

1096-A0-60

William Noel*, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. *Eureka! The Archimedes Palimpsest.*

This presentation centers on a manuscript of extraordinary importance to the history of science, the Archimedes Palimpsest. This thirteenth century prayer book contains erased texts that were written several centuries earlier still. These erased texts include two treatises by Archimedes that can be found nowhere else, The Method and Stomachion. The manuscript sold at auction to a private collector on the 29th October 1998. The owner deposited the manuscript at The Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, Maryland, a few months later. Since that date the manuscript has been the subject of conservation, imaging and scholarship, in order to better read the texts. The Archimedes Palimpsest project, as it is called, has shed new light on Archimedes and revealed new texts from the ancient world. These new texts include speeches by an Athenian orator from the fourth century B.C. called Hyperides, and a third century A.D. commentary on Aristotle's Categories. The lecture also considers more broadly the digitization of medieval manuscripts, and the impact that this will have on the study of history and literature before 1500. (Received June 30, 2013)