

## Nicholson Museum Invitation

### The Faces of Power Lecture Series

## The Moon is Stained with Blood: the Imperial Use and Abuse of Astrology

### A lecture by Derek Parker



**Derek Parker** has been a journalist, literary and drama critic, and broadcaster. He is now an author.

He has written many biographies, as well as collaborating with his wife, the astrologer Julia Parker, on a number of books including *A History of Astrology* (1983) and *Parkers' Astrology* (2001).

With Dr Jonathan Miller, he was the first person to broadcast, in the early 1970s, a serious discussion of the history and possible validity of astrology.

Derek and Julia moved to Sydney from London in 2002.



Silver denarius of Augustus c. 18 BC with the *capricorn* on its reverse

One morning in 44 BC, in the Illyrian town of Apollonia, a young man visited the astrologer, Theogenes, to ask him for his horoscope. On completing his calculations, the astrologer fell at the young man's feet. 'You will be', he said, 'one of the greatest men of our time'.

The young man's name was Octavian and he was a Capricorn.

In 27 BC, Octavian became the first Emperor of Rome having taken the title Augustus. He ruled with the astrologer Thrasyllus at his side, consulting him before making any major decision.

Derek Parker tells the fascinating story of how astrology ruled Imperial Rome.

### Tuesday 4 September 6 for 6.30 pm

In the Nicholson Museum  
Main Quadrangle, University of Sydney

\$20 (\$15 Friends of the Nicholson Museum)

price includes hot pies and cold wine

booking essential 9351 2812 or [m.turner@usyd.edu.au](mailto:m.turner@usyd.edu.au)

