kegels* (Stralsund, 1861); and there is an excellent French translation with introduction and notes by Paul Ver Eecke, *Serenus d'Antinoë Le livre De la section du cylindre e le livre De la section du cône* (Paris-Bruges, 1929).

#### Description

*On the Section of a Cylinder* consists of an introduction, eight definitions, and thirty-three propositions. It counters what is said to have been a prevalent belief—that the curve formed by the oblique section of a cylinder differs from the curve formed by the oblique section of a cone known as the ellipse. In the final five propositions Serenus defended a friend Peithon, who, not satisfied with Euclid's treatment, had defined parallels to be such lines as are cast on a wall or a roof by a pillar with a light behind it. Even in the decline of Greek mathematics this description had been a source of amusement to Peithon's contemporaries.

#### Contents

#### Material/support

Paper

#### Extent

Fols: iii + 136

#### Dimensions

420 x 260 mm

#### Layout

In three columns, mostly of 29-31 lines to the column dedicated to the main text. The verso of the page is usually blank, except, occasionally, for geometrical drawings.

#### Hand/script

#### Decoration

#### Binding

Eighteenth-century gold-tooled red morocco binding.

#### Provenance

Henry Aldrich (1648-1710) bequest