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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **The World's First Computer: The Antikythera Mechanism**

*Astronomer John Seiradakis shares the secrets of the ancient analog computer*

**CHICAGO, IL** - Discovered more than a century ago buried inside an ancient Roman shipwreck beneath the Aegean Sea, the secrets of the Antikythera Mechanism are still being uncovered.

Severely corroded, the 2,000 year-old bronze and wood device was nearly unnoticed on the shelves of the National Museum of Archaeology in Athens until 1902, when archaeologist Valerios Stais discovered a gear wheel imbedded in it.

Slowly scientists began to unravel the secrets of this ancient device that predates any other known clockwork mechanisms of similar complexity by more than 1,000 years.

Please join us on Thursday, April 14 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the National Hellenic Museum for a discussion with astronomer Dr. John Seiradakis, a distinguished member of the Antikythera Mechanism research team. Dr. Seiradakis is a Radio Astronomer and Physics Professor at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

Dr. Thanasis Economou, Senior Scientist at the University of Chicago Enrico Fermi Institute, will provide introductory remarks.

The program will also mark the opening of the National Hellenic Museum's temporary display of art inspired by the Antikythera Mechanism. The exhibition, which includes a cast iron and steel sculpture by artist Terry Poulos called "Art-ikythera", will be on display through April 30.

This program is one of a series of events in support of The Greeks exhibition at The Field Museum. Tickets are available at <https://www.nationalhellenicmuseum.org/the-worlds-oldest-computer-the-antikythera-mechanism/>

Admission: \$15 for the general public, \$10 for members, and \$5 for students.

Photo 1:  
Dr. John Seiradakis

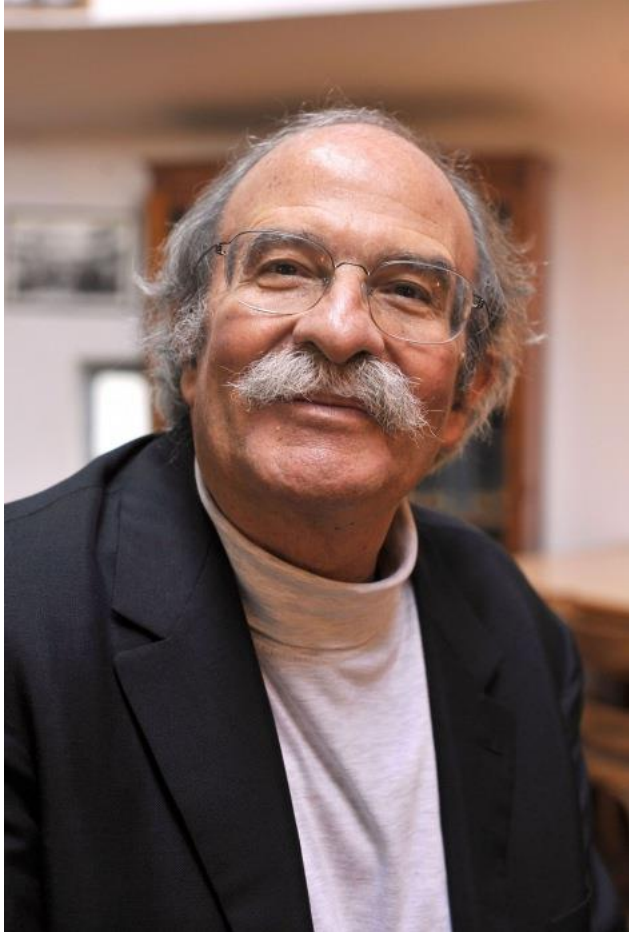


Photo 2:  
Terry Poulos with his “Art-ikythera” sculpture.



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*Located in Chicago's Greektown, the sleek 40,000-square-foot National Hellenic Museum at 333. S. Halsted St. is both contemporary and timeless, connecting all generations—past, present and future—to the rich heritage of Greek history, culture, art and the Greek American experience. The National Hellenic Museum, previously known as the Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center, has been fulfilling this mission since 1983.*

For more information, visit <http://www.nationalhellenicmuseum.org> or call 312-655-1234.

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