



Olympic Landscapes: Green and Greenest

The 2016 Garden and Landscape Studies Spring Public Lecture

Thursday, April 14, 2016, 5:30 p.m.

Music Room, Dumbarton Oaks

1703 32nd Street NW

Register at [this link](#).

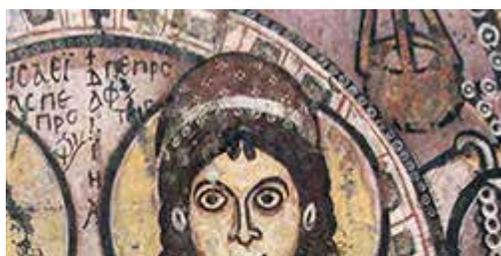
The spring lecture in Garden and Landscape Studies will be delivered by Mary Margaret Jones, president and senior principal of Hargreaves Associates in San Francisco and Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Hargreaves Jones Landscape Architecture in New York. Jones has led a number of the firm's award-winning projects around the globe, including the master concept design for the 2000 Sydney Olympics and the parklands for the 2012 London Olympics. Her talk at Dumbarton Oaks will explore the synergies and differences between these projects and what she and the firm learned about such "spectacle landscapes" from one project to the next. The lecture is free and open to the public, but reservations are required. For more information, please visit our [website](#).



Right: Aerial view looking south during the London Olympic games, July 2012 (Image courtesy Olympic Delivery Authority)

Worlds of Byzantium

The 2016 Byzantine Studies Symposium



April 22–23, 2016

Music Room, Dumbarton Oaks

1703 32nd Street NW

Register by email (byzantine@doaks.org) or phone (202-339-6940)

What was Byzantium? Where was it? What religions did its people practice, and which languages did they speak? The 2016 Symposium will examine the very foundations of what we think “Byzantium” was—Greek-speaking, Orthodox Christian, Constantinopolitan—and attempt to reset scholars’ expectations about what counts as Byzantine. The symposiasts will posit that Byzantium can play a more central role on the world-historical stage if Byzantinists are willing to let it be decentered and reconstituted for the next generation. See the program and abstracts [online](#).

Left: Prophet Daniel holding a scroll (Image courtesy E. Bolman, © American Research Center in Egypt)

Landscape and the Academy

The 2016 Garden and Landscape Studies Symposium

May 6–7, 2016

Music Room, Dumbarton Oaks

1703 32nd Street NW

Register [online](#).

On the occasion of the seventy-fifth anniversary of Dumbarton Oaks, the Garden and Landscape Studies program will present a symposium on the history of academic landscapes and their prospects and perils as universities go global and digital. Are universities still cultivating self-conscious relationships between their landscapes and their academic missions? Are these landscapes, beyond their applications in curriculum, still being used to foster new thinking in landscape design, aesthetics, environmental ethics, or community history? Looking beyond specific instances of campus planning and design, this symposium seeks a larger understanding of the place of university landscapes in their academic and urban communities. See a fuller description and list of speakers [on our website](#).



Right: Wuhan University, China, November 2015 (Image courtesy Tianjie Zhang)

Friends of Music

The Dover Quartet Performs at Dumbarton Oaks



The Dover Quartet returned to Dumbarton Oaks on March 6 and 7 as part of the Friends of Music concert series. They performed Dmitri Shostakovich’s third string quartet, Mozart’s “Hunt” Quartet, and Caroline Shaw’s *Plan & Elevation (The Grounds of Dumbarton Oaks)*. This appearance

was the ensemble's second at Dumbarton Oaks this academic year; the quartet premiered Shaw's piece at Dumbarton Oaks in November as part of the institute's seventy-fifth anniversary celebration.

Left: Members of the Dover Quartet in the Dumbarton Oaks Music Room: Bryan Lee, violin; Joel Link, violin; Milena Pajaro-van de Stadt, viola; and Camden Shaw, cello

Anthony Kaldellis on “The Byzantine Retirement of the Ancient Gods”

A Lecture in Collaboration with the National Gallery of Art



On March 3 Anthony Kaldellis, professor at Ohio State University, delivered a lecture at the National Gallery of Art in conjunction with the exhibition *Power and Pathos: Bronze Sculpture of the Hellenistic World*, which was on display through March 20. Addressing a packed auditorium, Kaldellis spoke of the fate of ancient statuary, primarily bronzes, after antiquity. According to Kaldellis, Constantine and successive emperors collected and used ancient statues as universal images of power that would be intelligible to those living in the city as well as guests and potential invaders. Kaldellis drew from a wide array of sources in history, art history, and archaeology to establish an image of what public spaces in Constantinople looked like over the centuries of Byzantine rule and how these spaces and the monuments associated with them were interpreted. At a time when there did not yet exist a visual idiom of Christian rulership, Kaldellis argued, the designers of Constantinople drew on the vast collection of bronzes throughout the empire to create imagery in the new city that would encapsulate Constantine's imperial authority. Kaldellis

is the author of the volume *The New Herodotus* in the Supplements to the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library series.

Graduate Student Workshop

Medieval Studies Students



Harvard doctoral students Henry Gruber, Polina Ivanova, Stephanie Leitzel, John Mulhall, and Jake Ransohoff visited Dumbarton Oaks in March for the third annual graduate workshop in medieval studies. Participants presented their research and were introduced to Dumbarton Oaks' staff, fellows, and scholarly resources. "The goal [of the workshop] is to allow grad students in related fields to get together outside of their normal departmental homes to engage as intellectual peers and also to gain access to the facilities and people at Dumbarton Oaks," said Director Jan Ziolkowski. Read more about their visit on our [website](#).

Above: Participants of the third annual graduate student workshop

Letters from William Cowper and John Ruskin

Highlights from Mildred Bliss's Autograph Letter Collection



Among the many autograph letters collected by Mildred Bliss over the years are letters from the poet [William Cowper](#) and the art critic [John Ruskin](#).

Both show the writers at their most characteristic: Cowper exults in the recovery of King George III, and Ruskin sums up his great love of the Middle Ages. Though previously published, the letters were often abbreviated, and we are glad to make the full text, along with high-quality images of the original documents, available [online](#).

From the Archives

75 Years Ago this Month: Mildred Bliss and the Maintenance of the Dumbarton Oaks Gardens

In early April 1941, Mildred Bliss received a letter from Elmer Drew Merrill (1876–1956), a member of the Dumbarton Oaks Administrative Committee and Harvard University Administrator of Botanical Collections and Arnold Professor of Botany. Writing to Mildred at Casa Dorinda, her home in Montecito, California, Merrill wanted to know whether his understanding was correct that the Blisses wanted Harvard to continue to maintain the Dumbarton Oaks Gardens. If that understanding was incorrect, he wondered whether the gardens might be turned over to the U.S. Department of Agriculture as “experimental stations.” In the letter, he also offered her rhododendrons from the Arnold Arboretum to be planted at Dumbarton Oaks. Read more [here](#).



Right: Native rhododendrons in bloom at Dumbarton Oaks

From the 75th Anniversary Blog

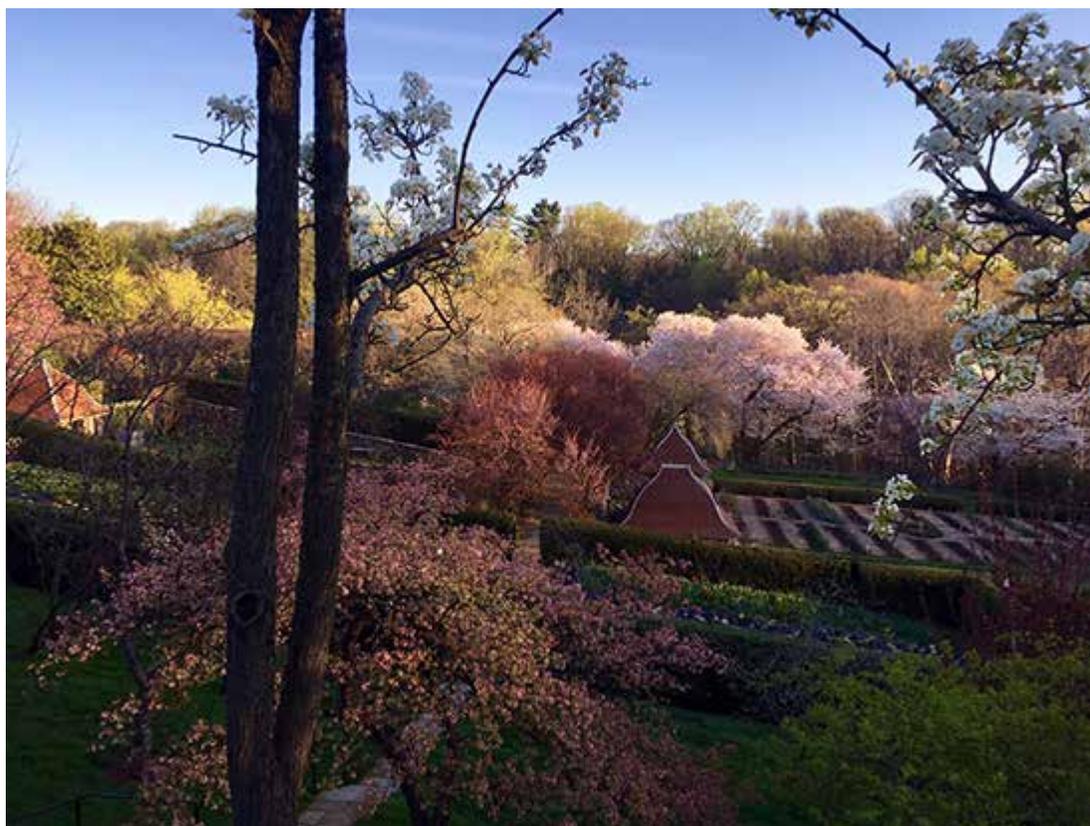
The First Dumbarton Oaks Landscape Architecture Colloquium

How was Dumbarton Oaks’ Garden and Landscape Studies program born? Long before its formalization, the Garden Advisory Committee took a major step toward academic status by organizing a colloquium on the Italian Garden. It was then seen as an old-fashioned topic—only one American willing to speak on the subject could be found—but the event and the book that followed laid the foundation for further work in the field at Dumbarton Oaks. Read more about this crucial chapter in the early history of Garden and Landscape Studies on [our 75th Anniversary Blog](#).

Good Ink

- The website Brightest Young Things published an appreciative article and photo essay on Dumbarton Oaks and its founders, Mildred Barnes and Robert Woods Bliss. Among other compliments, they write, “The most special part of what Robert and Mildred left behind is not what they kept for themselves, but what they wanted to give the world after the world gave them so much.”
 - The Olmec Jadeite mask in our Pre-Columbian collection was featured as a “[must-see artwork](#)” in the nation’s capital by the *Washington Post*.
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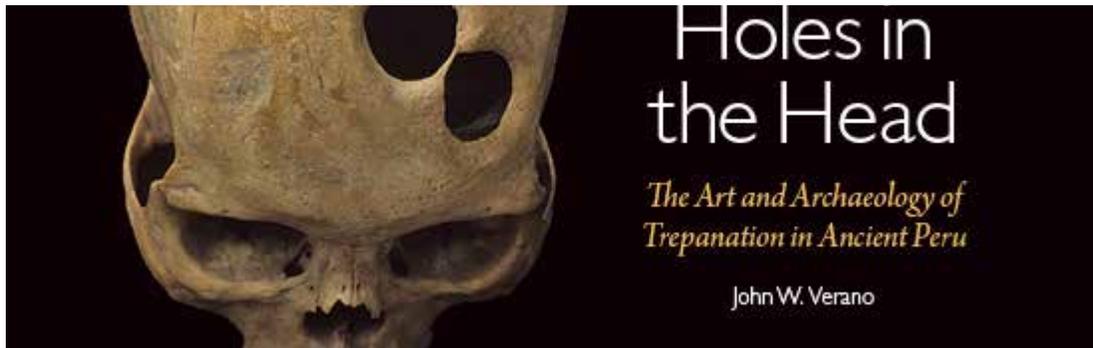
From the Garden Blog



In late March, all the blossoms came into bloom. The garden has sprung to life. See more spring photos on our garden blog, [What’s Blooming at D.O.](#)

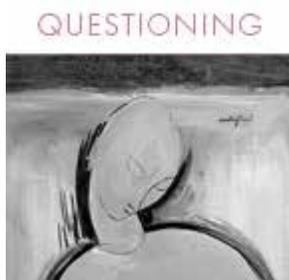
New Publication

Dumbarton Oaks Pre-Columbian Art and Archaeology Studies Series



Now on View

Find more information about the exhibits and rotations on our [website](#).

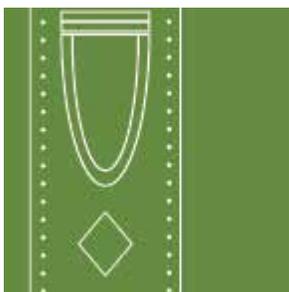


75 Years/75 Objects: Questioning

March 31–April 24, 2016, in the Special Exhibition Gallery
Curator's Tour on April 15 at 3 p.m.

Coming Soon: Revealing

April 28–May 22, 2016. Curator's Tours on May 6 and 20 at 3 p.m.



Clothing for the Afterlife: Textiles from the Pre-Columbian Collection

Through May 22, 2016, in the Textile Gallery



From Consul to Emperor: The Origins of the Loros

Through May 22, 2016, in the Byzantine Gallery



Stephens & Catherwood Revisited: Maya Ruins and the Passage of Time

From September 2015 in the Orientation and Rare Book
Galleries and [online](#)



Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection
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