



We have the pleasure of inviting you to the lecture:

## *Egyptian Hieroglyphs and the Evolution of Writing*



given by

**Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Antonio LOPRIENO**

Department of Ancient Civilizations, University of Basel

President of the Austrian Science Board, Vienna

President of ALLEA, the European Federation of Academies of Sciences and  
Humanities

**Monday, October 23, 2017, at 17h00**

**New Europe College (Plantelor 21)**

\*\*\*

The lecture will present a cultural history of the Ancient Egyptian writing system, which from 3000 BC onward combined semantic and phonetic features in a set of very pictorial signs, usually called hieroglyphs. The hieroglyphic system developed two manual varieties, called Hieratic (Bronze Age) and Demotic (Iron Age), before being replaced by the Coptic alphabetic script during the first centuries of the Christian era. The cultural traits of the Egyptian writing system will be investigated from the point of view of visual studies, i.e. by trying to also look at the iconic features of the Egyptian scripts beyond their primary function as carrier of linguistic (semantic or phonetic) information. What will emerge from the discussion is the combination of two types of iconicity in every writing system: an iconicity of the sign itself, e.g. when it reproduces an entity of the real world, and an iconicity of the sequence of signs, which primarily aims at assuring recognizability and readability.

Plantelor 21, Bucharest 023971

Tel.: (+40-21) 307 99 10; e-mail: nec@nec.ro; www.nec.ro

## *Biographical note*



Antonio Loprieno (1955) went to school to the European School in Brussels (Belgium), where he graduated in 1972. He studied Egyptology and Linguistics at the University of Turin (Italy), where he obtained his doctorate in 1977. He conducted research as post-doc at the University of Göttingen (Germany), where he received his Habilitation in Egyptology in 1984. He then served as Associate Professor of Semitic linguistics at the University of Perugia (Italy), until he was appointed in 1989 Professor of Egyptology at UCLA (USA). In the following years, he served as Chairman of the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures and as visiting professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Israel), the University of Heidelberg (Germany) and the “École Pratique des Hautes Études” in Paris (France).

In 2000, he moved as a Professor of Egyptology to Basel (Switzerland) and became the Rector of the University in 2006, an office he kept until 2015. Since 2016, he presides the Austrian Science Board. Loprieno is a member of the Academy of Sciences in Göttingen and of the University Council of the Universities of Zürich (Switzerland) and Tübingen (Germany).

Loprieno’s more than 100 research papers and books cover the area of Egyptian and Semitic linguistics, Egyptian cultural history, and recently also university management. His main publications are *Das Verbalsystem im Ägyptischen und im Semitischen* (1986), *Topos und Mimesis* (1988), *Ancient Egyptian. A Linguistic Introduction* (1995), *Ancient Egyptian Literature. History and Forms* (1996), *La pensée et l’écriture* (2002), *Vom Schriftbild* (2007), *Slavery and Servitude* (2012), *Fiktion und Simulation als kognitive Übergänge* (2012), *Von offener Universität* (2014), *Die entzauberte Universität* (2016).