Dumbarton Oaks was recently named a host institution for the National Digital Stewardship Residency (NDSR), a groundbreaking program created by the Library of Congress in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Starting in September 2013, the NDSR resident will be embedded in the Dumbarton Oaks Image Collections and Fieldwork Archives (ICFA). In collaboration with project supervisors Shalimar Fojas White, ICFA Manager, and Anne-Marie Viola, Metadata and Cataloging Specialist, the resident will identify an institutional solution for long-term digital asset management at Dumbarton Oaks.

In addition to Dumbarton Oaks, the inaugural NDSR host institutions include: the Association of Research Librarians, the Folger Shakespeare Library, the Library of
Upcoming Scholarly Event: “Working with Farrand/Farrand at Work”

Garden and Landscape Studies Colloquium
Friday, March 8, 2013

Dumbarton Oaks announces a one-day colloquium on Beatrix Farrand, the renowned landscape architect and designer of the Dumbarton Oaks Gardens. Titled “Working with Farrand/Farrand at Work,” the colloquium will take place on Friday, March 8, 2013. It will foreground Farrand’s thought and practice, and explore the efforts of current designers to work with surviving Farrand landscapes, adapting them to current conditions and purposes.

The aim of the Colloquium is to introduce new and unpublished research, much of it by practitioners who are attentive to history and engaged in research. It is also meant to foster discussion of current stewardship of significant Farrand landscapes, including Dumbarton Oaks. The day will begin at 9:00am and run until 5:30pm, with a break for lunch from 12:30 to 2:00pm.

Reservations are required and are first-come, first-served. Please RSVP by March 1 to Landscape@doaks.org or 202-339-6460. Read more>>
New Exhibition: Architectural Contrasts

Opening in February: The Rare Book Reading Room and the Pre-Columbian Collection Pavilion 50th Anniversary (1963–2013)

2013 marks the fiftieth anniversaries of the Rare Book Reading Room and the Pre-Columbian Collection pavilion at Dumbarton Oaks. Designed by Frederic Rhinelander King and Philip Johnson respectively, these two buildings were constructed simultaneously between 1961 and 1963 but in two dramatically contrasting styles, one traditional and the other modern. A new exhibition in the Orientation and Bliss Galleries will display original drawings, construction photographs, and a model to demonstrate their remarkable architectural contrasts.


50 Years of Pre-Columbian Art at Dumbarton Oaks

In 2013, Dumbarton Oaks celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of the Robert Woods Bliss Collection of Pre-Columbian Art with a year-long program of exhibitions and events. For more information, visit the Museum website, and download the anniversary booklet with dates and information about all the events.
2013 Dumbarton Oaks Spring-Term Fellows

Dumbarton Oaks is pleased to begin the 2013 Spring Term by welcoming six new fellows to the academic community.

Image: from left, Finola O’Kane Crimmins, Jeff Kowalski, Nicholas Marinides, Julian Baker, Ralph-Johannes Lilie and Ricardo Agurcia.
Managing Archaeological Data Session from APA/AIA

In early January, members of the Dumbarton Oaks community travelled to Seattle to participate in the joint annual meetings of the American Philological Association (APA) and Archaeological Institute of America (AIA), which were held January 3-6, 2013.

Deborah Brown, Librarian for Byzantine Studies at Dumbarton Oaks, led a special colloquium, “Managing Archaeological Data in the Digital Age: Best Practices and Realities,” which she organized with the assistance of Lucie Stylianopoulos (UVA). Co-sponsored by the Medieval and Post-Medieval Archaeology Group (AIA) and the Forum for Classics, Libraries, and Scholarly Communications (APA), several of the papers featured archaeological projects that included important Byzantine or later material, but the colloquium also brought together archaeologists, librarians, and archivists for a discussion of common problems and possible solutions for the critical issue of long-term data management. Screencasts of the individual papers are available to the public on YouTube. Read more>>
The first Friends of Music’s concerts of 2013, on January 13th and 14th, also marked the Washington, DC debut of Quicksilver. A recently formed ensemble that brings together some of America’s most prominent Baroque instrumentalists, Quicksilver is led by violinists Robert Mealy and Julie Andrijeski. They were joined by David Morris, viola da gamba; Dominic Teresi, dulcian; Charles Weaver, theorbo; and Avi Stein, harpsichord. The program of rarities, entitled “Fantasticus: An exploration of the extravagant and virtuosic chamber music of the German seventeenth century,” explored rarely heard music by Matthias Weckmann, Johann Schmelzer, Massimiliano Neri, Dieterich Buxtehude, Johannes Vierdanck, Johann Kaspar Kerll, and Antonio Bertali—all played with breathtaking vitality.

From the Archives

The Armenian art historian Sirarpie Der Nersessian (1896-1989), a specialist in Armenian and Byzantine manuscripts, held appointments at Dumbarton Oaks at a time when the young institute was striving to become a research center of national importance. Serving first as a Resident Scholar in 1944 and then as Senior Scholar in 1945, she became Professor of Byzantine Art and Archaeology in 1946. She held this position until 1953 when she became the Henri Focillon Professor of Byzantine Art and Archaeology at Harvard University. She retired to Paris in 1963. At Dumbarton Oaks, Der Nersessian was instrumental in mentoring scholars, organizing and overseeing symposia, and publishing books and articles on medieval manuscripts. Dumbarton Oaks has two collections of papers related to Sirarpie Der Nersessian, one in the Image Collections and Fieldwork Archives (ICFA) and the other in the Dumbarton Oaks Archives (DOA).

The importance of these holdings prompted metadata and cataloguing specialist Anne-Marie Viola (ICFA) and archivist James Carder (DOA) to explore the possibilities of “virtually reuniting” the Der Nersessian and other similarly shared materials by using the collections management software AtoM. Look for more details about the development of this online inventory in the year ahead. Read more>>
Digital Humanities Group

On January 14-15, Dumbarton Oaks hosted Kyle K. Courtney, Manager for Faculty Research and Scholarly Support Services at the Harvard Law School. A founder of Harvard’s Copyright Working Group, Mr. Courtney has organized numerous workshops for librarians and archivists at Harvard. During his visit to Dumbarton Oaks, he gave a compelling presentation spanning the history of copyright law and the practical applications of current legal code. He also met with representatives from multiple departments, and answered some of our thorny questions about orphan works, electronic content, facsimiles, and best practices for fair use. This visit was a terrific opportunity to work through difficult questions and to create new contacts with our colleagues in Cambridge, MA.

Staff Accolades

Yota Batsaki, Executive Director of Dumbarton Oaks, co-edited (with Sahar Bazzaz and Dimiter Angelov) a volume of essays on Imperial Geographies in Byzantine and Ottoman Space, just published from the Center of Hellenic Studies/Harvard University Press. While drawing on recent methodological and theoretical directions in the study of empire, the volume shifts our attention from the Atlantic to the eastern Mediterranean, a space shaped by two empires of remarkable duration and territorial extent, the Byzantine and the Ottoman. Through texts as diverse as court records and chancery manuals, imperial treatises and fictional works, travel literature and theatrical adaptations, the essays span the medieval to the modern periods and explore ways in which the production of geographical knowledge supported imperial authority or revealed its precarious mastery of geography.

The Dumbarton Oaks 2011-2012 Annual Report

Click on the image below to access the 2011/2012 Annual Report, with information about fellows’ research, scholarly meetings, publications, museum exhibitions, garden installations, and much more!
Good Ink

The Washington Post reviewed the recent Friends of Music performance by Quicksilver.

Now on View

All Sides Considered

New Research on the Maya Collection

Open through June 21, 2013