New Acquisition: Important Byzantine Manuscript

Ninth-century manuscript of John Chrysostom's Homilies on St. Matthew

A Byzantine manuscript of orations by John Chrysostom, the renowned preacher, Early Church Father, and Archbishop of Constantinople, is one of the Museum’s newest acquisitions. The well-preserved manuscript, which contains 44 of Chrysostom's 90 homilies on the Gospel of Matthew, is a rare example of the early phase of Byzantine codex production after the 8th century. Our collection of Byzantine manuscripts now spans the 9th through 13th centuries and offers a valuable cross section of Byzantine manuscript production. Read more about the acquisition.
Botanical Gardens and the Urban Future

The 2018 Garden and Landscape Studies colloquium

The fall colloquium in Garden and Landscape Studies, organized with the support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and in collaboration with the New York Botanical Garden, brought together a group of historians, landscape designers, and scientists to discuss the past, present, and future of botanical gardens in the urban context. Traditionally invested with multiple agendas—medicinal, taxonomic, educational, and collecting—botanical gardens have proved a remarkably adaptable and resilient institution. Learn how botanical gardens have changed.

Future Gardens, Future Garden Designers

Students reflect on the Garden and Landscape Studies Colloquium
Winners of the Bliss Symposium Award and Mellon Colloquium Award—all landscape architecture graduate students—found last month’s colloquium creative and thought-provoking. One student said it was “unparalleled by any academic symposium that I have attended thus far.” Another wrote that she gained “a new appreciation of botanical gardens as a blend of science and art, access and education, and plants and design.” Check out their perspectives.

Hagia Sophia's Hidden History

Digitizing original records of Hagia Sophia's restoration
How did a sultan, two Swiss-Italian brothers, the first president of the Republic of Turkey, and an archaeology lover from Massachusetts help reveal forgotten mosaics? Dumbarton Oaks holds more than 300 notebooks and folders offering a rare glimpse into important conservation efforts in Turkey in the 1930s through 1950s. Whereas today’s visitors can barely glimpse Hagia Sophia’s intricate art high above the ground, scaffolding allowed early 20th-century conservation workers to make detailed drawings just a few feet from Byzantine mosaics. Earlier this fall, their drawings and notes—which exist nowhere else and predominately focus on Hagia Sophia—were sent to Harvard University to be digitized. Find out the full story.

Scholars in the Spotlight

Catch up with our recent speakers and their research
Xi Li considers intimacy with chairs in the Tang Dynasty, exploring how an official's poetry about ordinary objects inspired a new lifestyle for Chinese literati. Li is an associate professor in the School of Architecture and Landscape at Peking University.

Sahar Hosseini explores how a single river in the Safavid empire’s capital can challenge our modern perceptions of city versus nature. Hosseini is a researcher at the Center for Migration and the Global City at Rutgers University—Newark.

**Classic Dumbarton Oaks Books on Sale**

Get a 15% discount at books.doaks.org
Now through January 5, receive 15% off paperback editions of highly popular titles published by Dumbarton Oaks. Whether you are looking for a canon to St. Nicholas this Christmas, curious about the cult of the feline, or eager to explore Dante and the Greeks, there's a book to tickle your fancy. Single books, series, and discounted sets are all available, including the recent rerelease of volumes edited by Elizabeth Benson, first director of Pre-Columbian Studies. Use coupon code HOLIDAY15 at books.doaks.org.

Digital Tools and Online Treasures

Explore the Garden

Rejuvenate the mind and brighten dark December days with an online stroll through the Dumbarton Oaks Garden. An interactive map and Garden Video Tour offer virtual visitors access to stunning images and stories from the past. Uncover the meaning
behind those intriguing inscriptions and discover hidden corners of the garden, such as the Lilac Circle. And now that the garden has returned to winter hours (2–5 pm, Tuesday through Sunday), meditate on peaceful springtime scenes from the comfort of your home. Explore the garden.

Ongoing Programs

Special exhibition: *Juggling the Middle Ages*
This holiday season, see historic Christmas cards, ornaments, and more with a visit to *Juggling the Middle Ages*. The temporary exhibition focuses on a medieval tale known as Le jongleur de Notre Dame, or Our Lady’s Tumbler, and follows the story from its rediscovery by scholars in the 1870s to its modern interpretations in children’s books. Along the way the exhibit delves into the role of the Middle Ages in fashioning modern European and American identities through architecture, art, music, and other media. Complementing the show are public lectures, a musical performance, and a series of family-focused events. The opening of the exhibition coincides with the publication of a number of books, including reissues of classic versions of the juggler story. [Learn more.](#)

### Upcoming Programs

**“Boutet de Monvel’s Joan of Arc and the Beauty of Books in Fin-de-Siècle Paris”**
Panel held at the National Gallery of Art  
**Wednesday, December 12, 2–4 pm**

**“Anatole France and Gaston Paris”**
Lecture by Professor Michel Zink  
**Thursday, December 13, 6–7:30 pm**  
Preceded by gallery viewing, 5:30–6 pm
Meet David and Mark Shannon
Caldecott-winning children’s book creators
Saturday, December 15, 10:30 am–12:30 pm

Music at Dumbarton Oaks—ZOFO
Grammy-nominated piano duo
Sunday, January 13, 7 pm & Monday, January 14, 8 pm