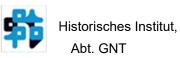
## Is there such a thing as the Snellius-Descartes law of refraction?

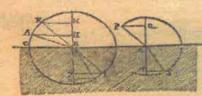
If we examine the status of the law of refraction in the texts of Ibn Sahl, Harriot, Snel and Descartes, we find that none of these authors knew the law of refraction as it is taught today. The differences concern the nature of the relationship linking the angle of incidence and the angle of refraction, the role conferred to this relationship in optical texts, and even its recognition as a physical law. In these circumstances, the question of who discovered the law of refraction - Descartes, Snel, Harriot or Ibn Sahl? - makes little sense. I argue that such questions are plagued by ethnonationalist agendas that have nothing to do with objective historical knowledge. Insensitive to the siren sang, we need to start by clarifying our knowledge of this relationship. This is a fundamental prerequisite for asking more general questions about the law of refraction in optics.







font ainst toutes reduites sous une mesme mesure; car il session de les examineren un seul rayon pour connoistre zoutes celles qui se sont en une mesme supersière. Se on peut cuiter toute erreur, si on les examine outre cela en quelques autres. Comme si nous voulons seaucir la quan tité de celles qui se sont en la supersière CBR, qui separe l'air A K P, du verre L. I S, nous n'auons qu'à l'esprouuer en celle du rayon A B I, en cherchant la proportion qui est entre les lignes AH & IG. Puis si nous craignons



d'auourfail. li en cefte experience, il faut encores l'elprouner en quelques autres

comme KBL, ou PRS, & crouuant mesme porportion de KMaLN,, & de PQAST, que d'AH & 1G, nous n'auros plus aucune occasió de douter de la vente.

## Dialogo

Dienstag, 25. Juni 2024 17:00 Uhr, Hörsaal 57.02, Pfaffenwaldring 57, Vaihingen