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# Dumbarton Oaks

Research Library and Collection

## Apply by March 1 for One-Month Research Awards

### Funding and access to the resources of Dumbarton Oaks



Spend one month between July 1 and December 20, 2020, immersed in the library, rare book collection, garden, and museum resources as well as the vibrant intellectual community of our research institute. [One-Month Research Awards](#) are intended especially for scholars who might not be able to avail themselves of a longer-term fellowship or who work in related disciplines and seek greater exposure to our fields of study: Byzantine, Pre-Columbian, and garden and landscape studies. Those holding a PhD or other relevant terminal degree (e.g., MLA for garden and landscape studies applicants) are eligible to apply by March 1.

## **Last Chance to Apply for Syriac and Armenian Summer School**

**Funded by Dumbarton Oaks and offered in collaboration with the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library**



[Apply by February 15](#) for the intensive courses Intermediate Syriac or Introduction to Classical

Armenian this summer, hosted at the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library (HMML) in Collegeville, Minnesota. Dumbarton Oaks covers costs for tuition, housing, and meals. The courses include morning and afternoon sessions, guest lectures, and an introduction to paleography. Doctoral candidates or recent PhD recipients who can demonstrate the need for either language in their research are invited to apply. The 2020 Syriac and Armenian Summer School is July 13–August 7.

## Study the Cultural Histories of Plants in the Plant Humanities Summer Program

Applications due February 28



Join a fully funded four-week summer program focused on the interdisciplinary study of plants, their global travels, and the myriad ways they have shaped human culture. Participants attend seminars and lectures, visit the Oak Spring Garden Foundation, the United States Botanic Garden, the Smithsonian Herbarium, and other sites, and engage with an open-access digital tool being developed in collaboration with JSTOR Labs. The program is offered in the context of the Dumbarton Oaks and JSTOR Labs [Plant Humanities Initiative](#), funded by the Andrew W.

Mellon Foundation. Applicants with special interests in the fields of history of science, environmental studies, digital humanities, art history, and/or botany are given priority, but we also welcome candidates who seek to develop new skills in the digital humanities or the use of special collections. Graduate students and advanced undergraduates may **apply by February 28** for the [Plant Humanities Summer Program](#).

## **Applications Open to the Garden and Landscape Studies Graduate Workshop**

**Three weeks in May and June studying public landscapes**



[Applications are due March 15](#) for an intensive workshop focused on the public realm and the design and construction of public landscapes. The 2020 Garden and Landscape Studies Graduate Workshop is May 17–June 6, offered in collaboration with the [Arnold Arboretum](#) in Boston and with the support of the [Mellon Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies](#). The workshop brings together practitioners and early-career scholars—typically doctoral candidates writing dissertations and MLA candidates or recent recipients—to pursue cross-disciplinary research on landscape-related topics. Participants attend seminars by Dumbarton Oaks staff and invited

scholars, visit sites in the Washington metropolitan area, and stay for four days at the Arnold Arboretum, where they also go on field trips to public landscapes.

## **Favorite Treasures Return This Month to the Courtyard and Textile Galleries**

**More than 2,000 years of history on display**



Beloved works from the ancient art collection acquired by Mildred and Robert Bliss go on view in the museum this month. Spanning from Hellenistic Greece to imperial Rome, the collection

contains many pieces of distinction, such as the Romano-Arabian bronze statue of a rearing horse ([back from loan to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York](#)), the purple marble porphyry head of a Roman emperor, and Greek bronze statuettes that date as far back as the fifth century BCE. Stunning Byzantine jewelry in gold, sapphire, pearls, and rock crystal are also displayed. Meanwhile, in the Textile Gallery, encounter treasures from the Pre-Columbian collection, including several feathered pieces from Peru, intricate Wari tunics and looped hats, and mummy masks more than 2,000 years old.

## Digging into DOML

**Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library finds that everything old is new again, from cross-dressing monks to the walking dead.**



Saints' lives themselves were no restrictive genre in the Middle Ages, but allowed authors great freedom to experiment with everything from history to moral exemplar to fantastic tales of magic and miracles. Three volumes just published in the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library series present a compilation of saints' stories by one of the most important authors of tenth-century

England, the monk Ælfric. His Old English work provided versions of the stories that could be read, listened to, and meditated on even by those who did not know Latin. Mary Clayton and Juliet Mullins of University College Dublin present a [brand-new edition and translation of Ælfric's \*Lives of Saints\*](#) based on the surviving manuscripts. [Read a preview](#) by series managing editor Nicole Eddy, featuring locales ranging from Paris to Egypt and figures from Saint Martin to a decapitated head singing hymns to an abbot who was secretly the daughter of a Roman official.

## Dumbarton Oaks by the Numbers

### Over 16,000 bulbs planted this year

In 2019, gardeners planted 105 trees, 55 roses, 114 shrubs, and 16,780 bulbs! Compiled by [Postgraduate Performance Measurement and Evaluation Fellow Andrea Schoenberg](#).

During this calendar year, we planted:



## New Life for an Old Tree

Meet the reclaimed cedar staircases in our Garden



Find renewed beauty in quiet corners of the garden. [Mélisande's Allée](#) and the far side of [Crabapple Hill](#) now sport fresh cedar stairs made from a tree grown right here on the Dumbarton Oaks grounds. In 2018, one of the mature deodar cedars (*Cedrus deodara*) flanking the western edge of the property suffered storm damage, leaving the tree structurally unsound. After it was removed, a large section of trunk was retained, and Cecil Smith, owner of a local company, milled it into several sturdy timbers and slabs. Now the cedar returns to the grounds, its tawny wood rebuilding worn-down stairs so they can last for many years to come. Gardeners were pleased to find a sustainable alternative to importing out-of-state timbers while also reducing garden waste and costs. Use the new stairs to traverse Beatrix Farrand's terraced masterpiece, the [Dumbarton Oaks Garden](#), **free of charge through March 14**, 2–5 p.m., Tuesdays through Sundays.

## Scholars in the Spotlight

Catch up with our recent speakers and their research



[Annette Giesecke](#) travels from Persian paradise gardens to Pompeii, discovering Near Eastern inspiration for the luxurious gardens of ancient Rome. Giesecke is Elias Ajuha Professor of Classics at the University of Delaware.

[Daniel Caner](#) presents a typology of gifts, untangling dirty wealth, fruit-bearing, and Christian philanthropy in early Byzantium by clarifying the differences between religious gift ideals. Caner is an associate professor in Near Eastern languages and cultures at Indiana University.

## Digital Tools and Online Treasures

### Ephemera Collection

What do trade cards, stamps, cigarette cards, playbills, flyers, postcards, and catalogs tell us about history? These commonplace objects offer glimpses into everyday life and culture, revealing



dimensions of the past that scholarly documents might overlook and otherwise ignore. Since 2015, Dumbarton Oaks has been



collecting ephemera: historical artifacts that were never meant to be preserved. In the [Ephemera Collection](#), scholars and instructors of [Byzantine](#), [Pre-Columbian](#), and [Garden and Landscape](#) studies can find a treasury of information highlighting how these research areas have been represented in popular culture. From [Empress Theodora](#) to cherry blossoms, [Machu Picchu](#) to [Italian villa gardens in America](#), a wealth of resources awaits you in our online archive.

## Ongoing Programs

### Special Displays:

**Roman and Byzantine economic tools and final weeks to see Asian art objects**



See jade, ivory, and mother-of-pearl Asian art from the seventeenth to twentieth centuries in [A Nobility of Matter: Asian Art from the Bliss Collection](#), with objects ranging from a Qing dynasty cricket container to Japanese scroll weights. Soon the objects will be removed from display to make way for a new temporary exhibition, so see these examples of finely crafted domestic goods while you still can. Meanwhile, in a nearby case, visit the first exhibit in more than 30 years focused solely on Byzantine seals from the 17,000-strong Dumbarton Oaks collection. The display reveals how researchers played detective to solve an [800-year-old mystery](#) involving a broken seal and a mysterious and powerful person from the twelfth century. On the reverse of the case, examine weights, balances, and a scale the Romans and Byzantines used to ensure accurate transactions in the marketplace.

## Upcoming Programs



Monday, February 10, 8 p.m.

[ZOFO concert](#)

One piano, four hands, and a Grammy nomination



Sunday, March 1, 7 p.m., and Monday, March 2, 8 p.m.

[Sandbox Percussion concert](#)

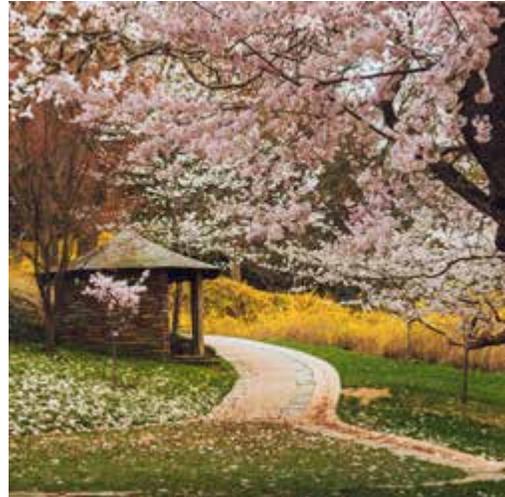
Contemporary chamber music and a world premiere



Sunday, April 5, 7 p.m., and Monday, April 6, 8 p.m.

[Ensemble Caprice concert](#)

A recently unearthed Vivaldi opera brought to life



Now through March 14, 2020

[Garden season passes on sale](#)

Unlimited visits and expedited admission

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