

“The Wine Was Never Lacking”

A Roman Life and Death on the Margins

Dr. Jeremy Hartnett, Wabash College

9th Annual Sienkewicz Lecture on Roman Archaeology

Wed., Sept. 24th, at 7:30pm in Pattee Auditorium (CSB 100) at Monmouth College

Abstract:

In 1626, workers digging in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome accidentally unearthed the funerary ensemble of a second century CE Roman named Flavius Agricola. His life-sized marble portrait showed him reclining, half-naked, wine cup in hand. And his epitaph voiced his encouragement to visitors to enjoy life's pleasures – especially wine and sex – because “after death, earth and fire consume all else.” Such sentiments did not go over well with papal authorities, who hushed up the find and destroyed the inscription. But Flavius' funerary monument allows us to delve deeply into the life of an ordinary Roman – one who peered up at palaces rather than gazing out from them – and to consider his life and commemoration in death in multiple dimensions. Remarkably, Flavius' monument – after moving among Baroque palazzi, Parisian workshops, and Manhattan galleries – resides in Indianapolis. These many contexts invite consideration of what Roman antiquities have meant across the ages.



Dr. Jeremy Hartnett is Professor of Classics at Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Indiana, and Chair of the Managing Committee of the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome. He has earned an A.B. in Classics from Wabash and, from the University of Michigan, an M.A. in Latin, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Classical Art and Archaeology. A specialist in Roman archaeology and social history, he studies sites in Italy including Pompeii, Herculaneum, Ostia, and Rome. In particular, Dr. Hartnett is drawn to everyday life in Roman cities, which has been at the root of both of his books, *The Roman Street: Urban Life and Society in Pompeii, Herculaneum, and Rome* (Cambridge University Press, 2017 – Winner of the 2018 James Henry Breasted Prize from the American Historical Association), and *The Remarkable Life, Death, and Afterlife of an Ordinary Roman: A Social History* (Cambridge University Press, 2024).



This talk is funded by the Thomas and Anne Sienkewicz Lecture Endowment and Monmouth College

All are
welcome!
Free and open
to the public!