Contents

- Upcoming Public Lecture
- *Past Presented* Receives ALAA Award
- Pre-Columbian Workshop
- Library Exhibit
- Gardens Season Membership
- Bliss-Tyler Correspondence
- The Byzantine Institute Films
- From the Archives
- Off the Press
- Friends of Music
- Now on View

**Upcoming Public Lecture**

John Pohl, UCLA
“Bringing the Pre-Columbian World to Life: The Scholar’s Role in Entertainment Media”
Thursday, February 6, 2014
From the costume dramas of the 1950s and 1960s to the feature films of the twenty-first century, Hollywood has conjured a great variety of epochs and characters, yet has struggled to represent the ancient Americas. Dr. Pohl will provide unique insight into the reasons for the movie industry’s challenges in representing the ancient civilizations of the Americas.

This illustrated lecture is presented in association with the current exhibition in the Dumbarton Oaks Museum, *Inspiring Art: The Dumbarton Oaks Birthing Figure*.

To attend the event, RSVP to Museum@doaks.org. Read more about Dr. Pohl here.

**Past Presented** Receives the Association for Latin American Art’s Annual Book Prize

*Past Presented: Archaeological Illustration and the Ancient Americas*, edited by Joanne Pillsbury, will be awarded the Association for Latin American Art’s annual book prize on February 12 at the College Art Association meeting in Chicago. The award, supported by the Arvey Foundation, is for the best scholarly book published on the art of Latin America from the Pre-Columbian era to the present. This comes only a year after *Ancient Maya Art at Dumbarton Oaks received* the College Art Association’s Alfred A. Barr, Jr. Award for Smaller Museums, Libraries, Collections and Exhibitions.

Read more about *Past Presented* here.

**Left:** Stela D, Copan, steel-plate engraving by S. H. Gimber, after drawing by Frederick Catherwood, from John Lloyd Stephens, *Incidents of Travel in Central America, Chiapas, and Yucatan*, 1841.

**Workshop in Pre-Columbian Studies**

From January 12 to 19, 2014, Pre-Columbian Studies held an objects-based workshop to initiate the production of the catalogue of Ancient Central
American and Colombian Art at Dumbarton Oaks. Roundtable discussions, presentations, group object viewings, and individual analyses shaped the descriptions of the collection and the thematic direction of the projected publication. Authors completed first drafts of the catalogue entries that placed the Dumbarton Oaks objects in the context of other museum collections and archaeologically recovered materials.

Read more about the workshop, its participants, and the primary objectives identified for future work on the collection here.

Above: Dr. Silvia Salgado, director of the School of Anthropology at the University of Costa Rica, examines a jadeite pendant from the Caribbean Watershed of Costa Rica. Pre-Columbian Collection, PC.B.250, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection.

Library Exhibit

All that Glitters: Gold of the Circum-Caribbean, a book exhibit on the gold of Panama, Costa Rica, and Caribbean Colombia, will be on view in the research library through March 2014.

Read more about the exhibit here.

Left: Cast gold pectoral of a shaman. Popayán, 1100–1500. Height: 30 cm. Photo ©The Trustees of the British Museum.

Gardens Season Membership

Regular Season hours and admission for the Dumbarton Oaks Gardens begin March 15. A season membership provides you with unlimited visits to the gardens, complimentary guest tickets, expedited entry, and a ten-percent discount to the Museum Shop.

For more information, and to download your membership order form, see here.

Above: The Star Garden

The Bliss-Tyler Correspondence

Between 1902 and 1952, the founders of Dumbarton Oaks, Mildred Barnes and Robert Woods Bliss, maintained regular correspondence with their friends
Elisina and Royall Tyler. Almost one thousand of these letters are being published as an online resource: the Bliss-Tyler Correspondence.

The project includes historical introduction, explanatory footnotes, plates of artworks, and short annotations identifying key individuals, places, and objects. New annotations, plates, and transcriptions are added regularly. We encourage readers to return often to glimpse the unfolding of the first half of the twentieth century from the perspective of these four correspondents.

Read more about the project here.


The Byzantine Institute Films

The Image Collections and Fieldwork Archives (ICFA) presents a new online exhibit entitled A Truthful Record: The Byzantine Institute Films. ICFA stores and preserves thirteen motion picture films, created by the Byzantine Institute between the 1930s and 1940s: one of the Red Sea Monasteries in Egypt and, in Istanbul, eleven of the Hagia Sophia and one of the Kariye Camii. The online exhibit presents the films together with archival records from the collection of the Byzantine Institute and Dumbarton Oaks Fieldwork Records and Papers to reveal the context of the films’ creation.

Read more about the new online exhibit here. For more information about the Moving Image Collection, please visit ICFA’s website or Vimeo album.

Above: Thomas Whittemore tracing and explaining decorative mosaic patterns on the North Tympanum of Hagia Sophia, October 3, 1940.

From the Archives

Winterreise and the Journey of Wintertime German Lieder at Dumbarton Oaks

Winter, with its cold weather, brings people indoors to socialize, and at Dumbarton Oaks the Blisses were no exception. Beatrix Farrand, the Blisses’ landscape architect, noted this when, in late October 1936, she wrote her aunt, Edith Wharton: “Mildred has apparently already started on a winter campaign of entertaining, concerts, queens and, best of all, the Kenneth Clarks who are, I believe, for the moment at Dumbarton Oaks.” In addition to entertaining
Sir Kenneth Clark, who in 1933 had become director of the National Gallery in London, the Blisses that winter also entertained several musicians, who presumably performed in the Dumbarton Oaks Music Room. These included the American pianist Beveridge Webster, the Spanish soprano Lucrezia Bori, and the Polish-born, American bass Doda Conrad.

Read more about the early performances of lieder in the Friends of Music concert series here.

Above: Cover of the February 1948 Friends of Music concert, featuring music by Schubert, including Winterreise.

Off the Press

*Dumbarton Oaks Papers* 67. Edited by Margaret Mullett. *Dumbarton Oaks Papers* (through volume 66) is also available digitally at JSTOR.


Friends of Music

The Tempest Trio | January 12 and 13, 2014
On January 12 and 13, the Tempest Trio made its eagerly anticipated Washington, D.C., debut in the Music Room. Of the three works on the program, Leonard Bernstein’s “Piano Trio” was arguably the most fascinating, written when the composer was a nineteen-year-old student at Harvard. Quirky and a joy to listen to, it had Lenny’s musical DNA all over it, foreshadowing works to come.

Read more about the Tempest Trio and their performance here.

Now on View

inspiring art

The Dumbarton Oaks Birthing Figure

June 27, 2013 — March 2, 2014