As a public health precaution, the museum and garden are closed and Dumbarton Oaks has canceled all public events through the end of July. In the meantime, explore open-access art, books, and summer programming, as well as our many digital tools and online treasures.

Call for Papers – Land Back: Indigenous Landscapes of Resurgence and Freedom

Submissions due August 1
The violent disruption of land relations is a defining feature of colonialism and imperialism; colonial governments have territorialized Indigenous lands and bodies and undermined Indigenous political authority through gendered and racialized hierarchies of difference. Consequently, Indigenous resistance and visions for justice and liberation are bound up with land and land-body relationships that challenge colonial power. “Land back” has become a slogan for Indigenous land protectors. The 2021 Garden and Landscape Studies symposium, Land Back: Indigenous Landscapes of Resurgence and Freedom, aims to highlight the many ways Indigenous peoples understand and practice land relations for political resurgence and freedom across the Americas. Symposiarchs Michelle Daigle and Heather Dorries, faculty in the Department of Geography & Planning and Centre for Indigenous Studies at the University of Toronto, seek papers from emerging and established scholars, artists, community organizers, and design and planning practitioners that highlight how Indigenous peoples are reconceptualizing land relations to renew Indigenous environmental knowledge. Learn more and submit an abstract and curriculum vitae by August 1.

Only Complete English Translation of Eriugena's Magnum Opus Back in Print

Discover the book with our Byzantine Studies librarian
PERIPHYTEON
The Division of Nature

Johannes Scotus Eriugena

I. P. Sheldon-Williams, translator
John J. O’Meara, translator and editor
The *Periphyseon* ("on nature"), or *De divisione naturae* as it is also known, is the masterwork of John Scotus Eriugena, the leading intellectual figure at the Carolingian court of Charles the Bald in the ninth century. John O’Meara’s translation, first published in 1987 and still the only complete English translation of this lengthy work, has long been extremely scarce; its recent reprinting will be warmly welcomed by scholars and students alike. (To celebrate the release of Eriugena’s classic in paperback, get a $5 discount with coupon code PER5 if you order by August 15.)

Learn more about the book with an overview by Byzantine Studies Librarian Joshua Robinson. In a time when few in the Latin West could boast a knowledge of Greek, Eriugena distinguished himself by his acquaintance with several important Greek Fathers, most notably Gregory of Nyssa, Dionysius the Areopagite, and Maximos the Confessor. The *Periphyseon* is a bridge between Greek and Latin theological and philosophical currents that complements other volumes in the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library, including Maximos’s *Ambigua*, John Magee’s edition and translation of Calcidius’s *On Plato’s Timaeus*, and volumes on Bernardus Silvestris and Alan of Lille.

Four Recently Acquired Lead Seals Illuminate Byzantine Lives and Fill Collection Gaps

Horseman, soldier, poet, prince

Four new lead seals have joined the renowned 17,000-strong Dumbarton Oaks collection, commissioned by a cross section of Byzantine characters: an imperial eunuch, two Armenian
soldiers, and a man petitioning Saint Nicholas with a poem. In the Byzantine world, seals secured legal documents (such as wills, sales of land, and decisions of judges), official dispatches, bags of gold, and much else, while calling on the protection of divine intercessors. Go behind the scenes with Associate Curator of Coins and Seals Jonathan Shea to discover what makes each new acquisition so rare. The seals feature the possible portrait of a horseback-riding servant, underrepresented family names in the collection, a famed military leader, hints about life in the Byzantine provinces, an Armenian prince flaunting his Turkish and Byzantine titles, and an uncommon metrical poem.

See Remarkable Ancient Statues, Jewelry, and Art Online

Ancient Art at Dumbarton Oaks

Art from the ancient Mediterranean represents a small but significant part of the Dumbarton Oaks collection. When viewed alongside Byzantine art, these works offer an opportunity to consider the continuities and changes in artistic production from the classical to the medieval period. The new online exhibit Ancient Art at Dumbarton Oaks comprises a selection of ancient and late antique art in the Byzantine Collection, the majority acquired from prominent antique dealers such as
Joseph Brummer. The documentation of the collection’s provenance provides a look into the world of early twentieth-century collecting. The online collection features many pieces of distinction, such as the Romano-Arabian bronze statue of a rearing horse, the purple porphyry head of a Roman emperor, Greek bronze statuettes that date back as far as the fifth century BCE, and stunning Byzantine jewelry in gold, sapphire, pearls, and rock crystal. The exhibit was coordinated by Elizabeth Dospel Williams, associate curator of the Byzantine collection, and Tyler fellow Kelsey Eldridge.

Browse Dumbarton Oaks Books at the Virtual International Medieval Congress

Receive a 20% discount until the end of July
Wander the virtual exhibits of the International Medieval Congress and receive a special discount (plus free shipping to the US and Canada) on Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library facing-page translations, works on the mosaics of Hagia Sophia and the Byzantine world, medievalist picture and coloring books, and other titles. Saints of Ninth- and Tenth-Century Greece, Two Works on Trebizond, Medieval Latin Lives of Muhammad, and Holy Men of Mount Athos are just some of the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library volumes available. For those interested in adding to home libraries, explore works of scholarship such as The New Testament in Byzantium, Visualizing Community: Art, Material Culture, and Settlement in Byzantine Cappadocia, and Justinianic
Mosaics of Hagia Sophia and Their Aftermath. Delight young ones and the young at heart with a collection of illustrated books (and one coloring book) inspired by the medieval tale of a miraculous juggler, including *The Little Juggler* by iconic author and illustrator Barbara Cooney.

Order Favorite Dumbarton Oaks Titles in Paperback

Buy any book this month and receive a second at half price
Private Religious Foundations in the Byzantine Empire

John Philip Thomas

Stock up for summer reading and research with our foundational scholarly works and classic translations in paperback. Now through July 31, order any book and receive a second (of equal or
lesser value) 50% off with coupon code READSUM50. Newly released titles like the Periphyseon, Private Religious Foundations in the Byzantine Empire, and People and Power in Byzantium are included, as are important scholarly works such as Byzantium and the Arabs by Irfan Shahid (available as individual volumes or as a set). Explore critical editions of Byzantine Greek works of historiography and narrative texts with historical value in Dumbarton Oaks Texts, a subset of the international series Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae (CFHB). Pre-Columbianists may be interested in three edited volumes by esteemed art historian Elizabeth P. Benson on Chavín, death and the afterlife, and the cult of the feline.

Reflections on Urban Landscape History

Virtual 2020 Garden and Landscape Studies Graduate Workshop

The Garden and Landscape Studies Graduate Workshop went virtual this spring, bringing nine graduate students from design and the humanities together to explore the methods, approaches, and frameworks for research and scholarship in urban landscape history. Remarkable scholars
joined to share how they engage in research and develop their scholarship around questions of race, gender, class, preservation, and art, among other topics, as manifested in the urban landscape. While the group was not able to meet on the Dumbarton Oaks campus, the workshop used digital tools to explore, engage, and generate discussions that are likely to catalyze important research and teaching in the future. The workshop is supported by the Mellon Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies.

Summer Distance Learning Materials for Families, Teachers, and Students

New ecology pencil topper tutorial
Families, teachers, and students can find resources on our website (scroll down to see the full list) to supplement distance learning over the summer. Newly available is a tutorial that teaches grade 4–12 students about the *Heliconia* plant and the process of pollination while they craft a flower pencil topper. Delve deeper into the plant-bird relationship with a complementary tutorial for making a stunning hummingbird mobile out of paper, along with reading material from scientist
and artist Amy Lamb. Teachers planning curricula for next year may want to examine our ecosystem lesson plan for middle and high school, as well as a sample AP World History Document-Based Question (DBQ), with grading rubric and tips. Finally, bring art into your home with our botanical art coloring sheets and Zoom and Webex backgrounds. Check the website for future additions to educational materials.

**Landmark Works in Byzantine and Pre-Columbian Studies Freely Available**

Experts recommend favorites from our open-access publications
Expand your library with free downloadable PDFs of classic texts and works of scholarship. Managing Editor of Byzantine Studies Colin Whiting recommends *Holy Women of Byzantium: Ten Saints’ Lives in English Translation* (ed. Alice-Mary Talbot) as “exciting, important narratives translated by a true master.” *Byzantine Magic* (ed. Henry Maguire) presents “a fascinating subject, though somehow still understudied. We are hoping to change that!” For those unsure about wandering into the *Catalogue of Late Roman Coins in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection and in*
the Whittemore Collection: From Arcadius and Honorius to the Accession of Anastasius (Melinda Mays, Philip Grierson), “late antique coinage only sounds dry,” Whiting assures. “It’s a body of material with surprising depth.”

Pre-Columbian Studies Librarian Flora Lindsay-Herrera suggests The Origins of Chavín Culture (Chiaki Kano) to “explore archaeological findings that shed light on this Andean pre-Inca culture.” Try Classic Maya Place Names (David Stuart, Stephen D. Houston), says Lindsay-Herrera, and “let two esteemed epigraphers take you on a tour of Maya glyphs.” For those interested in delving deep into visual art, “learn about animal symbolism through the delicate artistry of Ecuadorian spindle whorls” in The Thread of Life: Symbolism of Miniature Art from Ecuador (Johannes Wilbert). Or “take a close look at this Olmec figure as part of a virtual museum visit” through An Olmec Figure at Dumbarton Oaks (Elizabeth P. Benson).

Dumbarton Oaks by the Numbers

Close to 10,000 visitors to online exhibits in recent months

![Most Visited Online Exhibits in Recent Months](image_url)

While the museum has been closed as a public health precaution, nearly 10,000 visitors have frequented Dumbarton Oaks’ online exhibits. More than 1,000 people visited Margaret Mee: Portraits of Plants, while hundreds explored each of the next most popular exhibits: The Ancient Future: Mesoamerican and Andean Timekeeping, The Byzantine Emperors on Coins, and The Botany of Empire in the Long Eighteenth Century.
At the height of summer, the **Herbaceous Borders** beckon: a hundred-foot pathway lined with green, pink, and purple flora, bookended by two yew trees. Stroll the borders virtually in our **garden video tour**, or try growing several of these summer delights in your own home. The well-behaved perennial catmint (*Nepeta racemosa* 'Walker’s Low') rewards you with recurrent blooms all summer if lightly deadheaded and will not take over your border. It prefers low sun and is salt-tolerant, so serves nicely for walkway edges. Looking for texture and drama? The cardoon (*Cynara cardunculus*) creates architectural interest with its large spiny silver leaves, and by the time it reaches two years old, its late summer flowers call to mind a close relative, the globe artichoke (*Cynara scolymus*). Hailing from the south-central United States, the bluestar (*Amsonia hubrichtii*) provides wonderful lacy texture throughout the season, plus delicate blue flowers in spring and blazing golden color in fall. Choose a planting spot with full sun to part shade and well-drained soil. Finally, for true no-fuss planting, turn to the false spirea (*Astilbe × arendsii*)—a workhorse perennial that flourishes in sun or shade; offers abundant cultivars with many colors, forms, and heights; and rewards you with long-lasting summer blooms throughout June and into July.
Scholars in the Spotlight

Catch up on the research of fellows and visiting scholars

Loa Traxler discusses finding ancient kings of Copan, synthesizing what years of field investigations have revealed about the founding of a Maya kingdom, the Classic Maya world, and interactions with Teotihuacan. Traxler is associate professor of anthropology and director of museum studies at the University of New Mexico.

James Almeida studies enslavement, racial ideology, and labor history in the Andes—focusing on a colonial silver mint in Potosí—and at the Dumbarton Oaks property. Almeida is a PhD candidate in history at Harvard University.


W. Sasson Chahanovich examines early modern Armageddon, exploring how the conquest of Constantinople kickstarted Ottoman enthusiasm for the end-times. Chahanovich is a PhD candidate in Near Eastern languages and civilizations at Harvard University.

Héléna Rochard challenges the stereotype of the solitude and isolation of Egyptian monasteries by reassessing Bawit, which contains one of the largest corpora of monastic wall paintings from early Byzantium. Rochard is collection manager of the Christian and Byzantine Collection of the École Pratique des Hautes Études and lecturer at the École du Louvre.
Michael McCormick talks ancient pandemics and climate change, proposing a new day in the discovery of ancient and medieval civilization by combining science, archaeology, and history. McCormick is Francis Goelet Professor of Medieval History and chair of the Initiative for the Science of the Human Past (SoHP) at Harvard University.

On View Online

Discover the Dumbarton Oaks collections from anywhere

Margaret Mee: Portraits of Plants

Discover stunning paintings of Amazonian flora by artist, explorer, and environmentalist Margaret Mee (1909–1988) and explore the longstanding tradition of women botanical artists and illustrators in online exhibit Margaret Mee: Portraits of Plants. Browse zoomable images and descriptions of stunning Mee plant portraits, highlights from the Rare Book Collection, loaned works, and more. New digital tools build connections
between the geographies and histories of featured artists and illustrators, such as Mee, contemporary photographer Amy Lamb, scientific illustrator Alice Tangerini, botanical artist Nirupa Rao, and close to a dozen other women from the seventeenth century onward. Explore how women artists were visualizing knowledge for several centuries with an interactive timeline, and discover mixed media that challenge the boundaries between art and illustration into the present day. Finally, consider Amazonian entanglements linking conservation and art via an interactive map of Mee’s expeditions in the Amazon. Learn more from additional resources such as a series of essays, interviews, a glossary, a timeline of Mee’s life, and further reading.

The Byzantine Emperors on Coins

Meet 127 Byzantine emperors—and a few usurpers—in an online exhibit curated from the Byzantine coin collection, one of the largest and most comprehensive in the world. Gold coins reflected the glory of Byzantium and its rulers for a millennium. The Byzantine Emperors on Coins presents the most widespread medium for the dissemination of a ruler’s portrait to his or her subjects and beyond the empire’s frontier. The coins in the online exhibit suggest major changes affected Byzantine coinage. For example, the viewer can follow growing evidence of Christian themes and symbols and the development from a realistic portrait type (characteristic of Roman art and coinage) to a more idealized and highly stylized representation of the ruler. Explore six chronological sections that reveal the unfolding of imperial rule.

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