



Tuesday January 11, 2022
Interior Décor and Roman Culture
“In the Villa of Tiberius in Sperlonga”

Presenter: Dr. Steven Tuck
Tiburón Country Club

Doors open at 11:00
Luncheon 11:30
Price: \$53

Chairs: Kathleen Sullivan
Sandra Giacalone

This lavishly-illustrated talk explores the dining grotto of the Emperor Tiberius at Sperlonga. With its dramatic colossal sculpture groups of Scylla and the Cyclops Polyphemus as well as smaller groups, the grotto was one of the grandest and best-decorated dining spaces in the Roman world. This lecture explores the subjects of the sculptures and the meanings behind their selection, concluding that the major groups illustrate scenes, not from Homer’s *Odyssey* as long thought, but from Virgil’s *Aeneid*. The sculptures also demonstrate reliance on Roman literature with the major sculptures of Polyphemus and Scylla selected for Virgil’s reference to them in a dining context in the *Aeneid*. Finally, the sculptures are considered for their role in illustrating major events in the life of the Emperor himself.



For special dietary needs, please contact the event Chair at least one (1) week before the luncheon.

Speaker Bio



**Dr. Steven L.
Tuck**

Steven L. Tuck is Professor of History and Classics at Miami University. He received his PhD in Classical Art and Archaeology from the University of Michigan. He is the author of *A History of Roman Art* and many articles and chapters on Roman art, especially Roman sculpture. He also publishes on Latin epigraphy including his research tracing survivors from the eruption of Vesuvius in AD 79. He also publishes on spectacle entertainments in the Roman world, both sculpture and inscriptions. He has received 9 awards for undergraduate teaching including the Archaeological Institute of America Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award.