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The Virgil Encyclopedia
Above: Jan Ziolkowski, Director of Dumbarton Oaks, and Michael Sullivan, Research Associate, holding the three volumes of The Virgil Encyclopedia before an inscription from Virgil’s fourth Georgic in the Dumbarton Oaks Gardens.

Fellows, staff, and visitors to Dumbarton Oaks may have noticed the inscription from Virgil’s Georgics that has adorned the patio outside the Music Room since its dedication in 2010. What they may not have realized is that when proceeding in that general direction from the museum entrance, they pass directly beneath the epicenter of The Virgil Encyclopedia (Chichester, West Sussex, UK: Wiley-Blackwell, 2014). On the Mezzanine, just one floor above the entry foyer, Research Associate and Assistant Editor Michael Sullivan has been engaged in the characteristically Virgilian labor of managing this massive scholarly undertaking, which has now borne fruit in three volumes. The Virgil Encyclopedia is a six-year project consisting of over 2,200 entries on the Roman poet and his legacy, authored by more than 350 contributors and coedited by Director of Dumbarton Oaks Jan Ziolkowski and his Harvard colleague Richard Thomas.

Discover more about The Virgil Encyclopedia here.

**Upcoming Public Lecture in Byzantine Studies**

Sharon E. J. Gerstel, UCLA
"Witnessing Byzantium: The Greek Perspective"
Thursday, January 16, 2014
In her illustrated lecture, Sharon Gerstel (Professor of Byzantine History and Archaeology, UCLA) will examine moments of artistic creativity in Thessalonike, Byzantium’s second city, and their significance for the generations that followed.

The lecture will take place in the West Building Lecture Hall at the National Gallery of Art. This program is coordinated with the National Gallery of Art and is held in association with the exhibition *Heaven and Earth: Art of Byzantium from the Greek Collections*, on view at the gallery through March 2, 2014.

Find more information about the public lecture here.

Above: Late ninth- or tenth-century gold and cloisonné enamel bracelet from a hoard of Byzantine jewelry found in Thessalonike. Museum of Byzantine Culture, Thessalonike.

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### Dumbarton Oaks Summer Internships

Dumbarton Oaks is pleased to announce the continuation in 2014 of the successful summer internship program for Harvard students. Applications are now being accepted for eight new summer internship opportunities.

Review the experiences of past summer interns at the [Dumbarton Oaks interns’ blog](#), and learn more about the new opportunities by visiting the [program website](#) or by linking to individual positions below.

#### 2014 Summer Internships:

- Byzantine Seals Project
- Communications and Public Outreach
- The Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library
- The Dumbarton Oaks Museum
- Oral History Project
- Image Collections and Fieldwork Archives
- Landscape Architecture
- Publications

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### Informal Talks in Garden and Landscape Studies

In December 2013, the Garden and Landscape Studies Program hosted two informal talks, both of which showed an impressive range of approaches to and perspectives on the topic of urban landscapes.
Peter Harnik, Director of the Trust for Public Land’s Center for City Park Excellence, addressed the challenges facing the creation and management of contemporary park systems. This was a topic he also addressed in his most recent book, *Urban Green: Innovative Parks for Resurgent Cities* (Washington, D.C.: Island Press, 2010), which was named one of the five best books of 2010 by the American Society of Landscape Architects’ blog. Harnik, a nationally recognized authority on urban parks, promoted numerous environmental efforts concerning transportation, energy, and solid waste.

Jason Ur, Associate Professor of Social Sciences in the Department of Anthropology, Harvard University, and recipient of the Dumbarton Oaks Project Grant in Garden and Landscape Studies for the 2013–14 academic year, presented a paper entitled “Landscape Planning in the Core of the Assyrian Empire, ca. 900-600 BC.” Ur is an anthropological archaeologist specializing in early urbanism and cultural landscapes in the ancient Near East. His research has focused on the impacts of early urban communities on their landscapes using field survey and satellite remote sensing techniques, in particular declassified intelligence satellite photographs.

Read more about the speakers [here](#).

Above: Stone panel of an aqueduct and canals in an Assyrian garden, ca. 605 BC, from the palace of King Ashurbanipal, Nineveh (Iraq). Courtesy of The British Museum.

### One-Month Research Stipends

The One-Month Research Stipend program supports advanced scholars who spend a month conducting research in the Dumbarton Oaks collections. The next application deadline is March 1, 2014.

Thomas Mical (University of South Australia), was at Dumbarton Oaks from November 15 to December 15, 2014, working on *English Baroque Geometry and Power*.

“This past winter my short-term research project at Dumbarton Oaks was an investigation of the eighteenth-century complexities of the UNESCO heritage site of Royal Greenwich in London. I came to Dumbarton Oaks with a series of parallel investigations of this curious but historically significant landscape, which is historically inflected by the convergence of the institutions of Inigo Jones’s Queen’s House (royal patronage), the Royal Navy (mapping of empire), the Naval Hospital (medicine), and the Royal Greenwich Observatory (astronomy). Following from aspects of media theory, each of these institutional presences is considered as a component in larger distributed networks, and each also expresses subtly differentiated architecture-landscape interface patterns across time.”
From the Archives

Mildred Bliss and the Fox-Trot

Mildred Barnes Bliss had a considerable collection of musical scores and sheet music, much of which is preserved in the Dumbarton Oaks Archives. In addition to classical scores for piano and violin, this collection also has sheet music of popular and patriotic songs, mostly from the 1920s. Included in this group is the 1925 French edition of the fox-trot, “If You Knew Susie.”

Apparently, Mildred Bliss knew how to fox-trot. Her godson and the second director of Dumbarton Oaks, William R. Tyler (1910-2003), amusingly recalled the time he first met Mildred Bliss at his parents’ home in Burgundy, France:

"In 1916, Mr. and Mrs. Bliss came to stay, and I was awed by her: a vision of elegance and mystery, with furs, a large hat, long gloves and exotic perfume, who swooped down on me and asked me if I would like to see her do a fox trot. Confused by this abracadabra, I merely hung my head, whereupon the vision turned on its heels and started taking short jerky steps with little turns around the room, holding its arms half extended before it. I suffered extreme discomfort and embarrassment from all this, but the present of a silver pen-knife, my first, restored my composure."

Read more about Mildred Bliss's collection of sheet music, both classical and contemporary, here.

Above: French edition (1925) of Buddy deSylva's "If You Knew Susie."

Friends of Music

Piffaro, The Renaissance Band | December 1 and 2, 2013
On December 1st and 2nd, the Friends of Music invited Piffaro, The Renaissance Band to celebrate the season by doing its best, in the words of the program’s title, to “Drive the Cold Winter Away.” Performing both familiar and rare French and English dance tunes, the band mobilized an impressive assembly of historical instruments: sackbut, shawm, dulcian, recorders, bagpipes, lute, guitar, pipe and tabor, and other percussion. Guest soprano Laura Heimes joined the ensemble with Hanukkah songs from the Sephardic Jewish diaspora, as well as sixteenth- and seventeenth-century songs for Christmas and the New Year.

Good Ink

The January/February 2014 issue of Harvard Magazine reviewed The Virgil Encyclopedia, and included excerpts from an interview with Jan Ziolkowski, Director of Dumbarton Oaks.

The Dumbarton Oaks Gardens were mentioned on the Kojo Nnamdi show on WAMU 88.5 FM in a segment on family activities for the winter.

According to The Washington Post, the Dumbarton Oaks Museum exhibition Inspiring Art: The Dumbarton Oaks Birthing Figure, on view until March 2, “may be the coolest thing currently in a Washington museum.”

Now on View

inspiring art

The Dumbarton Oaks Birthing Figure.

June 27, 2013 — March 2, 2014

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