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200 , etc .) . He was able to show that other manuscripts had similar marginal markings . His 1881 article named this kind of line @-@ counting ' partial stichometry ' and contrasted it to ' total stichometry ' studied by Graux .

Theodor Birt 's well @-@ known *The Nature of the Ancient Book* (1882) substantially widened research on stichometry . Birt saw that Graux 's breakthrough led to a cascade of insights about scribal practices and publishing , citations and intertextuality , and the kinds of formats and editions used in antiquity . Stichometry thus led to a broader study of the spatial organization of ancient books and their social , economic , and intellectual roles . As Hermann Diels said ,

The investigations of the recently deceased Charles Graux , taken all too prematurely from the world of scholarship , have made it henceforth inalterably certain that the standard line (the stichos) of the ancients was a unit of spatial length equal to the hexameter . Theodor Birt has rightly erected his shrewd and persuasive *The Nature of the Ancient Book* upon this foundation .

Birt 's 550 @-@ page work was stimulated by practical questions about the ancient culture of books but grew into a broad reevaluation and reorganization of our knowledge of ancient literature and intellectual life . His introduction argued :

The nature of the literature of antiquity and the form of the ancient book reciprocally conditioned each other . The context of publication enveloped and modified literary creativity . The dividends of these investigations will thereby far exceed the satisfaction of merely antiquarian pleasures .

Many of Birt 's theories and interpretations are dated and have been superseded by later research , but he permanently broadened and deepened the methodologies used in histories of the ancient book and connected stichometry to a broad range of intellectual and literary issues .

In 1893 , James Rendel Harris ' book *Stichometry* extended these new developments to an analysis of the stichometric data found in many early manuscripts of the Christian Bible and other Christian texts .

In 1909 , Domenico Bassi published a survey of the stichometric notations found on the papyri excavated at Herculaneum .

At the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries , archaeologists discovered a large number of fragmentary , Greek scrolls in Egyptian tombs , mummies , and city dumps . Some of these contained stichometric notations , and papyrologists became interested in the question of whether this data provided clues that would aid in reassembling the fragments . Kurt Ohly studied the stichometry found in many of the scrolls excavated at Herculaneum in Italy but his 1929 book *Stichometrische Untersuchungen* contained a complete survey of the treasure trove of newly discovered Greco @-@ Egyptian papyri with stichometric notations . It is regarded as the standard work on stichometry . Ohly discusses the length of the standard line , the evidence for syllable counting , the various number systems used in stichometric reports , and the aims and history of stichometry among the Greeks , Romans , and Byzantines . Ohly 's catalog of ancient papyri with stichometry together with Bassi 's survey and the line reports in medieval manuscripts collected by Graux provide a wide range of evidence for ancient stichometric practices and their evolution through the centuries .

= = Recent Research and Applications = =

Rudolf Blum summarized research on stichometry in the catalog of Callimachus at the Library of Alexandria .

Holger Essler (University of Würzburg) discussed stichometry 's role in the ongoing efforts to reconstruct the papyri excavated at Herculaneum .

Dirk Obbink (Oxford University) used stichometry in his restoration of Philodemus ' *On Piety* .

Jay Kennedy (Manchester University) claimed in several articles and a book , *The Musical Structure of Plato 's Dialogues* , that Plato counted the lines in his dialogues in order to insert symbolic passages at regular intervals and thereby formed various musical and Pythagorean patterns .

Rachel Yuen @-@ Collingridge and Malcolm Choat (Macquarie University) used stichometry

along with other kinds of evidence to make inferences about scribal practice and copying techniques

· Mirko Canevaro (Durham University) argued that the stichometric totals in the Demosthenes manuscripts descended from the earliest editions . He used these totals to show that the supposed excerpts of documentary evidence inserted in the speeches were not present in those early editions and were thus late forgeries . His book , *The Documents in the Attic Orators* , includes an introduction to stichometry .