Feedback

On Note 101.41 On Conics: John Mahony writes: In this interesting item the author gives a method of construction for the directrices of any conic section using a pencil, a geometric compass and a straight edge and wonders if such might have been known before. From my earlier days as a student I was aware that for a conic section specified on a piece of paper (parabola, ellipse or hyperbola), it was possible to determine not just the directrices but also the usual axis sets and the focal points, again using only the simple tools. I guess that others will have made similar comments and so I will not go into the details, but if such is not so well known it might be of interest to challenge the readership to come up with their (differing) constructions.

On 'Pappus in two dimensions, Mamikon in three', Paul Stephenson writes: Since writing this Note [1], the author has read [2]. It is clear that, quite independently of Mnatsakanian, Levi has followed a line of thought which parallels both Mnatsakanian's and the author's own. See sections 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6 and 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, the last being Levi's treatment of the 'napkin ring' problem.

References

1. Paul Stephenson, Pappus in two dimensions, Mamikon in three, *Math. Gaz*. 101 (July 2017) pp. 322-325.
2. Mark Levi, *The Mathematical Mechanic*, Princeton (2009).

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