Major New Award from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Apply for fellowships in "Democracy and the Urban Landscape: Race, Identity, and Difference"

Garden and Landscape Studies has received a grant to create an interdisciplinary program in urban landscape studies. “Democracy and the Urban Landscape: Race, Identity, and Difference” is organized around broad themes that promote an understanding of cities as landscape systems by considering such topics as topography, hydrology, climate, landscape’s public history, the urban/rural interface, urban biodiversity and productivity, repurposing derelict urban spaces, and informal urbanism. The project is structured to acknowledge the current importance of sustainability, adaptability, and resilience. Apply for two categories of fellowships: Urban Landscape Fellowships for scholars conducting relevant research, and History Teaching
Fellowships for faculty instructors in a university or other secondary educational institution.

Less Than One Week Left to See *Written in Knots*

Innovative exhibition of rare South American technology closes August 18

Don’t miss your last chance to visit *Written in Knots: Undeciphered Accounts of Andean Life*, an exhibition that puts on display a remarkable communication system. Portable and precise, its complexities have challenged and inspired decipherers. ([Watch our video](#) to discover how one researcher works to decipher this technology by growing his own dyes, spinning fibers, and plying and knotting textiles.) Long before the arrival of the Spaniards, the people of the Andes shared information using khipus—devices that encoded economic, political, and perhaps narrative data in their cords, knots, and colors. Open through August 18, *Written in Knots* is the first exhibition to bring together such records covering more than 1,300 years of South American history, from the Wari civilization to the Inka empire to the Spanish colonial period. The exciting collection of never-before-seen khipus on display includes the largest, most complex Wari specimen known to museums and the latest research into what stories the knots might tell.
Excavations in the 19th century unearthed scores of the ornate dress textiles that wrapped the people of medieval Egypt in their graves. *Ornament: Fragments of Byzantine Fashion* brings together complete tunics, parts of garments, and contemporary replicas of ancient dress to evoke the fashions of this lost world. Opening September 10, *Ornament* is the largest-ever exhibition of the rare Byzantine textiles held by Dumbarton Oaks, showcasing close to 60 pieces. These textiles often preserved traces of their wearers in the forms of folds and stains, providing researchers with important information about the people buried in these garments. With their spectacular range of colors, patterns, and ornamental motifs, the textiles display the remarkable skill of ancient craftspeople and a compellingly modern aesthetic.

See *Woven Interiors: Furnishing Early Medieval Egypt* Later this Month

Cocurated exhibition on view August 31 at The Textile Museum
In the early medieval era, the eastern Mediterranean's palaces, villas, and sacred spaces were richly decorated with hangings, curtains, and other luxury fabrics. Opening August 31 at the George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum, *Woven Interiors: Furnishing Early Medieval Egypt* brings together rarely displayed artworks from the 4th to 12th centuries to reveal how textiles infused warmth and beauty into Egypt's interiors. This exhibition is co-organized with Dumbarton Oaks.

**Landscape, Sport, Environment: The Spaces of Sport from the Early Modern Period to Today**

Student award winners discuss the 2019 Garden and Landscape Studies Symposium
Read reflections on the annual Garden and Landscape Studies symposium from recipients of the Bliss and Mellon Symposium Awards. Held May 3 and 4, “Landscape, Sport, Environment: The Spaces of Sport from the Early Modern Period to Today” was organized by Sonja Dümpelmann. “The speakers explored a variety of sites and sporting cultures in their presentations: from the ambulatory spaces of the early modern Italian villa to the landscapes that became part of black sporting culture in Chicago during the 20th century,” writes an awardee, a PhD candidate in history at Harvard. The other two recipients were master’s candidates in landscape architecture, one noting that “the symposium advanced my studies by dealing with and finding landscape architecture-based solutions for current challenges like climate change.” Graduate students and advanced undergraduates can apply now for 2020 symposium award travel grants.

Digging into DOML

Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library takes you on an epic journey past virtue and vice
What do you get by crossing social satire with a sweeping epic quest? If you are Johannes de Hauvilla—12th-century intellectual, scholar, and teacher at an important cathedral school in France—the answer is *Architrenius*, an allegorical epic poem about a young man's quest to find Nature, take her to task for society's sins, and petition her to repair mankind's weakness and his own. Ostensibly a condemnation of vice, John of Hauvilla's luxuriously painted vignettes nevertheless enthrall readers by depicting immodest excesses of physical lust, sumptuous dress, and more. Newly published in the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library series, *Architrenius* appears in a fresh translation by Winthrop Wetherbee, professor emeritus at Cornell University. Managing Editor Nicole Eddy previews some of the book's highlights: aristocrats who put gold in their food, Cupid's muscular legs and windblown coif, and the thankless life of academics in Paris.

**Subscribe Now to the 2019-2020 Concert Series**

Exclusive discount for season ticket buyers

Besides a discounted rate, season subscribers receive exclusive access this month to tickets for seven evenings of world-renowned musical talent in an intimate venue. [Subscribe now](#) to
experience a composer hailed by BBC World News as one of the most talented of his generation; the only winner of both of the world’s most important cello contests; and the most important Vivaldi discovery in 75 years. Hear a world premiere alongside orchestral, chamber, and classical pieces from beloved composers like Debussy, Philip Glass, Bach, Haydn, and Sibelius. Ranging from an innovative harpist who has collaborated with Iggy Pop and Sufjan Stevens to an ensemble lauded by the Washington Post for “revitalizing the world of contemporary music,” this season’s artists perform with impressive skill and emotional power. Mohammed Fairouz kicks off the season, followed by Lavinia Meijer, The Knights, the Aizuri Quartet, István Várdai, Sandbox Percussion, and Ensemble Caprice.

Explore the Online Catalogue of Byzantine Coins

Recently acquired coins now available to view

Coins help reveal the economic, political, and religious histories of the Byzantine Empire—and now people everywhere can see recent acquisitions from one of the greatest specialized collections of Byzantine coins in the world. Close to 800 Byzantine coins acquired in the last two decades are now available on the Online Catalogue of Byzantine Coins, which presents
zoomable images, translations, transcriptions, measurements, and commentary on hundreds of coins. Many were obtained after Volume V of the Catalogue of the Byzantine Coins in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection and in the Whittemore Collection was published in print. For the first time, numismatists and Byzantinists can look at these objects via a free digital catalogue.

Lazy Summer Days in the Garden

While away an afternoon at Lovers' Lane

Searching for a shady spot to beat the summer heat? The Lovers' Lane area of the garden features a brick amphitheater where you can sit and gaze at a shallow pool, with bordering bamboo keeping you cool and refreshed. Garden designer Beatrix Farrand modeled the seating area on the theater at the Accademia degli Arcadi's Bosco Parrasio in Rome, the home of the literary society of the Arcadians. Baroque stone columns and a statue of a pipe-playing Pan complement the scene. Lucky visitors might even spy a family of ducks floating on Lovers' Lane Pool! Book tickets to relax alongside the pool and throughout the garden this summer.
Scholars in the Spotlight

Catch up with our recent speakers and their research

Anna Kelley talks caravans, papyrus, and cotton, upending the idea that the Roman world was the center of trade in antiquity. Kelley recently received a PhD from the Centre for Byzantine, Ottoman, and Modern Greek Studies at the University of Birmingham.

Bradley Cantrell says computation, culture, and landscape choreography—not control—will protect ecosystems. Cantrell is chair and professor of landscape architecture at the University of Virginia.

Carla Hernández Garavito discusses making empire local, showing how an Andean community used ritual to create a local history of their conquest by the Inca. Hernández Garavito recently completed a PhD in anthropology at Vanderbilt University.

Christos Simelidis rediscovers a text on the Virgin Mary that is a missing link in Byzantine religious history. Simelidis is assistant professor of late antique and Byzantine literature at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

Sheila Crane challenges the Slumdog Millionaire narrative in colonial Moroccan history with a close look at oilcan cities in Casablanca. Crane is associate professor and chair of architectural history at the University of Virginia.
Digital Tools and Online Treasures

DC Water Atlas

As in so many other cities, water is everywhere in Washington, DC—and yet it remains largely invisible to most of us, taken for granted or ignored. The online DC Water Atlas maps the city’s waterways big and small from the 18th century to the present, providing a clear sense of the relationship in scale between a city block and the course of a river, and facilitates visualizing changes over time in layers or phases. Instructors of courses on DC history, urban planning, environmental studies, water management, and related fields can draw on this easy, centralized reference combining information from archival historic maps and data from the United States Geographic Survey. The Water Atlas even highlights how the city’s landscape might have appeared had certain rejected projects been realized, such as a proposed Rock Creek dam that would have created an enormous reservoir in the northern part of the city.

Ongoing Programs

Special Displays:

Beyond Knotting closes this month, new Asian art installed in A Nobility of Matter, and other special displays.
On view for a limited time are four exhibits showcasing Pre-Columbian textiles, Byzantine seals and weights, rarely seen Asian art, and new acquisitions to the Ephemera Collection. **Beyond Knotting: Wari and Inka Tunics from the Collection** presents luxurious tunics from the Andes—some more than 1,000 years old—in conjunction with *Written in Knots*, examining the relationship between two major components of the Andean woven world. Weights, balances, and a scale the Romans and Byzantines used to ensure accurate transactions in the marketplace are newly installed in a case in the Courtyard Gallery. On the other side of the case, discover an **800-year-old mystery** in the first display in more than 30 years solely focused on Byzantine seals from the 17,000-strong Dumbarton Oaks collection. **A Nobility of Matter: Asian Art from the Bliss Collection** explores Chinese art collected by the cofounders of Dumbarton Oaks, beginning with finely crafted Song dynasty vessels. **Piety and Pleasure: Western Travel to the Holy Land** uses postcards, posters, magazines, rare books, and more to examine the Western pilgrims, tourists, and scholars who made the Holy Land a popular destination at the turn of the 20th century.

**Upcoming Programs**
Tuesday–Sunday, March 15–October 31
2–6 pm
Buy garden tickets online
Skip the line by reserving garden tickets in advance.

Friday, August 16
3–4 pm
Final *Written in Knots* curator tour
Explore a South American information technology.

Saturday, August 31, 2019–Sunday, January 5, 2020
*Woven Interiors: Furnishing Early Medieval Egypt*
Cocurated exhibition of vibrant and rare decor at the Textile Museum

Tuesday, September 10, 2019–Sunday, January 5, 2020
*Ornament: Fragments of Byzantine Fashion*
Exhibition of dress textiles, bodily vestiges, modern aesthetics