

AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME

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AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME PRESENTS THE JEROME LECTURE SERIES ON 9-16 MARCH 2011

Unswept Floor: Food Culture and High Culture, Antiquity and Renaissance

Leonard Barkan, RAAR'10

Princeton University



Roman copy of Pergamene original of the 2nd century B.C.
Museo Gregoriano Profano, Vatican Museums, Rome

Rome – The American Academy in Rome is pleased to announce that the 40th edition of the Jerome Lecture Series, one of the premier international venues for presenting important work in Roman history and culture, will take place from 9-16 March 2011 at the American Academy in Rome. Over the course of five presentations, this year's speaker **Leonard Barkan** RAAR'10 will

explore connections in the Renaissance between what is called “high culture”—poems, paintings, musical composition—and the world of eating and drinking. Leonard Barkan is Class of 1943 University Professor in the Department of Comparative Literature at Princeton University and Director of the Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts. All lectures will be in English and free of charge to the general public.

The 2011 Jerome Lecture Series by Leonard Barkan—*Unswept Floor: Food Culture and High Culture, Antiquity and Renaissance*

Wednesday 9 March at 6 PM

I Lecture: *What Kind of a Subject is Food?*, Villa Aurelia

Eating and drinking, cooking and feasting, are fundamental human activities. But they are not always accorded their full importance within the history of civilization. This lecture asks the question how we might study them in the context of such parallel cultural expressions as art, music, and poetry. In particular, what happens when we observe the ways that culinary antiquity might have been reborn in the Renaissance?

Friday 11 March at 6 PM

II Lecture: *Honest Pleasure*, Villa Aurelia

Food may be the earliest source of enjoyment in the life of human beings, and as such it becomes one of the definitions—positive or negative—of pleasure itself. From Plato’s *Symposium*, which was, after all, a drinking party, to Horace’s *Satires*, which often centered on dining, to the gorgeously decorated dining rooms of Renaissance princes, the question of food and pleasure has been enacted and debated.

Saturday 12 March at 11 AM

III Lecture: *Foraging in the Text*, American Academy in Rome (Lecture Room)

What happens when one “reads” for the food? That is, carefully scrutinizing words and images from the past in which food seems like a marginal issue but turns out to be of central importance? Texts by Juvenal and Shakespeare, plus two visual works, one from antiquity and the other from the Renaissance, both on display in Rome, are explored.

Monday 14 March at 6 PM

IV Lecture: *Copia and Cornucopia*, Villa Aurelia

Where eating and drinking have been represented, in both words and pictures, they are often represented as extraordinarily copious—which may count positively as bounty or negatively as excess. From the classical myth of the cornucopia to the New Testament to Erasmus, from Athenaeus’ fifteen-volume description of a learned dinner party to paintings by Velázquez and Boucher, food has often been seen in quantity. And language has had to keep up with all this multiplicity and variety.

Wednesday 16 March at 6 PM

V Lecture: *Metaphor and Embodiment*, Villa Aurelia

These lectures have concentrated on food as a literal experience. Yet food is basic to figures of speech in every language. The series concludes by asking what the metaphors have to do with the reality and how certain famous cases of consumption—like Adam and Eve’s apple and Proust’s *madeleine*—manage at once to be figurative and also to relate to the body.

The Jerome Lecture Series

Thomas Spencer Jerome (1864–1914) was a socially prominent American lawyer and aficionado of Roman history who lived on Capri from 1899 until his death. In his will, he endowed a series of lectures to be jointly administered by the University of Michigan and the American Academy in Rome, and delivered at both institutions. First delivered in 1929/1930 and then not again until 1947/1948, the Jerome Lectures rapidly emerged as one of the most prestigious international venues for presenting important work in Roman history and culture, as well as on topics in historiography and the philosophy of history. The University of Michigan Press has long published the revised proceedings.

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The American Academy in Rome

Established in 1894 and chartered by an Act of Congress in 1905, the American Academy in Rome is a leading center for independent studies and advanced research in the arts and humanities. Situated on the Janiculum, the highest hill within the walls of Rome, the Academy today remains a private institution supported by gifts from individuals, foundations, corporations, and the memberships of colleges, universities, and arts and cultural organizations as well as by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Each year, through a national competition, the Rome Prize is awarded to approximately thirty individuals working in ancient, medieval, Renaissance and early modern, or modern Italian studies, and architecture, landscape architecture, design, historic preservation and conservation, literature, musical composition, or visual art. The application deadline is November 1st. The Academy community also includes a select group of Residents, distinguished artists and scholars invited by the Director, as well as Affiliated Fellows, and Visiting Artists and Scholars.

For more information please visit www.aarome.org.