

Colloqui della Classe di Scienze

Anno Accademico 2017/2018

Sala Stemmi | Palazzo della Carovana
Scuola Normale Superiore
Piazza dei Cavalieri, 7 - PISA

14 FEBBRAIO 2018
ore 15.00

LUCIO RUSSO

Università degli Studi di Roma "Tor Vergata"

*Hellenistic Geographical Knowledge Hidden
In Ptolemy's Data*

ABSTRACT:

The systematic error on longitudes in Ptolemy's Geographia and his reduced estimate for the dimension of the Earth are examined. The thesis is exposed that the shrinking of the dimension of the Earth is a consequence of the scale error on the longitudes, which, in turn, was originated by a misidentification of the Islands of the Blessed. The location of the Islands of the Blessed according to the source of Ptolemy should be identified in the Caribbean. Two other independent quantitative arguments lead to the same conclusion, which sheds new light on possible contact among civilizations.



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