

# Dumbarton Oaks

Research Library and Collection

## Online Catalogue of Byzantine Coins Launches Later This Month

On July 15, see recently acquired coins for the first time!



Coins help reveal the economic, political, and religious histories of the Byzantine Empire—and soon, people everywhere can see recent acquisitions from one of the greatest specialized collections of Byzantine coins in the world. Close to 800 Byzantine coins acquired in the last two decades become available online later this month. Starting July 15, the [Online Catalogue of Byzantine Coins](#) presents zoomable images, translations, transcriptions, measurements, and commentary on hundreds of coins. Many were obtained after [Volume V](#) of the *Catalogue of the Byzantine Coins in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection and in the Whittemore Collection* was

published in print. For the first time, numismatists and Byzantinists can look at these objects via a free digital catalogue.

## **Apply by August 1 for Pre-Columbian Bliss Symposium Awards**

### **Travel grants to attend fall Pre-Columbian Studies symposium**



Up to six graduate students and advanced undergraduates receive a travel grant and a waived registration fee to attend the symposium “[Waves of Influence: Revisiting Coastal Connections between Pre-Columbian Northwest South American and Mesoamerica](#)” this fall. Awardees have access to the latest findings from preeminent scholars in their fields, vibrant discussions, and professional networking. The 2019 Pre-Columbian Studies symposium seeks to reshape views of Pre-Columbian societies around dynamic and overlapping social networks that connected, rather than separated, different geographical areas. [Apply by August 1](#) for Pre-Columbian Bliss Symposium Awards.

## Groundbreaking Classical Music at Dumbarton Oaks This Year - Season Tickets Available Now

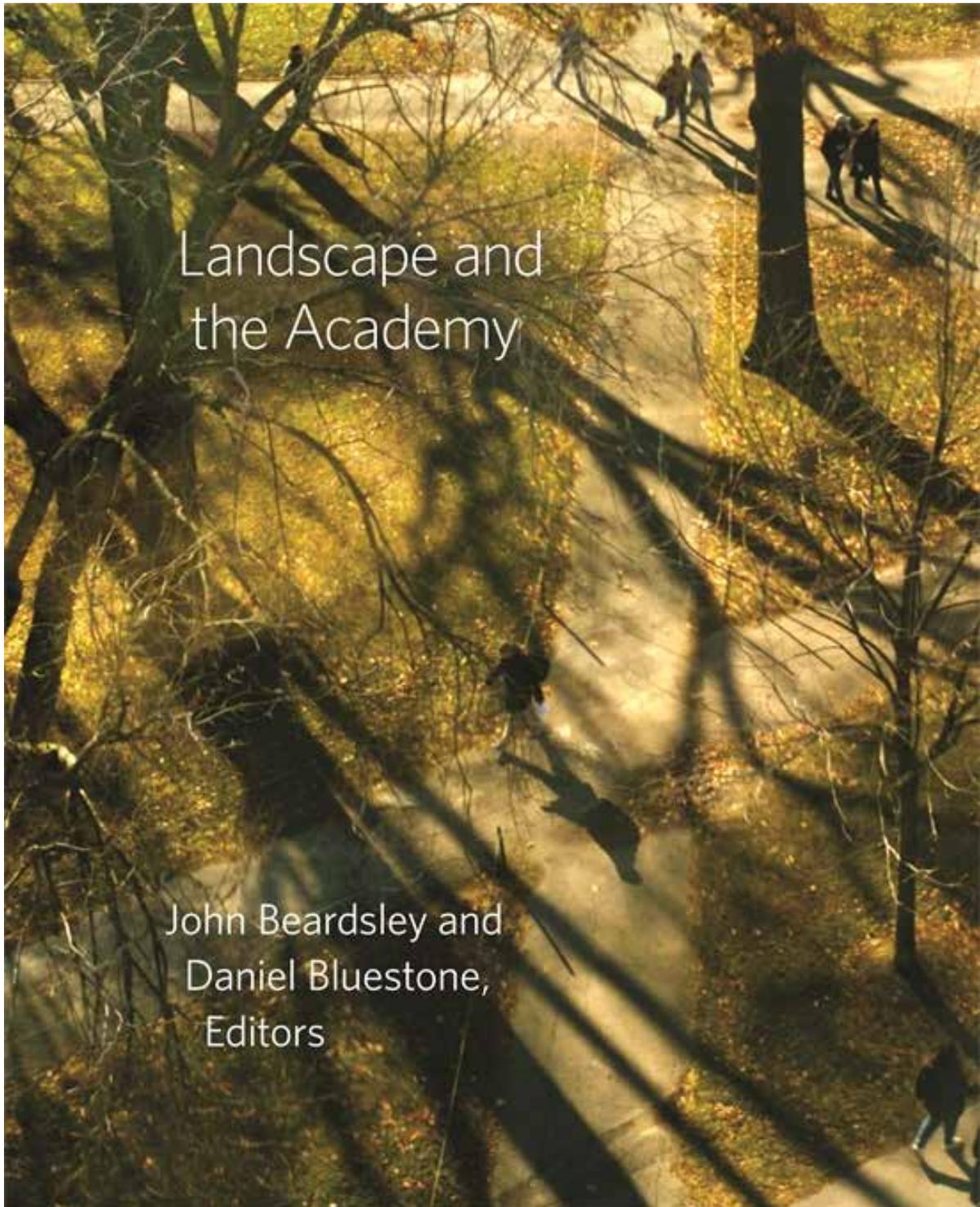
Subscribe to the 2019-2010 concert series



In this season of Music at Dumbarton Oaks, experience a composer hailed by BBC World News as one of the most talented of his generation; the only winner of the world's two most important cello contests; and the most important Vivaldi discovery in 75 years. Hear a world premiere alongside orchestral, chamber, and classical pieces from beloved composers like Debussy, Philip Glass, Bach, Haydn, and Sibelius. Ranging from an innovative harpist who has collaborated with Iggy Pop and Sufjan Stevens to an ensemble lauded by the *Washington Post* for "revitalizing the world of contemporary music," this season's artists perform with impressive skill and emotional power. Mohammed Fairouz kicks off the season, followed by Lavinia Meijer, The Knights, the Aizuri Quartet, István Várdai, Sandbox Percussion, and Ensemble Caprice. [Subscribe now](#) to seven evenings of world-renowned talent in an intimate venue.

**Now Available: *Landscape and the Academy***

**New publication in the history of landscape architecture**



# Landscape and the Academy

John Beardsley and  
Daniel Bluestone,  
Editors

Universities are custodians of some of the most significant designed landscapes in the world. The campus creates spaces for sharing traditions and reinforces the aspirations of a community of learning that stewards knowledge, provokes reflection, and shapes citizenship. [Delve](#)

[into \*Landscape and the Academy\*](#), which complements the growing body of literature in architectural history, cultural geography, and education, by examining the role of landscape in creating academic communities. Essays examine how and why universities have come to be responsible for so many different kinds of landscapes—from the central campus to gardens, arboreta, farms, forests, biotic reserves, and far-flung environmental research stations—and the role these landscapes play in academic life, pedagogy, and cultural politics today.

## **Dumbarton Oaks Funds Three Summer Programs This Month**

**Supporting scholarship in coins, seals, Coptic, Syriac, and plant humanities**

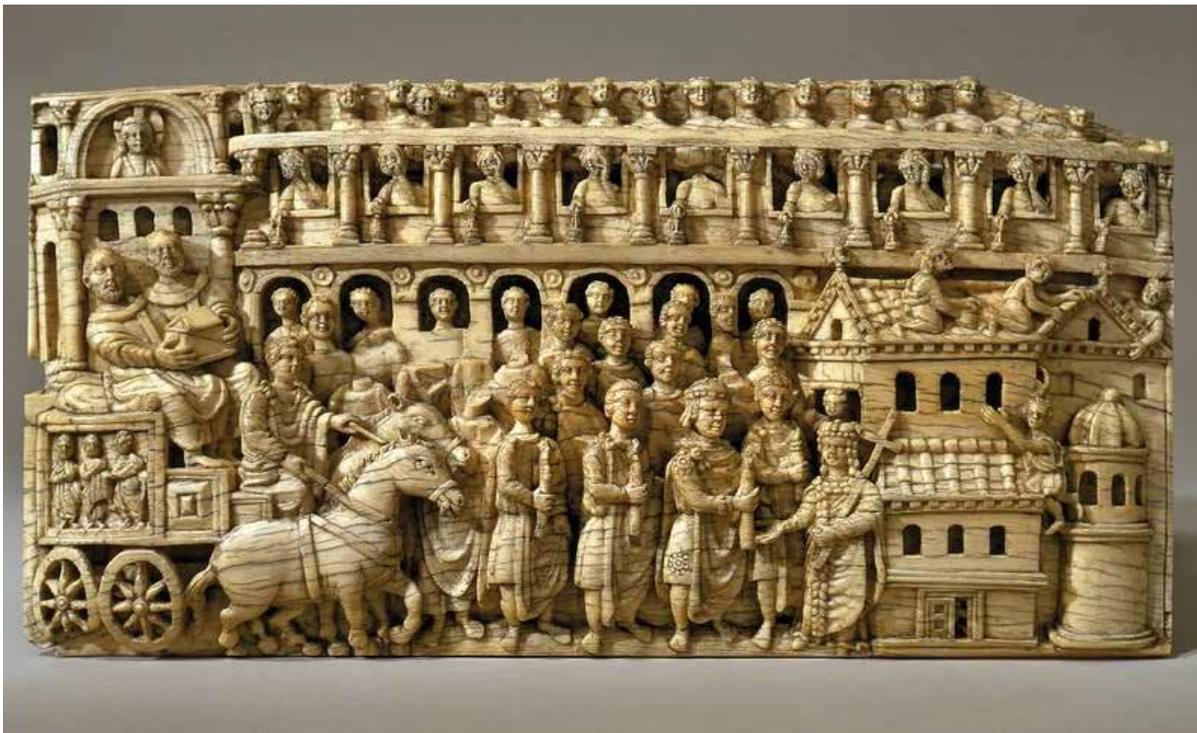


Scholars and advanced students learn about translation, the cultural histories of plants, numismatics, paleography, sigillography, and much more this July with Dumbarton Oaks support. [Plant Humanities Summer Program](#) participants study how plants have shaped human culture

while training in digital humanities and conducting research in our Rare Book Collection. The program is offered in the context of an [initiative](#) with JSTOR and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Meanwhile, doctoral students, junior faculty, and junior curators in the [Byzantine Coins and Seals Summer Program](#) gain access to unparalleled collections for numismatics and sigillography and present original research. Finally, at the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library at Saint John's University in Minnesota, students at the [Coptic and Syriac Summer School](#) (in collaboration with Dumbarton Oaks) receive intensive language training as well as instruction in paleography and the study of manuscripts. Read more about our [2019 summer scholars at doaks.org](#).

## Processions: Urban Ritual in Byzantium and Neighboring Lands

Reflecting on the 2019 Byzantine Studies symposium



Held April 12 and 13, the annual Byzantine Studies symposium was organized by Leslie Brubaker (University of Birmingham) and Nancy Ševčenko (independent scholar). Speakers worked to develop a new understanding of medieval urban life across multiple social registers. The presentations offered ample, multifaceted evidence that processions were significantly more

important to the Byzantines than to their neighbors and successors. Presentations covered processions in late antiquity; in early, middle, and late Byzantine Constantinople; in Milan, Rome, Jerusalem, Egypt, North Africa, and Iberia; in early Rus and in the age of Peter the Great, offering a synthetic, historicizing, contextualizing, and comparative examination of processions.

[Read about the symposium.](#)

## Visit the Vegetable Garden

**From English kitchen garden to victory garden to today's kale**



Dinosaur kale, scarlet and Napa cabbage, and fennel di Firenze now ornament the vegetable garden, found in the northeastern corner of the grounds known as the Kitchen Garden. Designer Beatrix Farrand envisioned the [Kitchen Garden](#) as the typical fruit-and-vegetable plot of a traditional English estate. During World War II, part of the area was transformed into a victory garden, offering demonstrations to help citizens support the war effort. Afterward, vegetables were not grown in the gardens at all for several decades, then replanted ten years ago. This year, the layout of the vegetable garden has been refreshed in the French potager style, with pelargonium and marigold borders to hopefully reduce pest and rodent damage. Delight with

eyes and not stomach: the vegetables are not for visitor consumption. However, produce from the garden is used when possible in staff and scholar dining. [Reserve tickets now](#) to visit the vegetable garden and the rest of the grounds.

## Scholars in the Spotlight

Catch up with our recent speakers and their research



[Christine Griffiths](#) tells a story about perfume, plants, artisanal knowledge, and experimentation in early modern England. Griffiths is a PhD candidate in early modern material culture at Bard Graduate Center.

[Reyhan Durmaz](#) analyzes storytelling—the TV of the ancient world—and argues that it facilitated Christian-Muslim dialogue in the Middle Ages. Durmaz is an assistant professor of religious studies at the University of Pennsylvania.

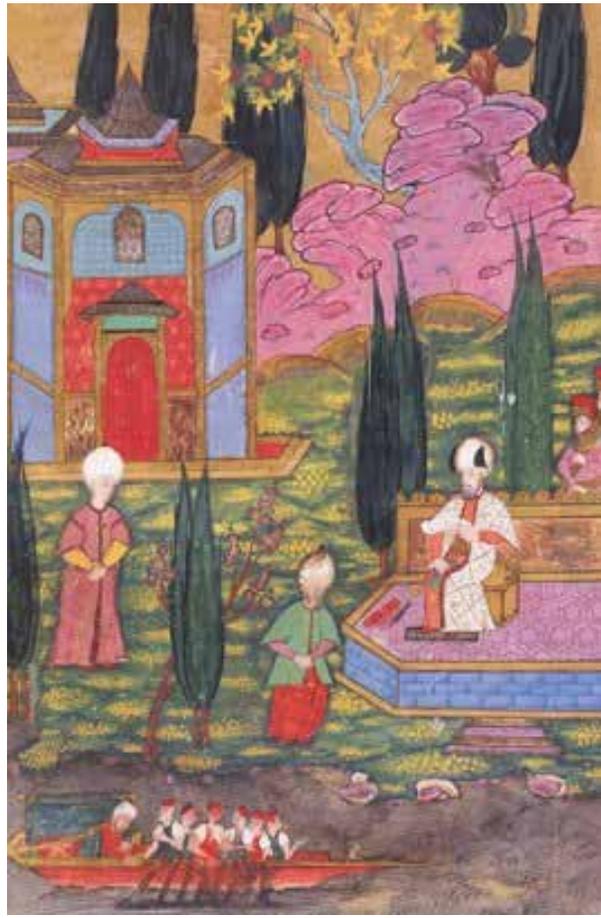
## Digital Tools and Online Treasures

### Middle East Garden Traditions

Looking to design a course or conduct research related to garden cultures in the Mediterranean and Islamic worlds? Begin with



online research tool [Middle East Garden Traditions](#), a compendium of garden history spanning 12 centuries and three continents. The tool's core feature is a searchable [catalogue](#) of nearly 200 of the most well-known gardens that existed under the Ummayyad, Abbasid, Ottoman, Mughal, and Safavid dynasties, as well as in al-Andalus and North Africa. Each entry provides a description of the garden's characteristics and history, citing the archival and archaeological sources where this information can be found. Another feature of the research tool is [introductory essays](#) to key geographical regions and their related catalogue entries. Finally, supplementary resources include a [multilingual glossary of plant and gardening terms](#), a [glossary of Andalusian ornamental trees and shrubs](#), a [dictionary of Ottoman Turkish garden terms](#), a full [bibliography](#) for the research tool, and an online exhibit of [20th-century photographs of market gardens \(bostans\)](#) in Istanbul.

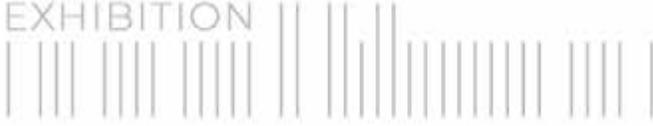


## Ongoing Programs

### Closing Soon:

*Written in Knots*

SPECIAL  
EXHIBITION



WRITTEN  
IN KNOTS



UNDECIPHERED  
ACCOUNTS  
OF ANDEAN LIFE

Escape the summer heat at an innovative exhibition of South American technology, now in its final weeks. *Written in Knots: Undeciphered Accounts of Andean Life* puts on display a remarkable communication system. Portable and precise, it has complexities that have challenged and inspired decipherers. Long before the arrival of the Spaniards, the people of the Andes shared information using khipus—textiles that encoded economic, political, and perhaps narrative data in their cords, knots, and colors. Open only through August 18, [Written in Knots](#) is the first exhibition to bring together such records that cover more than 1,300 years of South American history, from the Wari civilization to the Inka empire to the Spanish colonial period. The exciting collection of never-before-seen khipus on display includes the largest, most complex Wari specimen known to museums and the latest research into what stories the knots might tell.

### **Special Displays:**

***Beyond Knotting, Byzantine seals and weights, A Nobility of Matter, and Piety and Pleasure***



On view for a limited time are four exhibits showcasing Pre-Columbian textiles, Byzantine seals and weights, rarely seen Asian art, and new acquisitions to the Ephemera Collection. [\*Beyond Knotting: Wari and Inka Tunics from the Collection\*](#) presents luxurious tunics from the Andes—some more than 1,000 years old—in conjunction with *Written in Knots*, examining the relationship between two major components of the Andean woven world. Weights, balances, and a scale the Romans and Byzantines used to ensure accurate transactions in the marketplace are newly installed in a case in the Courtyard Gallery. On the other side of the case, discover an [\*800-year-old mystery\*](#) in the first display in more than 30 years solely focused on Byzantine seals from the 17,000-strong Dumbarton Oaks collection. [\*A Nobility of Matter: Asian Art from the Bliss Collection\*](#) explores Chinese art collected by the cofounders of Dumbarton Oaks, beginning with finely crafted Song dynasty vessels. [\*Piety and Pleasure: Western Travel to the Holy Land\*](#) uses postcards, posters, magazines, rare books, and more to examine the Western pilgrims, tourists, and scholars who made the Holy Land a popular destination at the turn of the 20th century.

## Upcoming Programs



Friday, July 5, and every other Friday  
3–4 pm

[Written in Knots curator tours](#)

Explore a South American information  
technology.



Tuesday–Sunday, March 15–October 31  
2–6 pm

[Buy garden tickets online](#)

Skip the line by reserving garden tickets  
in advance.



Saturday, August 31, 2019–Sunday,  
January 5, 2020

[Woven Interiors: Furnishing Early  
Medieval Egypt](#)

Co-curated exhibition of vibrant and rare  
decor at the Textile Museum

**ORNAMENT**  
FRAGMENTS OF BYZANTINE FASHION

Tuesday, September 10, 2019–Sunday,  
January 5, 2020

[Ornament: Fragments of Byzantine  
Fashion](#)

Exhibition of dress textiles, bodily  
vestiges, modern aesthetics

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