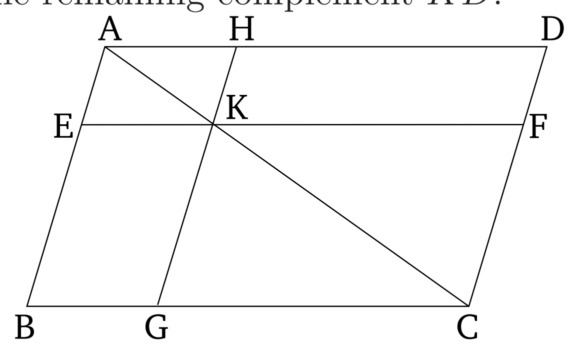
Book 1
Proposition 43

For any parallelogram, the complements of the parallelograms about the diagonal are equal to one another.

Let $ABCD$ be a parallelogram, and AC its diagonal. And let EH and FG be the parallelograms about AC, and BK and KD the so-called complements (about AC). I say that the complement BK is equal to the complement KD.

For since $ABCD$ is a parallelogram, and AC its diagonal, triangle ABC is equal to triangle ACD [Prop. 1.34]. Again, since EH is a parallelogram, and AK is its diagonal, triangle AEK is equal to triangle AHK [Prop. 1.34]. So, for the same (reasons), triangle KFC is also equal to (triangle) KGC. Therefore, since triangle AEK is equal to triangle AHK, and KFC to KGC, triangle AEK plus KGC is equal to triangle AHK plus KFC. And the whole triangle ABC is also equal to the whole (triangle) ADC. Thus, the remaining complement BK is equal to the remaining complement KD.



Thus, for any parallelogramic figure, the complements of the parallelograms about the diagonal are equal to one another. (Which is) the very thing it was required to show.