

Seminar Announcement

Time: Friday, May 19, 2000, 3:15pm

Place: Auburn University Montgomery, Goodwyn Hall, Room 202

Speaker: Joe Albree, Auburn University Montgomery

Title: The Archimedes Palimpsest

Abstract:

The legacy of Archimedes (ca. 287-212 B.C.) is "a sum of mathematical achievement unsurpassed by any one man in the world's history" [Sir Thomas Heath, 1921, *A History of Greek Mathematics*, **2**, p. 20]. The "Archimedes Palimpsest" (a palimpsest is a piece of writing material that has been written over) is the oldest extant manuscript of the works of Archimedes, and it is reportedly the most valuable of all known Greek palimpsests. Only now is the process of conservation and restoration of this priceless document beginning; appropriate study by qualified scholars will come in the future. We will present a short video describing the Archimedes Palimpsest, and we will also discuss the unique place this "book" has in what we know of Archimedes' mathematical works.