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**Glen Robert Van Brummelen\*** (gvb@questu.ca), Quest University, 3200 University Blvd, Squamish, BC V8B 0N8, Canada. *Trigonometric Methods in Ancient Greece, Medieval Islam, and Early India*. Preliminary report.

Astronomers in Greece, Islam and India all applied what from a modern point of view is the same trigonometry to solve astronomical problems. Nevertheless their conceptions of the functions, their modes of reasoning, their methods of calculation, and the problems they found important diverged substantially from one another. Choosing several sample texts, we shall examine what features of trigonometry the three cultures had in common and where they differed; and we shall consider how these differences affected the development of mathematics and astronomy. (Received September 13, 2014)