

The ark before noah

Dr Irving Finkel



7:30 p.m 19th October, 2016
Main Lecture Theatre, (3.25)
John Anderson Building
University of Strathclyde

Biography

Dr Irving Finkel was born in London in 1951. He received his BA in Ancient Near Eastern Studies in 1969 from the University of Birmingham. That was then followed by a PhD in Assyriology for work he did in the field of "Ancient Mesopotamian Exorcistic Magic" in 1976. After spending a further three years as a Research Associate at the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago he returned to the United Kingdom in 1979, where he was appointed Assistant Keeper of Western Asiatic Antiquities at the British Museum.

Dr Finkel is a man of many and varied interests. His special subjects are Ancient Mesopotamian Studies, Cuneiform writing, Lexicography, Medicine, Esoterica and the study of Ancient Magic. In addition to the publication of articles and contributions in his field of expertise, he has written a number of children's books as well as a book on "The History of Board Games".

Dr Finkel has contributed frequently to radio and television programmes. He wrote and presented a four part series on Mesopotamian Medicine, Dentistry and Magic titled "The Wedge Between Us", on Radio 4.

Abstract

This illustrated, light-hearted and deeply absorbing talk will explain the adventures that have befallen the speaker after a member of the public brought an altogether unknown and unanticipated cuneiform tablet to the British Museum for identification. The document proved to contain the world's earliest account of the Story of the Flood, which contained startling information that led to the writing of an entire book and making of a documentary film in which the Babylonian Ark, full details of which were contained in the inscription, was built to scale in India and launched upon the waters.