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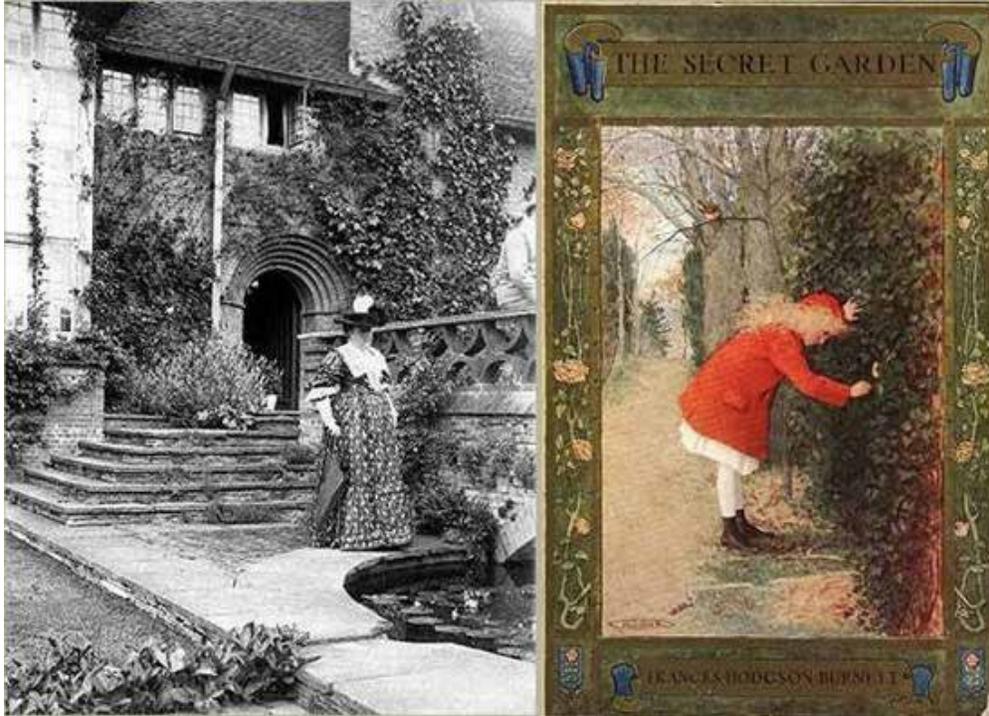
Upcoming Scholarly Events

Gardens and the Work of Environmental Memory

Public Lecture by Professor Lawrence Buell (Harvard University)

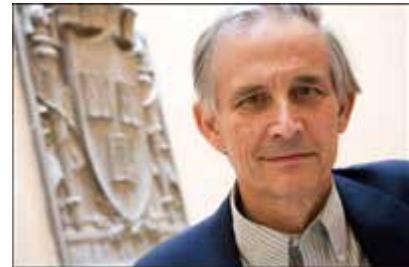
Thursday, April 11, 5:30 pm

To register please contact [Susannah Italiano](#).



Images: (Left) Gertrude Jekyll, Deanery Garden, Sonning, UK, c. 1901, courtesy English Heritage National Monuments Records. (Right) Book cover of *The Secret Garden*, by Frances Hodgson Burnett, c. 1911, courtesy of The Project Gutenberg EBook.

Ranging through numerous examples of garden history and garden literature across times and cultures, Professor Buell will take note of some important ways in which gardens can embody or activate environmental memory in the different meanings of that term: personal, folk-collective, national, evolutionary, spiritual.



Lawrence Buell is a Visiting Scholar at Dumbarton Oaks from March 18 until April 18. At Harvard, he has taught courses on environmental(ist) literature, American Studies, and history in the nineteenth-century Anglophone world.

[Read more, including an interview with Lawrence Buell>>](#)

Theorizing the Wari Collapse

An informal talk by Professor Katharina Schreiber (University of California at Santa Barbara)
Thursday, April 18, 2:00 pm
To register please contact [Emily Jacobs](#).

The Wari Empire of the Central Andes collapsed sometime near the end of the first millennium AD. This was one of the most profound events to affect the Pre-Columbian Central Andes, but the reasons for it are yet unknown. Of one thing we can be sure: this was undoubtedly a complex process involving multiple causal factors.



This presentation explores our current state of knowledge and the various lines of evidence available that document the events that occurred, and their timing.



Katharina Schreiber is a Visiting Scholar at Dumbarton Oaks from April 9 until May 8, 2013. She is a Professor of Anthropology at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Professor Schreiber began her field research in the central highlands of Peru in 1974, and has dedicated a large portion of her investigations to the pre-Inca Wari Empire.

[Read more>>](#)

Image: Wari Mosaic Mirror. Dumbarton Oaks, Pre-Columbian Collection. PC.B.432

2013 Byzantine Symposium

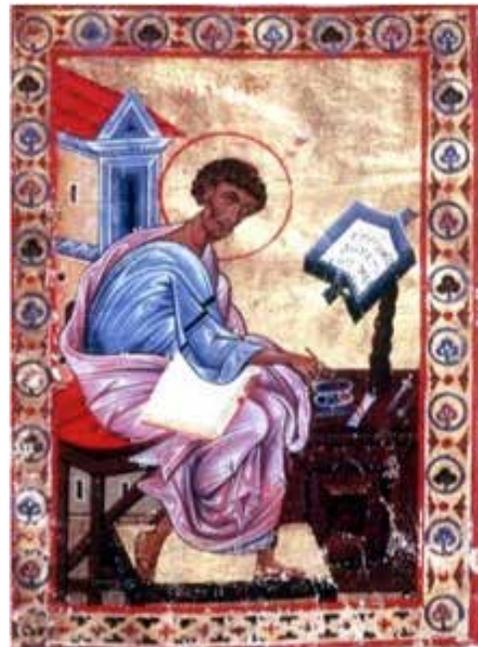
The New Testament in Byzantium

April 26-28, 2013

To register please contact Byzantine@doaks.org.

To view the conference program, speakers' abstracts and download a registration form, please visit the [symposium website](#).

The New Testament lay at the center of Byzantine Christian thought and practice. Scribes copied its gospels and epistles. Lectionaries apportioned much of its contents over the course of the liturgical calendar; its narratives structured the experience of liturgical time and shaped the nature of Christian preaching. Patrons and illustrators brought scenes from the life of Christ and his apostles to manuscripts, icons, and the walls of churches. Preachers, theologians and political theorists drew inspiration and authority from its teachings. Considering such varied legacies, this symposium assesses the impact of the New Testament on Byzantine civilization.



[Read more>>](#)

2013–2014 Fellows

After having received a record numbers of applicants, Dumbarton Oaks is proud to announce the 2013-2014 Fellows! Fellows in the coming year will arrive from as far away as Brazil, Hungary, and Greece. Their topics are diverse, and their qualifications exceptional. We anticipate that our new cohort will contribute significantly to our three areas of studies.

[View the complete list of 2013-2014 Fellows>>](#)

French Institut du Patrimoine Intern



Charlotte Guinois, a Ph.D. candidate in Pre-Columbian archaeology at Paris IV-Sorbonne University, spent March and April as a curatorial intern in the [Dumbarton Oaks Museum](#) and the [Pre-Columbian Studies Program](#). Her internship was sponsored by the French Institut National du Patrimoine (INP) and Dumbarton Oaks.

“In the Museum, I worked on various interesting projects. One was to create online modules to accompany the 50th anniversary loan exhibit. I focused on several Pre-Columbian display cases, including the Epi-Olmec jade Tuxtla Statuette, the impressive Mixtec ceremonial *atlats*, and the magnificent Wari mosaic mirror of Ancient Peru. I did bibliographical research, wrote texts, selected images, requested new photography, and obtained copyright

permissions. The result will be published on the museum’s website.”

[Read more>>](#)

From the Archives

“We shall hurry back so as to be here to watch the garden put on its spring garb.”



Robert Woods Bliss wrote the above to his friend Royall Tyler on March 7, 1934 from Montecito, California. Bliss had retired from his foreign service posting as U.S. Ambassador to Argentina in April 1933, and the Blisses had returned to Dumbarton Oaks to take up full-time residency for the first time that May. March of 1934 was the first time that they would see the spring bulbs and forsythia begin to bloom at Dumbarton Oaks, the direct result of Mildred Bliss’s long-distance partnership with Beatrix Farrand in the design and planting of the gardens that had begun in 1921.

[Read more>>](#)

Image: (Left) Wilderness Garden Path, April 1934. Dumbarton Oaks Archives, AR.LA.GP.13.39. (Right)

Friends of Music

On March 17th and 18th, the Friends of Music presented the Škampa Quartet, a Czech ensemble who performed music by Martinů, Beethoven, and Smetana, with a lively encore by Pavel Fischer.



Image: Škampa Quartet. Photo by Joe Mills, 2013.

March 18th was also when pianist Alessio Bax's November 2012 recital in the Music Room was broadcast on WETA's *Front Row Washington*.

The final concerts of the 2012-13 season will be April 21st and 22nd, when the young violinist Ray Chen, partnered by pianist Julio Elizalde, will play Mozart, Brahms, Ysaÿe, and Saint-Saëns.

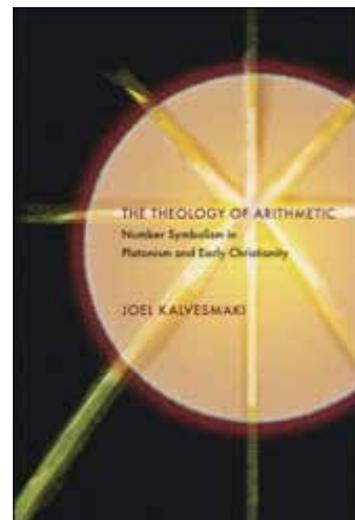
Mr. Chen is a protégé of Christoph Eschenbach and winner of the Queen Elisabeth Competition (2009) and the Yehudi Menuhin Competition (2008). Invited to perform at the 2012 Nobel Prize Concert in Stockholm, he is known for his beautiful tone, vitality and lightness.

Staff Accolade

Joel Kalvesmaki, *The Theology of Arithmetic: Number Symbolism in Platonism and Early Christianity* (Center for Hellenic Studies, Harvard University Press)

In the second century, Valentinians and other gnosticizing Christians used numerical structures and symbols to describe God, interpret the Bible, and frame the universe. In this study of the controversy that resulted, Joel Kalvesmaki, Editor in Byzantine Studies at Dumbarton Oaks, shows how earlier neo-Pythagorean and Platonist number symbolism provided the impetus for this theology of arithmetic, and describes the ways in which gnosticizing groups attempted to engage both the Platonist and Christian traditions.

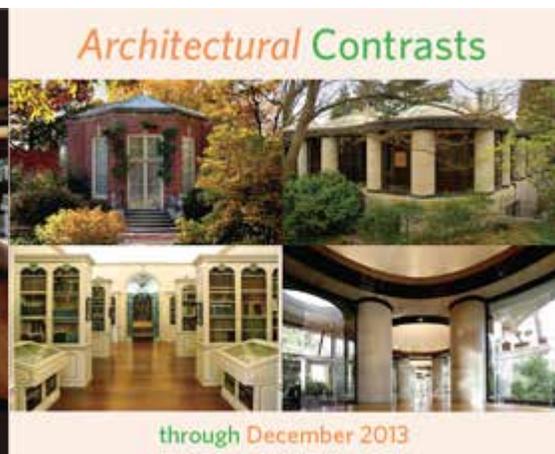
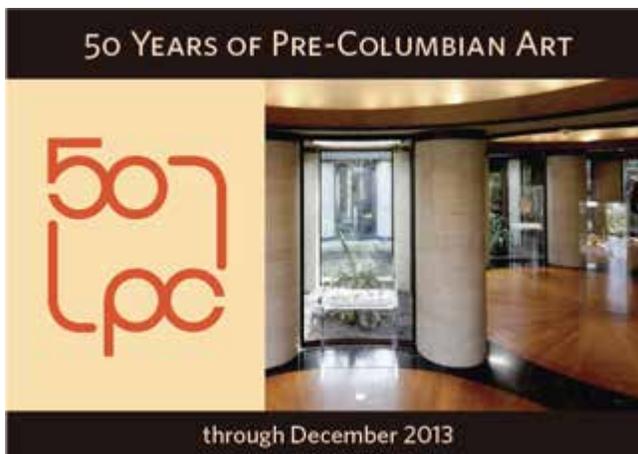
[Read more>>](#)



Good Ink

- A Washington Post [blog post](#) on Maria Sibylla Merian (and the April 2 Google doodle commemorating her birthday) features the [online exhibit](#) of the Dumbarton Oaks Library, with Merian-related items from the [Rare Book Collection](#).
 - A recent [blog post](#) covered the March colloquium on *Byzantine Survey Archeology: Reflections and Approaches*.
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Now on View



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