



Lecture

New Books in Print

JOEL THOMAS WALKER

History
University of Washington

The Legend of Mar Qardagh: Narrative and Christian Heroism in Late Antique Iraq

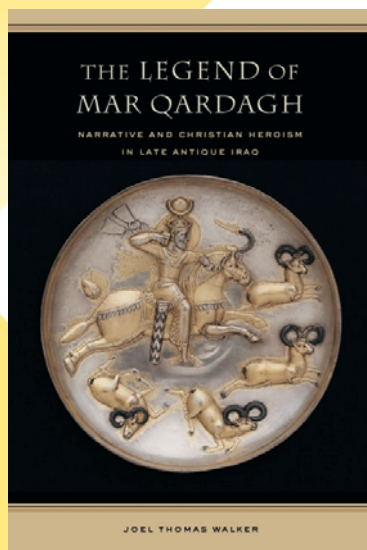
(Berkeley, Los Angeles, and London: University of California Press, 2006)

Wednesday, March 7, 2007

4:00 pm

Communications 202

Reception to follow



Please join us for a talk on Joel Walker's new book, *The Legend of Mar Qardagh* (2006). This pioneering study uses a seventh-century Christian martyr legend to elucidate the culture and society of late antique Iraq. The book includes the first English translation of the legend of St. Qardagh, a Christian epic hero whose characteristics confound simple classification. During the several stages of his career, St. Qardagh hunts like a Persian King, argues like a Greek philosopher, and studies scripture while living in a cave high in the mountains of Iraqi Kurdistan. In his presentation, Walker will discuss the origins and methodology of his book, as well as its implications for the study of late antiquity and Christianity in the Middle East.

Joel Thomas Walker is Associate Professor of History at the University of Washington, where he is also an adjunct professor in the department of Near Eastern Languages & Civilization and a member of the Comparative Religion program. Walker's research focuses on the history of the late ancient Middle East, especially the Sasanian Empire (224-642). His publications include articles on late Sasanian cultural history, the archaeology of Byzantine Anatolia, and the sacral topography of Northern Iraq. He is currently engaged in a new book project entitled *Ascetic Literacy: Books and Readers in the Christian Middle East, ca. 500-1286 C.E.*

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