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Photos of the Dumbarton Oaks Gardens by summer intern James Curtin.

Recent Acquisition



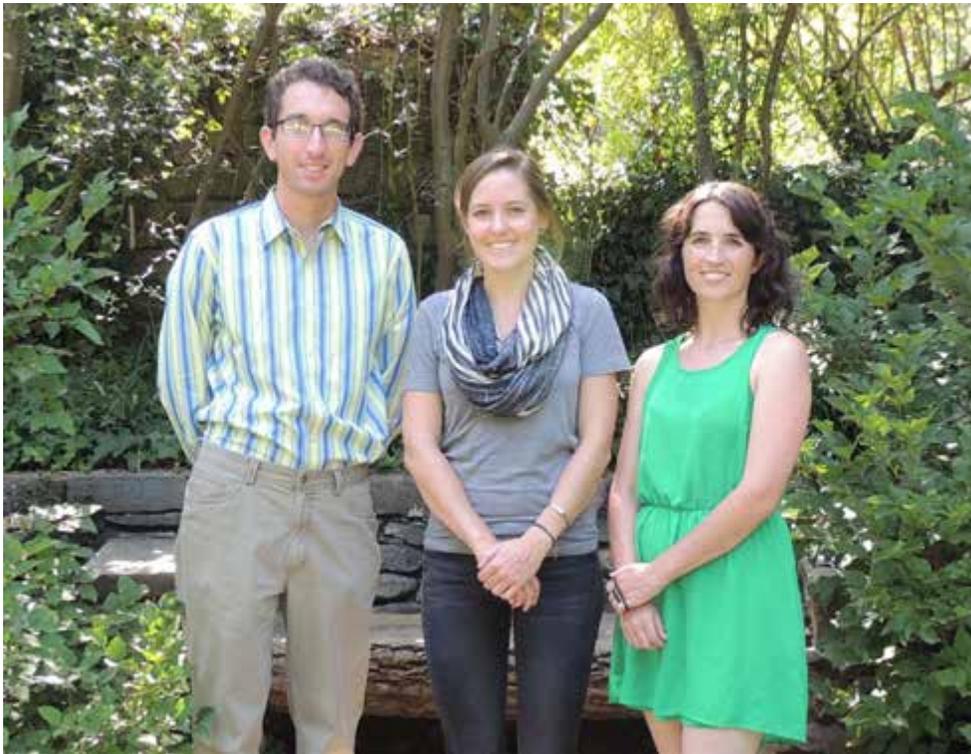
In March 2013, Dumbarton Oaks acquired an exceptional two-pound Byzantine weight. Originating from a Belgian collection formed in the Eastern Mediterranean in the late 1960s, it is unpublished and of great historical interest.

Read more about this exciting acquisition [here!](#)

Learn more about the Byzantine Collection via the [Online Catalog](#).

Summer Internships

We are about to bid farewell to our wonderful 2013 cohort of summer interns, who have been contributing to a number of vital projects. Their presence has been energizing, and their commitment to making the most of Dumbarton Oaks' resources has been exemplary.



Matt O'Donnell, Kate Hayes, and Rosabella Alvarez-Calderón, Garden and Landscape interns

In the gardens, Kate Hayes, a landscape architecture intern, explored the concept of the urban wilderness and found that 'Dumbarton Oaks' relationship to corridors, topography, water, and proximity and integration with Rock Creek Park, make it a particularly interesting case study within a "Wild Washington." Matthew O'Donnell used GIS to plot every Dumbarton Oaks tree on a digital map while researching the number of bee species in the gardens; while garden conservation intern Rosabella Alvarez-Calderón concluded an excavation project, while engaging with the historic gardens 'as a dynamic, flexible cultural landscape ... that is

simultaneously historic and contemporary, where the contributions, ideas and designs of many people are subtly layered.



Jasmine Casart and Deirdre Moore, Rare Books interns

Over in the Main House, Sasha Benoy, an editorial intern for the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library, spent the summer ‘solving Anglo-Latin riddles, creating vivid mental pictures of hideous devils based on the life of St. Guthlac, and delving into beautiful poems of love.’ James Curtin found his oral history internship ‘a perfect primer for the amateur historian’ and realized that his lack of ‘formal training’ in the fields of study at Dumbarton Oaks was no impediment to his picking up ‘by osmosis’ more than he would from a textbook on the subjects. As one of two rare book curatorial interns scouring the collections in preparation for an exhibit to accompany an upcoming symposium on the botany of empire, Jasmine Casart felt ‘like an eighteenth century naturalist-explorer, bound for exciting adventures.’

Read more about this year’s summer internships [on our website](#), and read descriptions of their experiences written by the interns themselves on the [Intern's Blog](#).

Dumbarton Oaks-Villa I Tatti Exchange

The Dumbarton Oaks-Villa I Tatti Exchange was instituted in 2012 by the Director of Dumbarton Oaks, Jan Ziolkowski, and the Director of Villa I Tatti, Lino Pertile. The aim is to enable staff members of either institution to spend one or two weeks at the other, in order to advance a project, share knowledge, or engage in a collaboration. The first Dumbarton Oaks beneficiaries of the exchange, James Carder and Shalimar White, share their experiences:

Shalimar White

For ICFA, it was immensely beneficial to study the Fototeca's established inventory program and learn about the workflows and processes in use directly from colleagues at I Tatti. It was also fascinating to immerse myself for a week on campus and learn about other exciting initiatives related to the Library, digital projects, social media, and the fellowship program.

James N. Carder

I was interested to go to I Tatti to have the opportunity to read Berenson's voluminous correspondence with Mildred and Robert Woods Bliss, Elisina and Royall Tyler, and their mutual friends, including Edith Wharton. This was greatly helpful in corroborating and supplementing data and chronologies for the Bliss-Tyler correspondence project, which Rob Nelson and I have prepared for publication on the Dumbarton Oaks web site. And the correspondence shows that Mildred Bliss herself had the opportunity to visit Hagia Sophia.

She wrote Berenson on October 21, 1947:

I [saw] 'Aya Sofia on Monday! No work of man that I have seen conveys such a sense of space & not even a humming bird soars & floats more easily.



James's and Shalimar's full accounts of their visits to I Tatti can be found [here](#).

Nicholas V. Artamonoff Photography Exhibition

Last month, an exhibit featuring Nicholas Artamonoff opened at the [Koç University Research Center for Anatolian Studies](#) in Istanbul. The exhibit, *Artamonoff: Picturing Byzantine Istanbul, 1930-1947*, features images from ICFA's collections, as well as photographs from the [Smithsonian Institution's Freer and Sackler Archives](#).

The exhibition will be up until October 6, 2013. The full Nicholas V. Artamonoff Collection can be viewed [online](#).



ARLIS Meeting at Dumbarton Oaks

On July 18, 2013, the local chapter of the Art Libraries Society of North America ([ARLIS/NA](#)) held their Summer chapter meeting at Dumbarton Oaks. ARLIS/NA is a professional organization for art librarians, architecture librarians, visual resources professionals, artists, curators, educators, publishers, and students interested in visual arts information.

2013 chapter chair and manager of the Image Collections and Fieldwork Archives (ICFA), Shalimar Fojas White, organized the visit, which included tours of the Research Library, Rare Book Collection, ICFA, and Gardens.



IMAGE: The ARLIS session included a tour of the gardens at Dumbarton Oaks.

[Read more...](#)

Manuscripts on Microfilm

Dumbarton Oaks Research Library holds almost 2000 microfilm rolls that are reproductions of medieval and early modern manuscripts, the originals of which are held in institutions around the world. In 2011, the Library began a project that included the creation of a database to serve as a finding aid for the Library's microfilm holdings. Thanks to the combined efforts of Library and Publications staff, a version of that database, with information about 1252 microfilm and 1221 manuscripts, is now available on the Dumbarton Oaks [website](#).

From the Archives

Philip Grierson Medal

This year's Dumbarton Oaks Summer Program in Coins and Seals recently concluded on August 2nd, and one of its invited faculty members, Eurydice Georganteli, took time out to be interviewed for the Dumbarton Oaks Oral History Project. In her interview, Vicky (as she is known at Dumbarton Oaks) fondly reminisced about being mentored by Philip Grierson, the former Advisor for Byzantine Numismatics at Dumbarton Oaks (1955-1997) and the author of catalogues of the Dumbarton Oaks Byzantine coin collection. Remembering her summer fellowship of 1998, she recalled:

He was just opening drawers for me, making these precious coins available, answering every question I had, and simply helping me to acquire a basis of work and an ethos which still follow me....

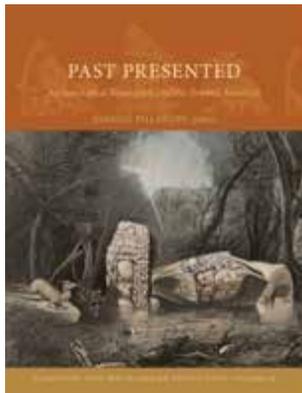
The Dumbarton Oaks Archives has in its collection a copper medal honoring Philip Grierson (1910-2006). The Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge commissioned the medal and presented it to Grierson at Gonville and Caius College, University of Cambridge, on November 1, 1990, on the occasion of Grierson's eightieth birthday (November 15th). Designed by Avril Vaughan, the medal has Philip Grierson's thoughtful face on the obverse and representations of Byzantine coins, coin books, and a view of the Gate of Honour of Gonville and Caius College and the inscription "Philip Grierson 1990" on the reverse.



IMAGE: Avril Vaughan, *Philip Grierson Medal*, copper, 1990, obverse and reverse. Dumbarton Oaks Archives, AR.OB.Misc.001.

Read more From the Archives [on the website](#).

Good Ink



Past Presented: Archaeological Illustration and the Ancient Americas, edited by Joanne Pillsbury, received a glowing review in the August 2 issue of the *Times Literary Supplement*.

Now on View



inspiring art

The Dumbarton Oaks Birthing Figure

June 27, 2013 — March 2, 2014



FOUR BYZANTINE MANUSCRIPTS

through September 2013

50 YEARS OF PRE-COLUMBIAN ART



through December 2013

Architectural Contrasts



through December 2013

Dumbarton Oaks
1703 32nd Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20007

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