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From the Director

Upcoming Dumbarton Oaks Anniversaries



In 2013 Dumbarton Oaks will celebrate the fifty-year anniversaries of two important constructions: the Rare Book Reading Room, which houses our rare and unique books and manuscripts (above left); and the Philip Johnson Pavilion, which displays our collection of Pre-Columbian works of art (above right). The two wings, though both completed in 1963, could not be more distinct in style. To mark

the anniversaries, we will celebrate not just the spaces themselves but also the uses for which they were established. The Blisses intended their buildings, grounds, and collections to serve both advanced scholars and the general public. Without interrupting experts who need library materials and without jeopardizing the proper protection of those materials, we are planning a series of guided tours of the Rare Book Reading Room and the Philip Johnson Pavilion. Visits will be complemented by an ambitious calendar of talks, lectures, workshops, colloquia, and symposia. Through such activities we do our part to uphold the causes of the humanities and advanced research, while familiarizing the public with our complex missions—in historic preservation, innovative scholarship, and broad dissemination—and demonstrating their ultimate oneness. [Read more>>](#)

Jan Ziolkowski, Director, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection

Upcoming Exhibitions



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. From January 15 through the end of the year, select artworks on loan from U.S. and international museums join the permanent collection in the Philip Johnson Pavilion. In the spirit of collaborative discovery promoted by Robert Woods Bliss during his lifetime, the displays explore connections and contrasts between objects and cultures. A gilded Mixtec atlatl, a painted Maya figurine, ancient glyphs, and delicate Andean mosaics

institutional project. We are pleased to introduce two Tyler Fellows in Byzantine Studies, in residence at Dumbarton Oaks since the fall of 2012.



Konstantina Karterouli

Assimilation of Byzantine Art in the West of the Late Twelfth Century

I am a doctoral student at Harvard University's Department of History of Art and Architecture, writing my dissertation on the assimilation of Byzantine visual properties and objects into Western art during the late twelfth century. As a second-year Tyler Fellow at Dumbarton Oaks, I also have the privilege of working with Museum Director Gudrun Bühl on an institutional project: the creation of an online exhibit that will accompany and supplement an on-site exhibition of four New Testament manuscripts in the Dumbarton Oaks Museum collection. The exhibition will open in April 2013, in conjunction with the Byzantine Studies Symposium "The New Testament in Byzantium."

All four manuscripts are being digitized for display on the Dumbarton Oaks website. Textual, iconographic, and comparative analyses of the manuscripts will accompany the online exhibit, to provide a contextual and historical perspective that will both enhance the museum experience and make these masterpieces available to distant viewers.



Jakub Kabala

Frontier Spaces: Imagining Eastern Europe, 800–1000

I am a graduate student in the Department of History at Harvard University, working on a dissertation on Slavic borderlands between the eighth and tenth centuries. Specifically, I analyze the imagination and representation of Byzantium's Balkan frontier and the Carolingian/Ottonian eastern frontier, drawing on written sources as well as archeological finds.

As a second-year Tyler Fellow, I have the opportunity to contribute to the Dumbarton Oaks online catalogue of Byzantine lead seals. Several thousand of the 17,000 lead seals in the Dumbarton Oaks collection carry geographical information indicating the location where they were struck. My task is to

create an interactive digital map of these several thousand seals, to be added to the online catalogue. The map will enable not only the localization of individual seals, but also a visualization of searches across time, space, as well as title and office of the seal owner.

Friends of Music

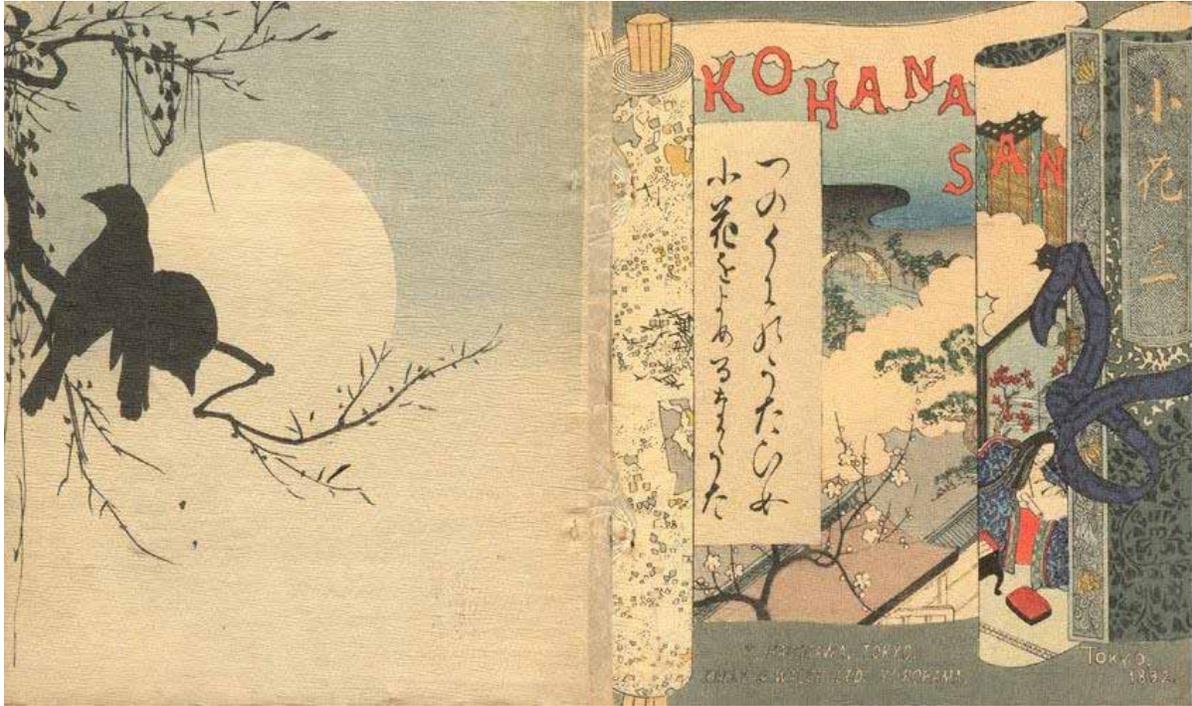


The Friends of Music's annual holiday concert offered a little something for everyone. The nine voice, all-male *a cappella* ensemble Cantus presented a program called "On the Shoulders of Giants," a celebration of significant, but mostly lesser-known, choral works that spanned centuries, styles, and cultures. [Read more>>](#)

From the Archives

Kohana San Book

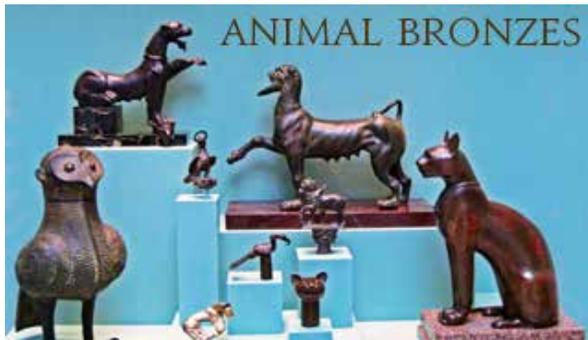
Before her marriage to Robert Woods Bliss in 1908, Mildred Barnes Bliss was a nascent collector of rare books and prints. This book, *Kohana San* (front and back cover shown below), is preserved in the Dumbarton Oaks Archives and has Mildred Barnes's bookmark from her country house in Sharon, Connecticut. Twenty-two silk-tied pages with woodblock illustrations on double-folded, mulberry wood-based crepe paper (*chirimen*) tell in English verse the story of a Geisha of Kobe (Kohana San or "Little Flower"). This is the first edition of the book, published in 1892 by Takejiro Hasegawa, Tokyo. The binding is in the traditional Japanese style known as *fukuro-toji* ("pouch binding") where sheets of paper are printed with woodblocks on only one side and then folded in half with the printed side out. The folded sheets are stacked together, and the unit is tied along the spine with two double-hole bindings of silk threads. A colophon in Japanese on the first page gives publication data and identifies the woodblock printer as Komiyo Sojiro. Hasegawa's books were usually printed in editions of 500.



Good Ink

Dumbarton Oaks' gardens were the subject of conversation on a recent edition of the Kojo Nnamdi radio show, "Shaping the City: Washington's Landscapes." Kojo and guests, Architect and University of Maryland professor Roger Lewis and Landscape Architect Michael Vergason, discussed how landscapes shape the identity of Washington, DC. Listen to the discussion on [Kojo's website](#). The program was in response to the recently released [The Landscape Architect's Guide to Washington, D.C. - American Society of Landscape Architects](#), which includes Dumbarton Oaks.

Now on View



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