

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

LECTURE SERIES FB07

15.10.

Dr. Bastian Reitze (Classical Philology)

**Passing Final Judgement
on King and Philosopher –
Approaching an Anonymous
Greek Manuscript from the
17th Century**

This lecture deals with a rather uncommon subject — at least for a classicist: an anonymous manuscript, written in the 17th century, containing a longer text in Ancient Greek as well as some lines of Latin. Found in the Mainz city library earlier this year, it was at first believed to be a mere copy of an ancient text. On a closer inspection, however, it proved to be a highly interesting piece of literature of its own — a text as yet unknown, untranslated, and not commented on. The lecture's aim is twofold: First, I shall outline some of the principles and methods that led me in approaching this uncharted document as I sought to answer some of the most basic questions: When was it written? Who wrote it? What was it originally intended to be? I shall therefore give an insight into the genuinely philological challenge of dealing with an unknown piece of writing. Second, I shall focus on the content of the Greek main text itself. As witnesses of Minos passing his verdict on Croesus and Diogenes, we shall come across a creative and even innovative encounter with some of the most prominent passages of ancient literature seen through the eyes of an anonymous young scholar 400 years ago.