

# 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



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



**April 14, 1229**  
Day before Easter, prayer book dedicated

**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

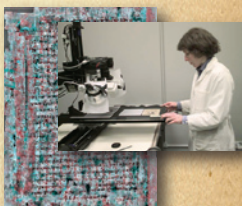


**1999**  
Reviel Netz joins Archimedes project



**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

