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# Architectures of the Text: An Inquiry Into the Hypnerotomachia Poliphili

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McKnight, David; Keller, William; Pumroy, Eric; Hunt, John Dixon; Farrington, Lynne; Kirkham, Victoria; Moyer, Ann; White, Ian; Nygren, Chris; Silver, Larry; Giannetto, Raffaella Fabiani; and Leatherbarrow, David, "Architectures of the Text: An Inquiry Into the Hypnerotomachia Poliphili" (2012). *Public Programs, Exhibition Lectures, and Symposia*. 9.  
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Architectures of the Text: An Inquiry Into the *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili*. Symposium, University of Pennsylvania Libraries, Philadelphia, Pa., February 11, 2012.

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# Architectures of the Text: An Inquiry Into the *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili*

## Abstract

Architectures of the Text: An Inquiry Into the *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili* A symposium to celebrate the acquisition of the second edition of the *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili* (1545) by the University of Pennsylvania Libraries. [Website](#)

To download podcasts of the lectures, select the additional files below. Files in .mp4 format include images; files in .mp3 format are audio only. To download the symposium program, select download button at right.

In April 2011, the University of Pennsylvania Libraries acquired a copy of the uncommon second edition of Francesco Colonna's *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili* (Venice 1545). Since the appearance of the first edition in 1499, the *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili* has been heralded as the most beautiful book to appear in the Italian Renaissance. Printed in Venice by Aldus Manutius, "The Dream of Poliphily" was admired by Aldus's contemporaries for its scholarship and value as an architectural treatise. Forty-six years after the publication of the first edition, Aldus's heirs printed a second edition in 1545. This second edition suggests a renewed interest in the work, within Italy and beyond, for within a year a French translation appeared, followed by an English translation in 1592. Celebrated for its typographical design and illustrations, the *Hypnerotomachia* continues to attract the interest of scholars, typophiles, and collectors; it remains available in modern scholarly editions in both print and electronic format.

The University of Pennsylvania Libraries' acquisition came at the suggestion of John Dixon Hunt, Professor Emeritus of Landscape Architecture at the University. Funds for its purchase came from the G. Holmes Perkins Books and Archives Fund, established by G. Holmes Perkins, Professor of Architecture and Urbanism and former dean of the Graduate School of Fine Arts (now the School of Design). The Libraries and the School of Design administer this fund jointly.

On February 11, 2012, the Anne and Jerome Fisher Fine Arts Library, the Rare Book and Manuscript Library, and the School of Design collaborated on a one-day symposium to celebrate the acquisition of the *Hypnerotomachia*. Presentations took place in the Class of '55 room, Van Pelt-Dietrich Library.

Program:

### **10:30am-11:30am Movement 1: Books and Histories**

Welcome: David McKnight

William B. Keller, "*Hypnerotomachia* Joins the Perkins Library: Collecting to Support Persuasion in Architectural Design and History"

Eric Pumroy, "Remarks on the 1499 *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili* at Bryn Mawr Special Collections"

John Dixon Hunt, "*Hypnerotomachia Poliphili*: A Child's Guide to the Story Line and a Look at its Afterlives"

Lynne Farrington, "'Though I could lead a quiet and peaceful life, I have chosen one full of toil and trouble': Aldus Manutius and the Printing History of the *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili*"

### **11:30am-1:00pm Movement 2: Words and Interpretations**

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Victoria Kirkham, "Hypno What? A Dreamer's Vision and the Reader's Nightmare" Ann Moyer, "The Wanderings of Poliphilo through Renaissance Studies"

Ian White, "Multiple Words, Multiple Meanings in the *Hypnerotomachia*"

**2:00pm-3:00pm Movement 3: Art and Illustration**

Chris Nygren, "The *Hypnerotomachia* and Italian Art Circa 1500"

Larry Silver, "Not *Hypnerotomachia*: Venice's Other Early Woodcut Illustrations"

**3:00pm-4:30pm Movement 4: Imagined Architectures**

Raffaella Fabiani Giannetto, "'Not before either known or dreamt of': The *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili* and the Craft of Wonder"

David Leatherbarrow, "What Fragments are to Desire, Elements are to Design"

Ian White, "Mathematical Design in Poliphilo's Imaginary Building, The Temple of Venus"

**4:30pm-5:00pm Break and Interlude**

Shushi Yoshinaga, "*Hypnerotomachia Poliphili*: A Modern Heritage": a display of objects and images

**5:00pm-6:00pm Movement 5: Contemporary Resonances and Final Observations**

**Keywords**

Hypnerotomachia Poliphili, Aldus Manutius

**Disciplines**

Architecture | Art and Design | Arts and Humanities

**Comments**

Architectures of the Text: An Inquiry Into the *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili*. Symposium, University of Pennsylvania Libraries, Philadelphia, Pa., February 11, 2012.

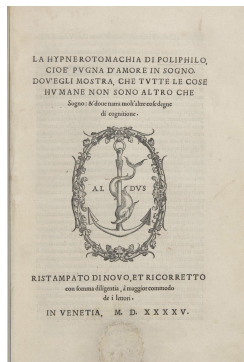
**Author(s)**

David McKnight, William Keller, Eric Pumroy, John Dixon Hunt, Lynne Farrington, Victoria Kirkham, Ann Moyer, Ian White, Chris Nygren, Larry Silver, Raffaella Fabiani Giannetto, and David Leatherbarrow

# Architectures of the Text:

## An Inquiry Into the *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili*

A symposium to celebrate the acquisition of the second edition of the *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili* (1545) by the University of Pennsylvania Libraries



**Saturday, February 11, 2012**

**10:00AM – 6:30PM**

**[program to begin at 10:30AM]**

Class of '55 Room and Meyerson Conference Room, Van Pelt-Dietrich Library, 2nd floor  
University of Pennsylvania, 3420 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6206

**10:00AM: Registration, light breakfast, and book display**

2<sup>nd</sup> floor lobby; Class of '55 room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

**10:30AM-11:30AM Movement 1: Books and Histories**

Class of 55 room

Welcome: David McKnight

William B. Keller, "*Hypnerotomachia* Joins the Perkins Library: Collecting to Support Persuasion in Architectural Design and History"

Eric Pumroy, "Remarks on the 1499 *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili* at Bryn Mawr Special Collections"

John Dixon Hunt, "*Hypnerotomachia Poliphili*: A Child's Guide to the Story Line and a Look at its Afterlives"

Lynne Farrington, "Though I could lead a quiet and peaceful life, I have chosen one full of toil and trouble": Aldus Manutius and the Printing History of the *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili*

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Class of '55 room

Victoria Kirkham, "Hypno What? A Dreamer's Vision and the Reader's Nightmare"

Ann Moyer, "The Wanderings of Poliphilo through Renaissance Studies"

Ian White, "Multiple Words, Multiple Meanings in the *Hypnerotomachia*"

**1:00pm-2:00pm: Lunch break and Book exhibitions**

Meyerson Conference room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

**2:00pm-3:00pm Movement 3: Art and Illustration**

Class of '55 room

Chris Nygren, "The *Hypnerotomachia* and Italian Art Circa 1500"

Larry Silver, "Not *Hypnerotomachia*: Venice's Other Early Woodcut Illustrations"

**3:00pm-4:30pm Movement 4: Imagined Architectures**

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Raffaella Fabiani Giannetto, "'Not before either known or dreamt of': The *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili* and the Craft of Wonder"

David Leatherbarrow, "What Fragments are to Desire, Elements are to Design"

Ian White, "Mathematical Design in Poliphilo's Imaginary Building, The Temple of Venus"

**4:30pm-5:00pm Break and Interlude**

Meyerson Conference Room

Shushi Yoshinaga, "*Hypnerotomachia Poliphili*: A Modern Heritage": a display of objects and images

**5:00pm-6:00pm Movement 5: Contemporary Resonances and Final Observations**

Class of '55 room

David McKnight, "Frivolous Fortune: Aldus, The *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili* and the Future of Typography"

John Dixon Hunt, "Did Ian Hamilton Finlay know the *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili*, and even if not, does that help us?"

Audience Discussion

**6:00pm-7:00pm Reception**

2<sup>nd</sup> floor lobby

## Symposium Participants

Lynne Farrington, University of Pennsylvania, Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Raffaella Fabiani Giannetto, University of Pennsylvania, Department of Landscape Architecture

John Dixon Hunt, University of Pennsylvania, Department of Landscape Architecture

William Keller, University of Pennsylvania, Fisher Fine Arts Library

Victoria Kirkham, University of Pennsylvania, Department of Romance Languages

David Leatherbarrow, University of Pennsylvania, Department of Architecture

David McKnight, University of Pennsylvania, Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Ann Moyer, University of Pennsylvania, Department of History

Chris Nygren, University of Pennsylvania, Department of History of Art

Eric Pumroy, Bryn Mawr College, Department of Special Collections

Larry Silver, University of Pennsylvania, Department of History of Art

Ian White, Independent scholar and translator of the *Hypnerotomachia*

Shushi Yoshinaga, Drexel University, Westphal College of Media Arts and Design

## Symposium Sponsors

The Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation

University of Pennsylvania Libraries

University of Pennsylvania School of Design

Center for Italian Studies - Italian Section, University of Pennsylvania

Department of the History of Art, University of Pennsylvania

We are also grateful to the Department of Special Collections, Bryn Mawr College, for additional assistance with the conference.