Rare Copper Coins Promised to the Byzantine Collection at Dumbarton Oaks

Around 2,000 early Byzantine coins generously offered by Steve Mansfield

Scholars, students, and museumgoers alike stand to benefit from the trove of uncommon and fascinating coins held by British numismatist Steve Mansfield. Despite being one of largest assemblages of Byzantine coins in the world, the Dumbarton Oaks holdings will grow more than 15% thanks to Mansfield’s generous promised gift. A rich resource for present and future generations of researchers, the Mansfield Collection will shed light on aspects of the early Byzantine period not yet fully represented in the Dumbarton Oaks collection.
Apply Now: Byzantine Coins and Seals Summer Program

Work with the world's largest collection

Learn how to read, date, and catalogue Byzantine coins and seals this July, delving into historical geography, art history, theology, economy, history, and much more. Applications are due February 18 for interested doctoral students, junior faculty members, or junior curators. Besides receiving a grounding in numismatics and sigillography, participants conduct and present original research on material from the collections. Accommodation, weekday lunch, and a library reader’s pass are provided. Learn more and apply.

Syriac Summer School Now Offers Coptic

Dumbarton Oaks funds two summer schools in Coptic and Syriac at HMML
For the first time this year, we offer Syriac Summer School participants the option to learn either Syriac or Coptic. Doctoral students or recent PhDs spend four weeks in July and August intensively studying the language and paleogeography, as well as the study and use of manuscripts. (Read about the experience of a recent participant.) Tuition, housing, and meals are covered. Hosted in Minnesota at the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library of Saint John’s, the summer school is accepting applications through February 15. Learn more and apply.

Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library Releases New Books

Translations of crucial Greek primary sources and popular Latin treatises
Eclipses, plagues, verbing nouns, and 15th-century cosmopolitanism are just a few items of interest in new publications from the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library. Available as of January 7, the two books illuminate courtly, city, and scholarly life in the Middle Ages. Two Works on Trebizond—comprising the chronicle of Michael Panaretos and the Encomium of Bessarion—presents a history of the Black Sea empire Trebizond and illustrates conceptions of a great city in the 14th and 15th centuries. Tria sunt was a widely used textbook for rhetorical composition at Oxford and includes a section on the art of letter-writing.

**Scholars in the Spotlight**

**Catch up with our recent speakers and their research**
Glenn Most discusses moody ancients and Renaissance heroes, probing links between Greek philosophers, Dutch art, and ancient popular culture. Most is a professor of Greek philology at the Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa and teaches at the University of Chicago in the Committee on Social Thought and in the Departments of Classics and of Comparative Literature.

Terence Young reveals how visitors loving trees to death in American public parks led to the invention of modern camping. Young is professor emeritus of geography at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

Digital Tools and Online Treasures

Manuscripts in the Byzantine Collection

Curious about the recent acquisition of John Chrysostom’s Homilies on St. Matthew, a rare example of early Byzantine codex production? Explore other manuscript treasures in the Byzantine Collection. Four illustrated manuscripts can be examined in great detail via zoomable digital facsimiles: two Gospel books, a Gospel lectionary, a psalter, and a New Testament. Page through the books as they were used for hundreds of years before entering the museum, discovering gold text, luxurious images, and intriguing surprises.
Ongoing Programs

Special exhibition: *Juggling the Middle Ages*

Ring in the new year with *Juggling the Middle Ages*, which focuses on a medieval tale known as *Le jongleur de Notre-Dame*, or Our Lady’s tumbler, and follows the story from its rediscovery by scholars in the 1870s to its modern interpretations in children’s books. Along the way the exhibit delves into the role of the Middle Ages in fashioning modern European and American identities through architecture, art, music, and other media. Complementing the show are public lectures, a musical performance, and a series of family-focused events. The opening of the exhibition coincides with the publication of a number of books, including reissues of classic versions of the juggler story. [Learn more.](#)
Upcoming Programs

Music at Dumbarton Oaks—ZOFO
Grammy-nominated piano duo [Sunday, January 13, 7 PM (SOLD OUT)] and [Monday, January 14, 8 PM]

Washington National Opera Concert
Gifted young artists transport us back a century to the golden age of opera.
[Sunday, January 27, 4–6 PM]

Tony Curtis Film Screening
Rare viewing of "The Young Juggler" (1960)

Polonsky-Shifrin-Wiley Trio US premiere of renowned ensemble [Sunday, February 10, 7 PM] and [Monday, February 11, 8 PM]