THE PATH OF THE PALIMPSEST

How Archimedes' work survived the centuries until scholars could shed light on it again.

Circa 287 B.C.
Archimedes born in Syracuse, Sicily. As an adult, writes mathematical treatises in the form of letters to colleagues





212 B.C.
Archimedes killed by Roman legionnaire

Circa 975 A.D.
Scribe, probably in Constantinople, copies several Archimedes treatises into Codex C

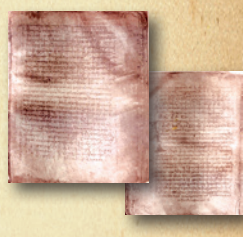
Circa 1229 A.D.
Eastern Orthodox priest Ioannes Myronas scrubs Archimedes text and reuses parchment, rotated 90 degrees and folded, to make a prayer book

April 14, 1229
Day before Easter, prayer book dedicated

1834
Prayer book in use at Monastery at St. Sabas, near Jerusalem

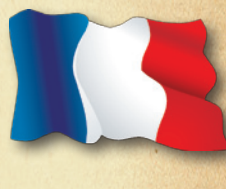


1906
Johan Ludwig Heiberg studies Archimedes text, photographs 65 pages



1899
Manuscript catalogued in Metochion of Jerusalem Holy Sepulchre in Constantinople

Circa 1920s
Manuscript acquired by Parisian antiquities dealer



Circa 1940
Forgeries painted onto four pages, manuscript acquired by Parisian family



1998
Manuscript purchased at Christie's auction by anonymous American collector



1999
Reviel Netz joins Archimedes project



January 1999
Manuscript lent to Walters Art Museum in Baltimore for exhibition, conservation and study

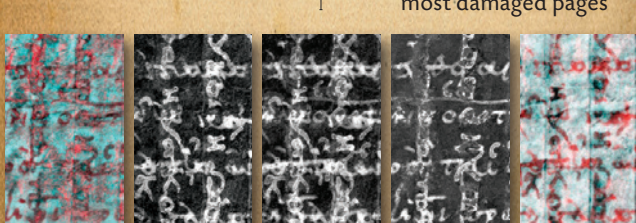
1999-2005
Scientists from Rochester Institute of Technology, Xerox and Johns Hopkins University develop and implement multi-spectral imaging system



2001
Netz and Ken Saito discover that Archimedes calculated with actual infinity

2003
Netz and colleagues demonstrate Archimedes' understanding of combinatorics, the foundation for probability

2005-06
At SLAC, synchrotron radiation reveals the text on some of the most damaged pages



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