



"The Surprising Emergence of the Egyptian Book of the Dead at the Beginning of the New Kingdom"

Dr. Peter F. Dorman, University of Chicago

Sponsored by Eva and Donat Kirsch

Lecture Saturday November 4, 2017 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Free for ARCE-OC and Bowers Members.

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The ancient Egyptian Book of the Dead provokes feelings of mystery and awe in most people. But they don't realize that it is an integral part of the long tradition of mortuary literature. A "guidebook" of rules from the earlier Pyramid Texts of the Old Kingdom and Coffin Texts of the Middle Kingdom, it was included in private burials in the form of brilliantly illuminated papyrus scrolls beginning in the early New Kingdom. These scrolls were known in ancient times as the Book of Coming Forth by Day. Their purpose was to help the transition of the deceased's soul as an immortal, effective spirit.



Peter F. Dorman, Professor Emeritus, University of Chicago, recently retired as Professor of History and Archaeology at the American University of Beirut (AUB).

A humanist and an international leader in the study of the ancient Near East, in particular the field of Egyptology, he is the author and editor of major books and articles on the study of ancient Egypt. He is probably best known for his historical work on the reign of Hatshepsut and the Amarna period. He completed his undergraduate studies at Amherst (BA, 1970) and his graduate work at the University of Chicago (PhD, 1985), and spent nine years as Field Director of the University of Chicago's Epigraphic Survey in Luxor. Primary research interests include epigraphy (the study of monumental inscriptions), the history of the Egyptian New Kingdom, the archaeology of ancient Thebes (Luxor), and the intersection of art, text, and religious iconography.

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