



INTERNATIONAL
FORUM SERIES

“The Herculaneum Papyri and Brigham Young University”

Gianluca del Mastro,
an associate of the Centro Internazionale
per lo Studio dei Papiri Ercolanesi at the University of Naples, Italy

**Wednesday,
26 March
12:00 NOON
238 HRCB**

Dr. del Mastro, who has been a visiting research fellow at BYU during this academic year, is also a co-editor of the *Cronache Ercolanesi*. Del Mastro has published nearly twenty peer-reviewed articles dealing with the contents or structure of the Herculaneum Papyri. In 2000, he was chosen to publish in the second supplement to Marcello Gigante's *Catalogo dei Papiri Ercolanesi*, treating all scholarship pertaining to the collection since 1989.

The Herculaneum Papyri were entombed in the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 A.D. and brought to light in 1752—the first papyri ever seen by Europeans. Although the carbonized library was considered a phenomenal discovery in 18th century Europe, interest gradually waned as the texts proved to be very difficult to read. The science of Herculaneum papyrology continued with varied success until 1999, when Gigante engaged the Institute for the Study and Preservation of Ancient Religious Texts to apply the technology of multispectral imagery upon the scrolls housed at the Italian National Library. The startling results have been endorsed by numerous scholars in the international community, including Richard Janko, who wrote that “all future study of the Herculaneum papyri will gain enormously from this wonderful advance” (*Philodemus On Poems*, Oxford, 2000, p. vii).

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