Dumbarton Oaks Welcomes Its 2016 Summer Interns
Fifteen Harvard Undergraduates Arrive for an Array of Projects

Dumbarton Oaks is delighted to welcome its 2016 class of summer interns from Harvard University. They will embed within the institute’s administration and programs of study, work with the museum and gardens, edit publications, and conduct short-term research. For a list of interns and brief descriptions of their work here this summer, please visit our website.

Rethinking the Inka Empire
A Collaborative Workshop in Santiago Looks Southward
This past May, the Pre-Columbian Studies program at Dumbarton Oaks, the Chilean Comisión Nacional de Investigación Científica y Tecnológica (CONICYT), and the Universidad de Chile supported an international group of scholars to meet for a workshop titled “Rethinking the Inka Empire: The View from Kollasuyu.” Engaging with recent research in the region of Kollasuyu, the workshop shifted the traditional focus from the central Andes to explore the ways in which research in the southern Andes raises new questions about the Inka empire as a whole. Find out more about the workshop proceedings in a brief dispatch online.

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**Digital Humanities at Dumbarton Oaks**

**Tyler Fellow John Davis Creates Online Map of the D.C. Watershed**

During his time at Dumbarton Oaks, Tyler fellow John Davis, a PhD candidate in history at Harvard working on the history of engineering and infrastructure, has created a digital atlas of Washington, D.C.’s watershed. The “Water Atlas,” as he calls it, shows the development of the city’s water infrastructure over time, from large features like canals to the sewer grid and water treatment facilities. Read more about this exciting digital humanities project, soon to be released to the public, online.
**Behind the Scenes**

A Reading of Tom Stoppard’s *Arcadia* in the Gardens

This past month, the Dumbarton Oaks Gardens became a main stage for the first time in ten years, as actors from the D.C. area offered a stunning, lively reading of Tom Stoppard’s 1993 play *Arcadia*. The informal, semi-staged event formed part of the Garden and Landscape Studies two-week summer school and roved from the Fountain Terrace to Lovers’ Lane Pool before closing in the Orangery. Find out more about this unique event and see pictures of the reading on our [website](#).

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**Dante in the Dumbarton Oaks Gardens**

The History and Design of the Arbor Terrace

Have you ever wondered about the meaning of the Italian inscription, taken from a mysterious “codice Gaetani,” under the Arbor Terrace in the gardens? In 2003, Linda Lott, librarian of the Rare Book Collection, published an article explaining the history and design of the terrace and its relationship to the obliquely attributed quotation from Dante’s *Purgatorio* that appears there. Read the article and take a look at historical photographs and sketches of the Arbor Terrace on our [website](#).

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**Letters from Charlotte Brontë and Arthur Henry Hallam**

Highlights from Mildred Bliss’s Autograph Letter Collection

The Rare Book Collection holds Mildred Bliss’s
collection of autograph letters from eighteenth- and nineteenth-century literary and artistic luminaries. Our series continues this month with a letter each from the novelist and poet Charlotte Brontë and Arthur Henry Hallam, whose death inspired Alfred, Lord Tennyson to write his great poem *In Memoriam A.H.H.* Brontë jots down her impressions of *David Copperfield*, and Hallam writes a long letter to Tennyson’s sister Emily, who was then his fiancée. Read these letters, with high-quality images of the manuscripts, on our website.

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**Good Ink**

Though the Dumbarton Oaks Museum is currently closed for renovation through the end of 2016, *Fodor’s Travel* has glowing remarks for its collections in its “Art Lover’s Guide to Washington, D.C.,” writing, “In-the-know researchers seek out Dumbarton from far and wide—it’s about time that locals, and visitors, do the same.”

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**From the Archives**

Alexander Alexandrovich Vasiliev and the Bulgarian Badge Set of the Royal Order for Civil Merit

This Grand Cross badge set, awarded by Bulgaria’s Royal Order for Civil Merit, was typically reserved for Bulgarian civilians. In rare cases, the honor was conferred upon others for acts of merit that warranted the gratitude of the country. One such case was its receipt by Byzantine historian Alexander Alexandrovich Vasiliev, a senior scholar at Dumbarton Oaks between 1944 and 1948. Learn more about the set, which can now be found in the Dumbarton Oaks Archives, and its award to Vasiliev here.

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**From the Garden Blog**

This month, the Rose Garden bloomed into brilliant shades of red, pink, yellow, and white. See more photos in our garden blog, *What’s Blooming at D.O.*