SPLASHING out of the BATH

The Digital Archimedes Palimpsest

DUMBARTON OAKS BYZANTINE STUDIES PROGRAM

PUBLIC LECTURE
BY
WILLIAM NOEL

Curator of Manuscripts and Rare Books, The Walters Art Museum, and Director of the Archimedes Palimpsest Project

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2009 AT 5:30 PM
THE MUSIC ROOM AT DUMBARTON OAKS
1703 32ND STREET NW
WASHINGTON DC 20007

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After ten years of conservation, imaging, and research, the project to retrieve the undertexts from the Archimedes Palimpsest is coming to a close. Beneath an overlay of a 13th-c. monastic prayer book have been discovered the unique texts of Archimedes' Method and Stomachion, two uniquely surviving speeches of the Attic orator Hyperides, and, just possibly, Alexander of Aphrodisias's lost commentary on Aristotle's Categories. In this talk, William Noel, Director of the Project, will discuss the history of the manuscript and the project to retrieve its secrets.

The Speaker: William Noel (Ph.D. Cambridge University, 1992) is a specialist in western medieval illuminated manuscripts, who has published books on such masterpieces as the Harley Psalter (1995), the Utrecht Psalter (1996), the Book of Kings from the Morgan Library's Medieval Picture Bible (2002), and the Oxford Bibie pictures (2004). Soon after his arrival at the Walters Art Museum in 1997, however, he was entrusted with the responsibility of conserving, digitizing and analyzing a Greek palimpsest manuscript with a 10th-c. undertext of treatises by Archimedes, overwritten with prayers by a 13th-c. monk. He has recently co-authored with Reviel Netz The Archimedes codex: how a medieval prayer book is revealing the true genius of antiquity's greatest scientist (2007).