From Slavic Studies to Snapchat: Where the Humanities May Take You
Perry Hewitt Delivers Third Humanities Lecture

Thursday, December 15, 2016, at 5:30 p.m.
The Oak Room, Fellowship House
1700 Wisconsin Avenue NW

Perry Hewitt is an established leader in digital strategy, with extensive experience in both corporate and not-for-profit sectors. She currently leads marketing at ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization advancing global higher education through the innovative use of digital technologies. Previously, as Harvard University’s first chief digital officer, Hewitt conceived and led digital strategy for marketing, communications, and audience engagement.

This lecture is free and open to the public. Please RSVP to events@doaks.org.

New Virtual Tour of the Gardens
Dumbarton Oaks Unveils Video Tour

Dumbarton Oaks is excited to announce the launch of a video tour of its historic gardens. Available on our website, the tour highlights the gardens’ outstanding features while shedding light on the history behind their design and the stories that shaped them.
Learning among the Plants
Classes Visit the Gardens

Throughout the fall, the Dumbarton Oaks Gardens were regularly transformed into that most beautiful of spaces: a classroom. Two second-grade classes from our neighborhood partner, Hyde-Addison Elementary School in Georgetown, visited the gardens on a Dumbarton Oaks program designed to supplement their science curriculum. The program, which will continue in the spring, gives students hands-on experience of pollination, photosynthesis, and plant germination. Read more about the visits online.

Harvard Medievalists Visit Dumbarton Oaks

On December 1, a group of graduate students in medieval studies visited from Harvard University. Over the course of the day, students participated in a seminar led by Director Jan Ziolkowski, visited the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library, met the current William R. Tyler Fellows, and learned about the institute’s resources, including the library and the collections of coins and seals.
Syriac and Armenian Summer Schools
Applications Are Due January 15, 2017

Dumbarton Oaks and the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library (HMML) are now accepting applications for their summer school programs in the Syriac and Armenian languages. These intensive five-week courses are fully funded by Dumbarton Oaks and hosted by HMML at Saint John’s University in Minnesota. For more information, and to apply, visit our website.

Righettino’s Views
Garden and Landscape Studies Public Lecture

On November 9, Denis Ribouillault from the University of Montreal delivered a lecture on the city views composed by the Italian theologian Girolamo Righettino in the mid-sixteenth century. By utilizing newly discovered documents, Ribouillault investigated the relationships between religious and territorial power, politics and urban space, and allegory and topography in Counter-Reformation Italy. A write-up and video of the lecture are available on our website.

Fellows in the Spotlight
Andrea Cuomo and Deirdre Moore

Fellows Andrea Cuomo and Deirdre Moore recently
delivered research reports that contextualized their work in the fields of Byzantine and Pre-Columbian studies. Read short summaries of their talks, along with brief question-and-answer sessions, on our website.

Irfan Shahîd, 1926–2016
Memories of a Byzantine Luminary

“The world has lost a colorful, learned, and urbane man,” writes Director Jan Ziolkowski in his remembrance of Irfan Shahîd, who passed away in early November. Dr. Shahîd’s affiliation with Dumbarton Oaks and Byzantine Studies extended over more than sixty years. His achievements in the field were truly remarkable, chief among them his monumental Byzantium and the Arabs. Find out more about Dr. Shahîd’s life and work in an online interview, as well as a biographical celebration from last year’s seventy-fifth anniversary.

From the Archives
The Year Santa Visited Dumbarton Oaks

In honor of the season, archivist James Carder unearths images of holidays past in this month’s post. Dumbarton Oaks has a long-standing tradition of getting into the seasonal spirit by throwing an annual holiday party. Few are as colorful as the 1998 celebration, which featured a costumed Santa (played by then-Director Edward L. Keenan) and a piñata-smashing denouement. Fortunately for all, the event was captured on film.
Good Ink

The Dumbarton Oaks Humanities Fellowships—and this year’s inaugural cohort—were featured in a story in the Harvard Gazette.


From the Garden Blog

Variegated corn from the Kitchen Gardens. Photo: Luis Marmol.