Upcoming Lectures and Events
From Olympus to the Streets of Constantinople: The Byzantine Retirement of the Ancient Gods

Professor Anthony Kaldellis, Department of Classics, Ohio State University
Thursday, March 3, 3:30–4:30 p.m.
National Gallery of Art, West Building Lecture Hall

In this lecture, Anthony Kaldellis explains the role of Hellenistic art during the Byzantine era. For centuries, Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine Empire, was the largest and most impressive open-air museum of classical art in the world. To adorn their capital, emperors selected and imported the best surviving pieces of classical sculpture from the Aegean region. Kaldellis explores the cosmic and imperial messages that their contemporary architectural arrangements conveyed before they were irretrievably lost in fires and wars.

Dumbarton Oaks Seeks New Volunteers

If you love Dumbarton Oaks, are looking for a way to volunteer, and have always wanted to be part of a museum team, consider applying to be one of our Visitor Service Volunteers! Visitor Service Volunteers welcome visitors to Dumbarton Oaks, recommend things to see and do within the museum, and answer general questions about the
Wintersession at Dumbarton Oaks
Harvard Undergraduates Study Art and Power in Washington

This past month, Dumbarton Oaks hosted its second annual Wintersession course on “Culture and Power: Art, Philanthropy, and Diplomacy in America,” led by Director Jan Ziolkowski. Over the course of one intense week, thirteen Harvard undergraduates explored salient questions pertaining to the practice of cultural philanthropy from the Gilded Age to the present. In addition to discovering the many resources at Dumbarton Oaks, students visited a range of cultural organizations around Washington, D.C., where they talked to senior administrators, curators, archivists, and other professionals about careers in the humanities. Click below to watch a brief video featuring students’ reactions to the week and a glimpse of what they learned.

Tyler Fellow Update: David Ungvary
Literary Identity in Latin Poetry

David Ungvary, a PhD candidate in Medieval Latin at Harvard, is a Tyler Fellow at Dumbarton Oaks. This year, he is assisting the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library in editing the Latin poetry of
Venantius Fortunatus while he continues work on his dissertation on the role of the Latin poet after the fall of the Western Roman Empire. Read more about his work [here](#).

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**From the Rare Book Collection**

**Thackeray and Monet in Mildred Barnes Bliss’s Autograph Letter Collection**

The collection of autograph letters that Mildred Barnes Bliss built from her youth includes correspondence from an assortment of cultural luminaries of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, including letters from William Makepeace Thackeray and Claude Monet. Thackeray apologizes for being late with an article, and Monet discusses the career of fellow painter Paul Cézanne. Read the letters and look at images of the original materials, including a caricature drawn by Thackeray, as well as information on the letters' biographical contexts on our [website](#).

Right: “New York Loafer,” by William Makepeace Thackeray, date unknown

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**From the Archives**

**The First Junior Fellows Arrive**
Dumbarton Oaks’ first class of Junior Fellows was made up of five Byzantinists. They began arriving seventy-five years ago this month, in February 1941, while Robert Woods and Mildred Barnes Bliss were in California. Naturally, the Blisses were curious about the inaugural class of young researchers, and the staff indulged them at length with descriptions of all five. Read what the early Dumbarton Oaks staff had to tell the Blisses about the first Junior Fellows in this month’s post from Archivist and House Collection Manager James Carder.

Above: Alison Frantz at the Athenian Agora Excavations, 1947

**From the 75th Anniversary Blog**
Librarian, Bookbinder, Poet, Patriot: Ethel Burnet Clark

Ethel Burnet Clark, a longtime friend of Robert Woods and Mildred Barnes Bliss, was the first Keeper of Rare Books at Dumbarton Oaks and an instrumental participant in its beginnings. Dumbarton Oaks’ 75th Anniversary Blog has assembled what may be the fullest account to date of the life, personality, and work of this institutional founding mother. You can read all the previous posts on the blog, which will be updated every Monday and Thursday until May 12, here.
From the Garden Blog

Dumbarton Oaks after the Snowstorm; taken by Gardener Luís Mármol on January 26. For more pictures, visit our garden blog, What's Blooming at D.O.

Coming Soon from Dumbarton Oaks Publications

Now on View

Find more information about the exhibits and rotations on our website.
75 Years/75 Objects: Reuniting
February 2–28, 2016, in the Special Exhibition Gallery
Curator's Tours on February 5 and 19 at 3 p.m.

Coming Soon: Pondering
March 3–27, 2016. Curator's Tours on March 4 and 18 at 3 p.m.

Clothing for the Afterlife: Textiles from the Pre-Columbian Collection
October 9, 2015–April 3, 2016, in the Textile Gallery

Stephens & Catherwood Revisited: Maya Ruins and the Passage of Time
From September 2015, in the Orientation and Rare Book Galleries and online