



ROYAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA

Lecture Series 2018



The Royal Society of South Africa

cordially invites you to attend a

PUBLIC TALK

Time as a Passing Shadow:

chronology in Greco-Roman antiquity, as
illustrated by a sundial unearthed at Pompeii

by

John Douglas Hey, MRSSAF

School of Chemistry & Physics, University of KwaZulu-Natal



Date:

Wednesday, 25 July 2018

Time:

16h00 for 16h30

Venue:

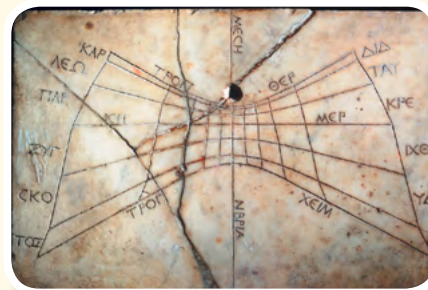
Senate Chamber, UKZN Westville Campus



Tea, coffee and biscuits will be served before the talk

ENQUIRIES: Ms Nelisiwe Mncube • Tel: 031 260 7570 • email: mncubene@ukzn.ac.za

INSPIRING GREATNESS



Synopsis:

Our concept of time is deeply rooted in ancient thought, which in Greco-Roman times already had two aspects: chronological time ($\chi\rho\acute{o}\nu\omicron\varsigma$) and auspicious time ($\kappa\alpha\iota\rho\acute{o}\varsigma$). The essential instrument employed for both was the sundial, with its shadow markings by day, and its seasonal record of the constellations most closely associated with the solar passage at sunrise and sunset. The construction of sundials was undertaken with great care, and serve as models of Greek craftsmanship and

mathematical ingenuity. A particularly fine specimen, unearthed in 1865 from the buried ruins of Pompeii, and now housed in the Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli, will form the focal point of discussion. In the lecture, the following topics will be considered: time-keeping and its significance in the Greco-Roman world, the devastation by Vesuvius of the ancient city of Pompeii, and the elements of mathematics employed in the analysis of the shadow markings, including a brief synopsis of the methods of recording the solar and stellar coordinates on the celestial sphere.



About the Speaker

Professor Hey lectured at the University of Cape Town from 1974-1990. He was also an Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellow at Ruhr University, West Germany (1988 - 1989).

Prof Heys worked as a Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter at Institut fuer Plasmaphysik, Forschungszentrum Juelich, Germany from 1991 to 1995.

He joined UKZN in 1995 where he was a Professor of Physics until 2009. He is now an Honorary Lecturer at the School of Chemistry and Physics.

