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Dee and his books: lessons from the history of mathematics for primary and middle school teachers.

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The author describes a project for education of primary school teachers whose aim was to initiate a type of learning which “would enable *them* to build up a framework of cooperation and cross-curricular investigations, and look beyond the curriculum to produce a breadth of resources and activities to inspire their pupils. < ... > The teachers were to study Shakespeare’s *Tempest* and subsequently design activities for primary and middle school pupils on subjects ranging from English, Art, Dance, and Music, to Science and Mathematics.” The life and work of John Dee, the inspiration for the character of Prospero and the author of the preface to the first English translation of the *Elements* of Euclid, was used to bring the history of mathematics into primary classrooms and to explore new links between mathematics and its history.

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