Letter from the Editor:

Dear readers,

Hello and welcome to The Oaks News! We have created this new monthly publication to highlight special projects, events, exhibitions, items from our collections, and staff accomplishments. As a friend of Dumbarton Oaks, you have been added to our mailing list and are now reading our very first issue. We also welcome short article submissions or ideas; you can send us your suggestions here. Please read on, enjoy, and spread the word!

The Nicholas V. Artamonoff Collection, Online Exhibition

Günder Varinlioğlu and Alyssa DesRochers

The Nicholas V. Artamonoff Collection includes 543 black and white photographs taken in Istanbul and five archaeological sites in Western Turkey (Ephesus, Hierapolis, Laodicea on the Lycus, Pergamum, and Priene) from 1935 to 1945. They are the work of Nicholas V. Artamonoff (1908-1989), an amateur photographer from Istanbul. His exquisite photographs show buildings, sites, and objects that no longer exist or that have degraded significantly since that time. As Ernst Kitzinger (a former director of Byzantine Studies at Dumbarton Oaks) informed Artamonoff himself in a letter of December 13, 1962, the collection has “great documentary value [ . . . ] because of the subsequent vicissitudes that have befallen some of the monuments concerned.” Since their acquisition in 1962, Artamonoff’s photographs have been used in the research and publications...
In January 2011, the Nicholas V. Artamonoff Collection was revisited by ICFA's Byzantine Assistant Curator, Günder Varinlioğlu, and intern Alyssa DesRochers, who have since conducted extensive research about Nicholas V. Artamonoff and his photography. The initial products of this ongoing project are the online exhibit and the article “Through the Lens: Nicholas V. Artamonoff and his 25 Years at Robert College,” which was recently published in Robert College Quarterly.

ICFA’s work on Nicholas V. Artamonoff reached a wide audience in January. The project has become the subject of Matthew McClellan’s article “Snapshots of the Past” in the Harvard Gazette. On January 25th, Günder Varinlioğlu gave a talk entitled, “Monuments, Cityscapes, and People: Turkey in 1930-1945 through the Lens of Nicholas V. Artamonoff” at the Turkish Embassy in DC, as part of the lecture series organized by the American Friends of Turkey.

The project to research and share Artamonoff’s life and photographs continues, and any comments or questions are welcomed and appreciated.

Image: Aqueduct of Valens, Nicholas V. Artamonoff, 1936. Istanbul, Turkey

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**Rare Book Collection participates in Great Washington Museums Celebrate Great Women Artists**

The Rare Books Collection at Dumbarton Oaks is participating in a city-wide exhibition project by the National Museum of Women in the Arts. Entitled Great Washington Museums Celebrate Great Women Artists, the NMWA project showcases work by women artists at distinguished area museums. The Rare Books Collection is contributing a rotating exhibit of plates from Maria Sibylla Merian’s *Metamorphosis insectorum Surinamensium* (Amsterdam, 1719).

The extraordinary plates depict the flora and fauna of Surinam in exquisite detail, with a particular emphasis on the process of transformation. Merian had from her youth been intrigued by insects and had drawn and studied them at length. Inspired by the number and variety of tropical species brought back by the Dutch, she visited the colony of Surinam to study and record the indigenous insects. She sailed from Amsterdam to Surinam with her daughter Dorothea in 1699, and remained there until 1701. Naturalists purchased the Surinam book for their collections, as Merian’s paintings included a number of plants and insects that had not previously been seen or described in Europe. This book influenced European perceptions of the tropical New World,
to indicate their natural context. The Merian volume is on display in the temporary exhibition gallery outside the Rare Books Room, and can be viewed by the public during the Museum’s opening hours.

Image: Maria Sibylla Merian, plate 20 from *Metamorphosis insectorum surinamensium*.

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**An Interview with Dr. Duncan Campbell, Visiting Scholar**

Dr. Duncan Campbell is a senior lecturer in the School of Culture, History, and Language at Australian National University in Canberra, where he teaches courses on traditional Chinese culture and thought, late imperial Chinese history, and classical Chinese language and literature. Michael Lee interviewed him upon his arrival at Dumbarton Oaks as Spring Fellow and Visiting Scholar in Garden and Landscape Studies.

Q. Duncan, you have come to Dumbarton Oaks to edit an anthology of Chinese writings on gardens. Could you describe some of the unique qualities of Chinese garden culture?

China is home to traditions of garden culture that are long and continuous, and of immense sophistication. These traditions evolved in perhaps unique and intense relationships with the verbal and pictorial representations of both the mountains and rivers (the Shanshui 畫山水) that constitute the Chinese landscape and garden. In China, if it could be said that the garden gave rise to the poem, then the poem (or essay, or painting) often gave rise to the garden. The anthology will make a representative sampling of this Chinese garden literature available to readers of English.

Q. How did the anthology project take shape?

This anthology originated with an informal colloquium at Dumbarton Oaks about ten years ago. I was asked to assume the editorship last spring, and have returned this year to complete the manuscript. At about 400–450 pages, it comprises English translations of some of the most important Chinese writings of the last millennium and a half on gardens, plants, and rocks. Most of these translations are new, as many of the texts had never before been translated.

Q. What types of gardens are described in these texts?

There are descriptions of around seventy separate gardens—some of the most
fictional—only one or two of which, sadly, are still standing. In terms of the usual threefold categorization of gardens in China—imperial gardens, temple or monastery gardens, and private gardens—the majority belong to the third category. Most were built in the area of southern China known as Jiangnan, south of the Yangtze River. Although it stretches back to the Tang dynasty (618-900), the weight of the anthology falls within the late imperial period, during which private gardens flourished as never before, or since.

Q. How should these writings be understood within the broader context of Chinese literature?

The texts chosen are all written in classical Chinese and comprise a wide variety of genres: poetry (both regulated and lyric), essay, preface, record, letter, colophon, and so on. Many of the texts are supreme examples of literature in their own right, cited in full, and have been arranged chronologically to illustrate the extent to which the Chinese literature of the garden was a cumulative art.

Q. Were most of the authors from a specific strand of China’s literary tradition, or were their origins as diverse as the genres in which they wrote?

The authors of these texts, sadly but in keeping with the circumstances of the times, are all men—often the owners of the gardens described, but also occasionally visitors to those gardens, both invited and uninvited. They all belonged to the tiny and privileged literati who had gained their status and power through examination success. Among them are some of the greatest writers of the Chinese literary tradition—the Tang dynasty (618-907) poets Wang Wei (699-759) and Bai Juyi (772-846), for instance, such towering figures of the Song (960-1279) as Sima Guang (1019-1086), Ouyang Xiu (1007-1072), and Su Shi (1037-1101), Wang Shizhen (1526-90), Wen Zhengming (1470-1559), Yuan Hongdao (1568-1610), and Zhang Dai (1597-?1689) of the Ming (1368-1644), and the greatest eighteenth-century poet Yuan Mei (1716-97) from the Qing (1644-1911).

Q. What contributions do you hope the anthology will make not only to garden scholarship but also to a more general audience?

I hope that this anthology will serve to generate a more sophisticated general understanding of the garden in China, its variety and usage, and its intimately related literary discourse. To a quite remarkable extent, the Chinese, traditionally, reposed their history in the word rather than in bricks and mortar and timber—in the literature of place but not in place itself. This seems particularly so in the case of the great gardens of China, few of which have survived the vicissitudes of time; they exist only through and to the extent that they generated essays and poems. In Chinese terms, this is how things should be, for the word was always a far more reliable guarantor of immortality than were physical substances.

Image 1: Duncan Campbell in his new office at Dumbarton Oaks.
Image 2: Woodblock illustration of Qi Biaojia’s Allegory Mountain, from a Ming edition of his Yu shan szi.
New Faces

Mary Pye

Dr. Mary E. Pye will be our Interim Director of Pre-Columbian Studies from January 20 to June 30, 2012. Several of you may know Mary already, as she has close and long-standing ties to Dumbarton Oaks from having been a junior fellow in 1992. To give a quick picture of her background, Mary has a BA from Harvard/Radcliffe University and an MA-PhD in Anthropology from Vanderbilt University. She has worked at various research and cultural institutions, including two in DC: the Center for Advanced Study of the Visual Arts (as Research Associate) and the National Gallery of Art. She also served as Chief Operating Officer of the Spanish Institute and Director of Administration at the Urban Justice Center, both in New York. Throughout, Mary has continued research in the archaeology of the Mesoamerican Pacific coast, with field work and publications on the pre-hispanic cultures of Guatemala, and Chiapas and Guerrero, Mexico. Most recently she has worked as Research Associate and Editor for the New World Archaeological Foundation at Brigham Young University, a foundation that focuses on the prehistory of Chiapas, Mexico.

Anne-Marie Viola

Anne-Marie Viola joined Dumbarton Oaks on January 17 as Metadata and Cataloging Specialist in the Image Collections and Fieldwork Archives. Anne-Marie holds an M.S. in Library and Information Science with an advanced certificate in archival science from the Pratt Institute, and she earned her B.A. in Journalism at New York University. Anne-Marie is returning to the United States after two-and-a-half years in Rome, Italy. While she was abroad, she worked on a wide range of library and archival projects in Rome and Florence. In her new role, Anne-Marie will collaborate with ICFA staff to provide greater intellectual control and access to ICFA’s collections through cataloguing, metadata migration, and data management. An avid traveler, Anne-Marie visited Istanbul while living overseas and is excited to be working with historic images of the famous city. She is also excited to be back in the U.S. and is enjoying such American customs as brunch, round-the-clock convenience store hours, and coffee “to-go.”

Farewell to Dumbarton Oaks

Kristin Moe

After nearly two years of working in the gardens, I'll be bidding
screen, and what I found were not only warm, witty co-workers, but the satisfaction that comes from helping things grow. I’m grateful to have had the chance to work in this extraordinarily beautiful place, and I’ve learned a great deal about horticulture, from planting to pruning, vegetable growing to plant classification, and, of course, chickens! For the next three months I’ll be traveling in southeast Asia, and after that I’ll settle for a while in San Francisco to go back to school and build a life around gardening, environmental advocacy, and writing.

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**Introducing the Dumbarton Oaks Tyler Fellows**

In 2010, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection inaugurated a new pre-doctoral fellowship scheme: the William R. Tyler Fellowships. Eligible applicants are Harvard graduate students working on dissertations in art history, archaeology, history, or literature of the Pre-Columbian or Mediterranean/Byzantine worlds. The fellowship funds a year of research travel and residency overseas followed by a year in residence at Dumbarton Oaks to complete the dissertation and contribute to an institutional project that is related to the fellows’ research. We are pleased to introduce the first of four Tyler Fellows who will arrive at Dumbarton Oaks in the fall of 2012.

**Konstantina Karterouli**

*Working title: Mimesis and Visual Identity of the “Byzantine” in Western Metalwork of the Late Twelfth Century*

The Tyler Fellowship has allowed me to spend much time at Harvard using the University libraries for research on my dissertation topic, which deals with works of art produced in western medieval Europe that show morphological as well as iconographic and stylistic similarities with Byzantine art. Having already conducted some preliminary field research during a stay in Europe in the spring of 2010, this past fall I finalized my topic by determining the exact works of art I will examine and defining the parameters of my research. My research now concentrates on the examination of late twelfth-century metalwork produced primarily in the Rheno-Mosan region and in northern Italy.


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**From the Archives**

*James Carder*
This gavel was carved from wood taken from the U.S.S. Constitution “Old Ironsides,” one of the six original frigates authorized on 27 March 1794 when the United States Congress passed the Naval Act. When the Constitution was rebuilt in the Boston Navy Yard in 1906, the Bliss family acquired this gavel as a memento. Significantly, on August 21, 1944, the gavel was used to open the Dumbarton Oaks Conversations, discussions at Dumbarton Oaks among the United States, Britain, Russia, and China that led to the establishment of the United Nations in 1945. The gavel remains part of the Dumbarton Oaks Archives.

Publications

The Spaces Between the Teeth: A Gazetteer of Towns on the Islamic-Byzantine Frontier

Ege Yayinlar, 2011

Asa Eger

Asa Eger (spring 2012 Byzantine Studies Fellow) authored a new book recently published by Zero Books: The Spaces Between the Teeth: A Gazetteer of Towns on the Islamic-Byzantine Frontier. Through Islamic and Christian histories, an ideology has been maintained, persuasively and persistently, that their borders and bordering states were militarized and impenetrable. A paradigmatic example is the seventh- to ninth-century Islamic-Byzantine borderland (al-thughūr), a space frequently addressed in scholarship on Muslim and Christian holy wars, armies and raids, castles, and often treated as an abandoned land. From the seventh to tenth centuries, central, cosmopolitan Islamic writers and scholars on the frontiers describe this space both as a wilderness ready to be settled and a border delineated by a chain of fortresses garrisoned with army soldiers who raided the Byzantine lands yearly. The raids have the semblance of ritual as the Islamic armies neither occupied new lands nor built new settlements. Although Islamic and Byzantine sources describe the Byzantine border in less detail, they suggest, quite differently, a region scattered with an informal group of
Islamic territory, and so the literature of these frontier castles contains numerous accounts of
destruction, rebuilding, and further devastation.

The Garden Library of Dumbarton Oaks: An Outstanding Rare
Book Collection

Linda Lott and Joachim Wolschke-Bulmahn

In March of 2010 Linda Lott was invited to present a paper alongside Dr. Joachim Wolschke-
Bulmahn, a former Director of Garden and Landscape Studies, on the Dumbarton Oaks Rare
Book Collection,” was presented at the workshop “Königliche Gartenbibliothek Herrenhausen:
eine neue Sicht auf Gärten und ihre Bücher,” which took place on the 19th and 20th of March,
2010 in Hannover, Germany at the Zentrum für Gartenkunst und Landschaftsarchitektur (CGL),
Leibniz Universität, Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Bibliothek, Niedersächsische
Landesbibliothek. The paper discussed the Garden Library and specifically the Rare Book
Collection of Dumbarton Oaks. A brief overview of the history of Garden and Landscape Studies
at Dumbarton Oaks, its settings and resources was also presented. The paper, along with Jan
Ziolkowski’s introduction to it, was recently published in Königliche Gartenbibliothek
Herrenhausen : eine neue Sicht auf Gärten und ihre Bücher, Frankfurt am Main: Klostermann,
Vittorio, 2010.

Fictions of Knowledge: Fact, Evidence,
Doubt

Palgrave Macmillan, 2011
Edited by: Yota Batsaki, Subha Mukherji, Jan-Melissa
Schramm

Fictions of Knowledge: Fact, Evidence, Doubt charts the relation
between literary writing and epistemic practices in other fields:
philosophy, theology, science, and the law. The essays engage
with literary texts from the medieval period to the early
twentieth century, across a wide range of genres, to address
continuities and paradigmatic shifts in certain key epistemological categories: probability and
certainty, problems of evidence, the uses of experiment, and the poetics and ethics of doubt.

Digital Humanities Lunch: Visit by Professor
Steven Nichols

On January 12 Stephen Nichols, James M. Beall Professor Emeritus of French and Humanities
and Research Professor at Johns Hopkins University, joined the Dumbarton Oaks Digital
challenges from his pioneering work in the field of the digital humanities. He has been instrumental in developing a digital library of medieval manuscripts at the Milton S. Eisenhower Library of Johns Hopkins University, in partnership with the Bibliothèque Nationale de France. He is also a founding editor of the forthcoming online/print revue, "Digital Philology; A Journal of Medieval Culture" (Johns Hopkins University Press). His earlier work provided a prototype and inspiration first for Europeana, and more recently for the Digital Public Library of America.

The informal Digital Humanities Group has been meeting for the past year and a half on the last Tuesday of every month at noon in the lower Refectory. To be included in the announcement list, please contact Joel Kalvesmaki.

Blogs from Around DO

The Robert L. Van Nice Collection

The Van Nice blog, written and managed by Clare Moran of the Image Collections and Fieldwork Archives, chronicles the ongoing assessment and processing of the Robert L. Van Nice Records and Fieldwork Collection (1937-1985). The blog not only gives visitors the opportunity to learn about the Van Nice Collection, but also invites them to partake in this intriguing process of exploration and discovery, as ICFA employees go through the Van Nice materials for the first time.

Conversations

Managed by Sarah Burke and Deborah Brown, the DO/Conversations blog serves as an online component for and record of the DO Conversations series. The Conversations series is made up of hour-long talks, organized around selections of rare books, objects from the collection, aspects of the gardens and buildings, and other resources at Dumbarton.

What’s Blooming at D. O.

Managed and authored by the Gardens staff, the official Dumbarton Oaks garden blog What’s Blooming at DO, features a wealth of amazing photographs. One can also find a quick guide to determine what plants usually bloom at different times throughout the year. In addition, the blog has a section called The Historical Garden Tour. Made up of historical photographs of the grounds, gardens and buildings and including historical documents and floor plans, the tour is fascinating as a visual document of the history of the property.

Good Ink

• The Dumbarton Oaks Friends of Music performance of December 4 and 5 by the Boston
Washington Post also used the Boston Camerata performance as comparison in a review of a holiday concert at the National Gallery.

- The Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library was recently featured in the Harvard Magazine. The article, "Mysteries and Masterpieces," by Adam Kirsch, has been generating a positive buzz for the DOML while doing very well online with 25,200 views and 138 “likes” on Facebook.

- The Garden and Landscape Studies 2011 Symposium "Technology and the Garden" was reviewed in the Autumn 2011 issue of the Journal of Landscape Architecture.

- Standing testament to the dazzling and inspiring work that is being done by the Garden and Landscape Studies and Publications departments, Clio in the Italian Garden: Twenty-First-Century Studies in Historical Methods and Theoretical Perspectives was recently featured in the Bryn Mawr Classical Review. The fact that the Bryn Mawr Classical Review, as its title suggests, is chiefly concerned with publishing reviews of scholarly work in Classical Studies makes their feature of a book in Garden Landscape Architecture all the more impressive. Clio in the Italian Garden is co-edited by Mirka Beneš and our very own Michael G. Lee, and includes a foreword by Director of Garden and Landscape Studies, John Beardsley.

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**Upcoming Events**

**Public Lecture in Garden and Landscape Studies**

Wednesday, February 8, 2012
Peter Walker, PWP Landscape Architecture
“Before the Memorial”

**Friends of Music Concert**

Sunday and Monday, February 12 & 13, 2012
Cuarteto Latinoamericano with Daniel Binelli

**Public Lecture in Pre-Columbian Studies**

Thursday, March 1, 2012
Barbara E. Mundy, Fordham University
“Water and the Aztec Landscape in the Valley of Mexico”

**Friends of Music Concert**

Sunday and Monday, March 11 & 12, 2012
Fine Arts Quartet