APPENDIX 3

Geometric and mathematical analysis of paintings by

Piero della Francesca and Mondrian
Composition with Two Lines

As in previous compositions, we start from a square standing on one point. Two new lines begin to form another square. How is this done? On the large square ABCD, the diagonals and median lines are drawn. We get four small squares, whose sides AE will be the major of a golden ratio A'E'. On the length AB thus obtained a new square A'FGH is constructed. To place this second square in the first, Mondrian superimposes the golden sections E' and E" on the diagonals of the large square, AC and BD, marking the former exact at the intersection of the latter. This gives him his final scheme. (Amsterdam, Municipal Museum)