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Portraying the Star of Bethlehem: How the Wise Men Still Show Us the Way

A free lecture sponsored by The Central Pennsylvania Forum for Religion and Science

Featured speaker: Dr. Marvin Bolt, Vice President for Collections and Director, Webster Institute for the History of Astronomy, Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum (Chicago)



Only the gospel of Matthew provides an account of the magi and their star-led sojourn to Bethlehem in one of the most well-known biblical stories in modern culture. For several decades, planetariums around the country have engaged audiences with the astronomy behind their travels. What do we know, and what can we know about that celestial background? What should we learn from this powerful story?

Monday, 28 November 2011, at 7:00 pm

Location: Kline Hall 120, Messiah College, Grantham, PA. Directions and a campus map are at <http://www.messiah.edu/visitors/direction.html>.

Marvin Bolt is an historian of astronomy and curator at Chicago's Adler Planetarium, the first planetarium outside of Europe. His research on the history of the telescope and on the role of astronomy in culture has taken



him to over two dozen countries around the world, and is supported by the American Association of Museums, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the National Science Foundation. He has curated several permanent and temporary exhibitions on telescopes, astronomies in diverse cultures, Chinese astronomy, celestial mapping, planetary exploration, cosmology, and other topics. He has also written and contributed to numerous planetarium shows on searching for exoplanets, cosmology, telescopes, African astronomy, Chinese astronomy, and other topics. He has lectured for public and scholarly audiences throughout North America and Europe, as well as in Asia, Africa, and South America. Over the years, he has presented several versions of his research on the Star of Bethlehem to public and scholarly audiences.



The Central Pennsylvania Forum for Religion and Science is based at Messiah College. For details about all Forum events, please visit <http://www.messiah.edu/godandscience/> or contact Dr. Ted Davis (tdavis@messiah.edu), 717-766-2511, ext 6840.

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