Early Experiments in Electricity and Magnetism

The ancient Greeks knew of two substances that had puzzling properties. Loadstone and amber remained mysterious, until scientists like William Gilbert and Ben Franklin launched a methodical series of experiments. In the new “Great Papers in Science” module, we are reading the works of Gilbert, Franklin, Faraday and Volta. Our objective is not to simply read their works, but to try and reproduce their groundbreaking work. In this talk I will discuss some of these historical experiments and provide a few demonstrations.

Please join us for light refreshments at 4:15pm outside WSC 109.