

# *The Leonardo da Vinci Society*

ANNUAL LECTURE 2015

Friday 8 May 2015 at 6.00 pm



Attributed to Jacopo de' Barbari, *Portrait of Luca Pacioli*, c. 1495-1500, Tempera on panel, Capodimonte Museum, Naples, Public domain image from Wikipedia.org

## **Professor Paul Hills**

Professor Emeritus of Renaissance Art  
The Courtauld Institute of Art

## **Leonardo, Luca Pacioli and the Venetian optic c. 1480-1510**

At the Kenneth Clark Lecture Theatre  
The Courtauld Institute of Art, Somerset House, Strand, London  
Admission is free, all are welcome

Venetian painting around 1500 is marked by a distinctive geometry and a special regard for light. This may be explained, in part, by the repeated presence in Venice of the mathematician and friend of Leonardo, Luca Pacioli. Less concerned with linear perspective as a system for delineating a recessional space than with the construction of complex regular bodies, Pacioli's teaching stressed proportion and interval. Carpaccio, Giovanni Bellini and the young Giorgione were receptive to this Paciolian culture of 'divine proportion'. By attending to the Venetians' pictorial construction of reflections and shadows we will trace similarities and significant differences between their work and that of Leonardo.