



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

## San Diego Public Library

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **SAN DIEGO PUBLIC LIBRARY HOSTS A LECTURE: "HOW ACHILLES KNOWS HIMSELF: HEROIC SELF-IDENTITY"**

*A Continuation of the Exciting "Page and Stage" Series*

**SAN DIEGO** – The San Diego Public Library continues its presentation of the *Page and Stage: The Power of the Iliad Today* series with a lecture that looks at identity in the Iliad and asks the question what does Achilles think of himself. Anthony Edwards Ph.D., Professor of Classics and Comparative Literature, University of California San Diego will deliver this public lecture on "How Achilles Knows Himself: Heroic Self-Identity." San Diego Public Library is one of only 16 libraries nationwide to receive a grant to host this series. The lecture will take place on Sunday, May 31, 2009 in the Wangenheim Room at 2:00 p.m. on the third floor of the Central Library, located at 820 E Street in downtown San Diego.

Do we expect our heroes to change in response to crisis? Should conflict and tragedy induce transformative introspection? Is Achilles profoundly changed by his conflict with Agamemnon, the death of Patroclus, and coming to terms with Priam? Or do Achilles and Homer's other characters possess a more stable type of personality, able to respond to changing circumstances, but only within restricted limits? Through these questions the scholar is asking whether Homer thought of the self as we do. To understand what Achilles knew when he knew himself, we need to examine not only Achilles as he appears in the *Iliad*, but also what Homer and his audience knew of him from what occurred at Troy preceding and following the *Iliad*.

*Page and Stage: The Power of the Iliad Today* is a ground breaking in-depth partnership between the library and the theatre sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and involving New York's acclaimed Aquila Theatre, the American Philological Association that

represents Classics professors in the U.S., the Urban Libraries Council and New York University’s Center for Ancient Studies. The events are designed to inspire people to come together to read, see, and think about classical literature and how it continues to influence and invigorate American cultural life. For more information about *Page and Stage*, visit [www.pageandstage.org](http://www.pageandstage.org) online.

Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library’s Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library’s catalog online at [www.sandiegolibrary.org](http://www.sandiegolibrary.org).

*The City of San Diego Public Library – Your Link to the Past and Gateway to the Future*

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