

RARE BOOK & MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY

SPRING 2026 EVENT SCHEDULE

**WED
1/28**

**7-8pm
online**

**THU
2/26**

**3-5pm
in RBML**

**THU
3/26**

**3-5pm
in RBML**

**FRI
4/17**

**3-5pm
in RBML**

**THU
5/7**

**3-5pm
in RBML**

Into the Dark Forest: Exploring Textual Representations of Enslavement in Children's Books and Comics

Author Ebony Elizabeth Thomas explores visual representations of the Middle Passage in children's picture books and comics, re-envisioning the slave ship as a metaphorical floating "dark forest."

Register at go.illinois.edu/DarkForest



The Evolution of the Greek Book: From Byzantine Manuscripts to Renaissance Incunabula

Dr. Elias Petrou explores the evolution and transmission of the Greek book from East to West, discussing the Byzantine educational system, the preservation and dissemination of classical Greek knowledge through manuscripts, and how the culture was transformed through print.



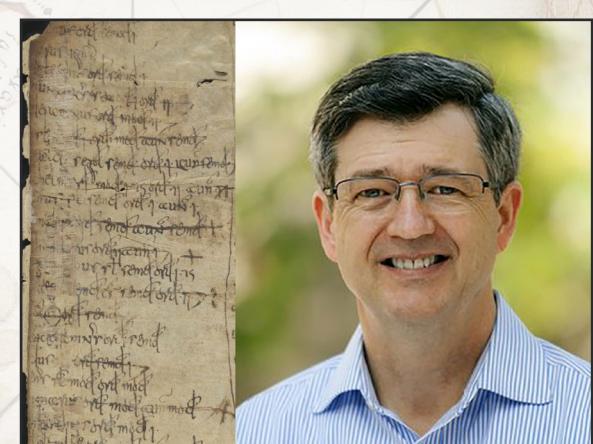
Of Colored Glass: Luxury, Loss, and Imitation from Antiquity to Byzantium

Dr. Anastasios Antonaras (Museum of Byzantine Culture, Thessaloniki) places Byzantine glass in context to a wider Mediterranean tradition where it emerges as a powerful medium of splendor, authority, and sacred presence.



Global Book History Lecture: Textual Materiality in the Medieval World

Dr. Warren C. Brown (Caltech) joins us to discuss medieval textuality and materiality. A reception and open house will follow where visitors may view our recently acquired Merovingian manuscript and Greek papyrus.



Splendid Spredges

Celebrate the semester's end with RBML! We are diving into the trendy book decoration world — bring your own books and paint the edges with our supplies, then view various historical fore-edge paintings from the collection in our Reading Room.

