The Ruins of Syria
Frank Kidner’s Gift of Syrian Photos to Dumbarton Oaks

Self-described shutterbug Frank Kidner made six trips to Syria in the 1990s to document, in vivid color photography, the architectural remains of the country. Kidner recently gifted the collection, which numbers more than nine thousand slides, to the Image Collections and Fieldwork Archives at Dumbarton Oaks. In addition to more than doubling the ICFA’s current holdings of Syrian images, the collection documents countless sites, many of which have been fundamentally altered or completely destroyed in the years since Kidner’s photographs were taken. Take a look at a sample of images online.

2017 Summer Schools in Syriac and Armenian
Applications Due January 15

Dumbarton Oaks and the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library (HMML) are now accepting applications for their summer school programs in the Syriac and Armenian languages. These intensive five-week courses are fully funded by Dumbarton Oaks and hosted by HMML at Saint John’s University in Minnesota. The summer school will run from July 10 to August 12, 2017. Approximately ten places will be available in each course. For more information, and to apply, visit our website.
Upcoming Events
Spring 2017 Humanities Fellowship Talks

Dumbarton Oaks launched a new fellowship program this academic year designed to bridge the gap between college and career for young humanists. This spring, the program continues its associated series of talks featuring humanists both inside and outside of the academy:

- February 23: Dr. Sharmila Sen, executive editor-at-large of Harvard University Press
- March 2: A panel of writers and editors on arts and ideas, including Kathryn Schultz, Casey Cep, Nicole Chung, and Katharine Merow
- April 6: Dr. Diana Smith, principal of Washington Latin Charter School

Watch this space in future months for further announcements and RSVP links.

Fellows in the Spotlight
Eric Dyrhdahl, Jan Haenraets, and Lori Diel

Catch up with our fellows and their research in our ongoing series:
• Eric Dyrhdahl, a graduate student in archaeology at Penn State University, investigates craft production in Late Formative–period Ecuador (ca. 800–400 BCE).
• Jan Haenraets, a landscape architect and preservation specialist, examines the history and significance of Mughal garden networks in Kashmir.
• Lori Diel, from Texas Christian University, parses the images and enigmas of the Codex Mexicanus, continuing work she began as a summer fellow in 2012.

Find out about their work, and see similar conversations with other fellows, on our website.

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**The Botany of Empire in the Long Eighteenth Century**

New from Dumbarton Oaks Publications

Imperial geopolitics meets the systematic study of plants—transformed by new discoveries, inventions, and taxonomies—in this book of essays by sixteen scholars working across five continents. Featuring 183 full-color illustrations, many drawn from the Dumbarton Oaks Rare Book Collection, this book also highlights the artistic merits of the thousands of botanical publications of this age of empires. Read more about the book and explore an online exhibit from the symposium that inspired it on our website.

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**Good Ink**

In the *New Statesman*, historian Sir Richard J. Evans calls *Letters of a Dead Man* his favorite book of 2016.

The Vergilian Society has awarded Director Jan Ziolkowski and Richard Thomas the 2017 McKay Book Prize for *The Virgil Encyclopedia* (Wiley Blackwell, 2014).