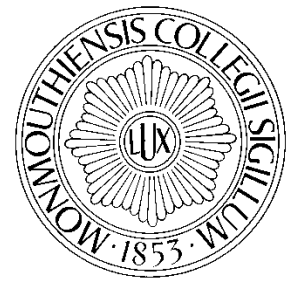




**The Archaeological Institute of America
Western Illinois Society
and the Department of Classics**



present

The Inaugural Sienkewicz Lecture on Roman Archaeology

**The Decline and Falls of the Roman Material
Economy or How to Trash Talk Rome**

Víctor M. Martínez

Lecturer in Art History, Arkansas State University
(vmmartinez001@gmail.com)

Whether Rome declined, fell, or just stumbled into the Middle Ages, it did so neither on an empty stomach nor without some wine to ease the transition. While much has been written about the political, cultural, and social reasons for these changes, less attention has been placed on the day-to-day lives of the people during Rome's twilight. In this paper, I draw upon my work on the Palatine East Excavations, which was the first systematic excavation on the eastern slope of Rome's storied hill and which has produced over 15 metric tons of pottery, the bulk of which consists of large secondary refuse deposits dumped into and around the substructures of the building complex from the late third through the second half of the fifth century AD, in order to consider Rome's transformation. This trash still has much to say and, alongside other evidence from Rome and its provinces, one can begin to understand how the aspects of the life histories of Roman refuse can inform about Rome in the waning years of the empire.



View of reused materials in the Via Triumphalis Necropolis, Vatican City, 1st to 2nd centuries CE (Photo by V. Martínez)

Thursday, November 2, 2017

7:30 P.M.

Dahl Chapel

Monmouth College, Monmouth, Illinois