The URI Center for the Humanities Presents:

Jean de Dinteville and Georges de Selve (The Ambassadors) (detail), 1533, Hans Holbein the Younger, National Gallery, London.

Prof. Travis Williams, URI, English

"Narrative Arithmetic, National Identity, and Early Modern Pleasure Reading."

Thursday, December 2, 5:00 - 6:30

Lippitt Hall, Room 401

Early modern arithmetic was plagued by methods and results that, by modern standards, lacked rigor and were often numerically incorrect. And yet, these texts were frequently reprinted for centuries, which is evidence of their popularity with a book-buying and book-reading public. This lecture will investigate the reasons for this popularity, and argue that mathematics as popular reading in early modern Europe was closely correlated to anxiety about the non-European and non-Christian proximate origins of the terminology, numerals, and techniques of basic mathematics.

For questions, up-to-date information, and directions, please visit us at:
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