

# The Oaks News

A monthly bulletin from Dumbarton Oaks

## Now on View

### In the Garden:

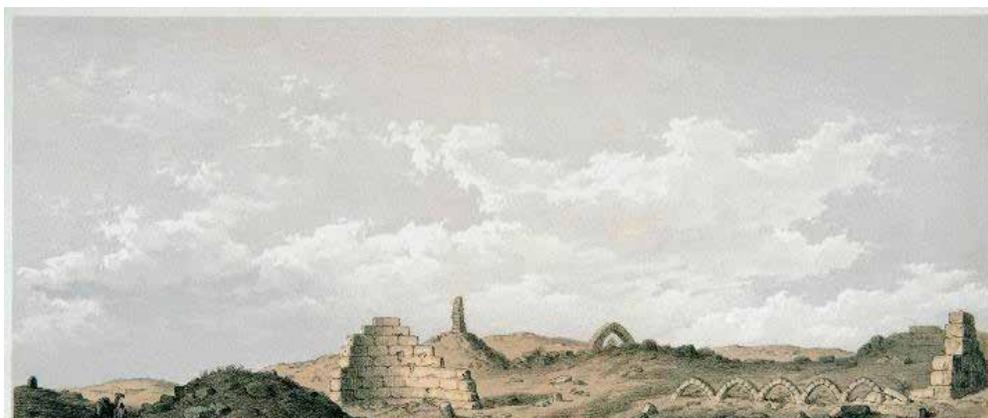
#### *Cloud Terrace*



Dumbarton Oaks announces the creation of Cloud Terrace, a new contemporary art installation by artists Andy Cao and Xavier Perrot of Cao | Perrot studio, Los Angeles and Paris, in collaboration with J.P. Paull of Bodega Architecture, for the Arbor Terrace in the Dumbarton Oaks Gardens. [Read more >](#)

Image: Cloud Terrace, on the Arbor Terrace in the gardens at Dumbarton Oaks. Photo by Jane Padelford.

### In the Library:

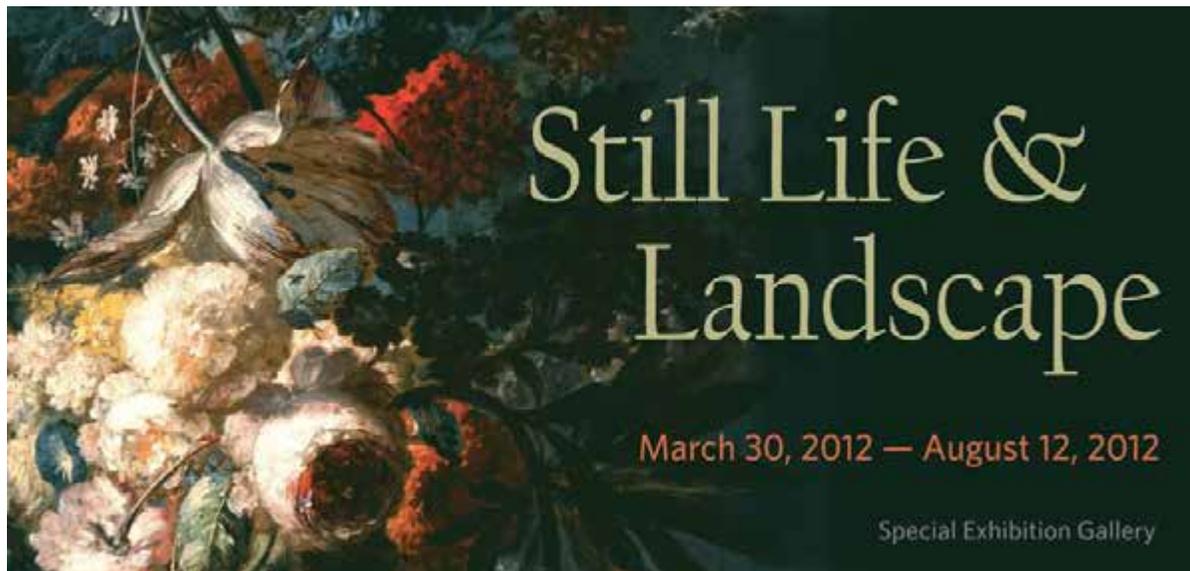


## *Rome Re-Imagined: Antiquarianism and Colonialism in the Nineteenth-Century Maghreb*

Sarah Burke Cahalan and Deb Brown

Historical and archaeological research into the ancient and medieval periods of the Maghreb must confront the legacy of nineteenth-century colonialist enterprises. In honor of the Byzantine spring symposium, "Rome Re-Imagined: Byzantine and Early Islamic North Africa, 500-800," a rare-book exhibition in the Library invites viewers to reflect on the nineteenth-century authors and publications that contributed to this legacy. To learn about the featured item above, [read more >](#)

## **In the Museum:**



## **In the Bliss Gallery:**

*From Clearing to Cataloging: The Corpus of Tunisian Mosaics*



The Image Collections and Fieldwork Archives (ICFA) presents *From Clearing to Cataloging: The Corpus of Tunisian Mosaics*, an exhibit that highlights the Margaret Alexander Collection at Dumbarton Oaks. For more information about Margaret Alexander and the Corpus of Tunisian Mosaics project, please visit the "ICFA in the Museum" section of [ICFA's new website](#).

Image: Installation view of *From Clearing to Cataloging* in the Bliss Gallery of the Dumbarton Oaks Museum.

---

## From the Collection



### Byzantine Coins and Medallions

Cécile Morrisson and Stephen Zwirn

Dumbarton Oaks' world famous collection of Byzantine objects is equaled in importance and diversity by its collection of Byzantine coins and medallions. It comprises more than 12,000 specimens and covers the entire history of the long-lived empire. Although the collection includes some representative examples from the 3rd century, comprehensive documentation begins with

Constantine the Great (r. 306-337), who founded Constantinople in 324 CE, and continues through all the imperial rulers, many empresses, and even a number of usurpers up to the last legitimate ruler, Constantine XI (r. 1449-1453), who died defending the capital city against the Ottoman Turks. There are examples of all the denominations struck at different times of the economic history of Byzantium, including gold, silver, bronze, electrum, and copper issues which, in five major catalogues, have been interpreted and made available to the scholarly and interested public. [Read more >](#)

---

## Garden and Landscape Studies Symposium

### "Food and the City"



The intricate interrelationship between urban context and food production, central to the current debate on sustainability, was the focus of the 2012 Garden and Landscape Studies symposium at Dumbarton Oaks. The conference explored the links between culture and cultivation, with particular attention to the modern era and urbanization schemes that engaged the production of food,

either as a means to achieve self-sufficiency, or as part of a ruralist perspective. As the city displaced food production further from its center, the relationship between living, working, and eating became more abstract. Today, this relationship is tested across planning and community design schemes: American suburban developments include agricultural land as a conservation measure and a nostalgic nod to a pre-agribusiness countryside; European designers focus on the suburban-rural interface to develop a new type of productive landscape, one performing simultaneously as an open space system and an agricultural laboratory; and in cities like Kampala, Uganda, or Rosario, Argentina, urban agriculture is part of a participatory design process that integrates housing programs.

Organized by Dorothée Imbert, the symposium provided a critical historical framework for today's urban agriculture by discussing the multiple scales, ideologies, and contexts of productive landscapes, from allotment gardens to regional plans. Topics included the production and distribution of food in relation to human settlement and urban form, from German Siedlungen to Italian Fascist new towns, and Israeli kibbutzim to contemporary Tokyo. The conference placed particular emphasis on the efforts of modern and early-modern landscape architects, garden designers, and architects/planners to reconcile the demands of feeding cities and regions with the exigencies of urban expansion.

---

## Fellowships

### Introducing the Dumbarton Oaks Tyler Fellows

#### Kuba Kabala, "Frontier Spaces: Eastern Europe, 800–1000 A.D."



In 2010, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection inaugurated a new pre-doctoral fellowship scheme, the William R. Tyler Fellowships. Eligible applicants are Harvard graduate students working on dissertations in art history, archaeology, history, or literature of the Pre-Columbian or Mediterranean/Byzantine worlds. The Fellowship funds a first year of research travel overseas and a second year in residence at Dumbarton Oaks to complete the dissertation and contribute to an institutional project that is related to the fellows' research. We are pleased to introduce Kuba Kabala, who is part of the first cohort of Tyler Fellows arriving at Dumbarton Oaks in the fall of 2012. Kuba writes:

"I am writing my dissertation on the emergence and development of the Slavic world between Byzantium and Latin Christendom during the ninth and tenth centuries. My research is in large part a philological and archaeological analysis of Slavic borderlands: Byzantium's northern frontier on the one hand and the Carolingian/Ottonian eastern frontier on the other. I take a two-pronged approach. First, I investigate how Byzantines, Slavs, and Latin westerners imagined and understood borders and space in their written works, how this imagination developed over time, and how it differed across the languages of my sources: Greek, Slavonic, and Latin. Second, I am studying the ninth- and tenth-century archaeological remains of the area to trace movement, contact, and confrontation in the borderlands. I am spending 2011-2012 as a visiting scholar at the Institute of Archaeological Sciences at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität in Frankfurt am Main. Early in the

fall I worked briefly on the excavation of Tarquimpol, a fortified city near the late antique Roman border in France. The library of the Römisch-Germanische Kommission has provided a great environment especially for my archaeological research. I continue to build geodatabases of archaeological finds in the Slavic borderlands, including Byzantine coin finds in ninth- and tenth-century Bulgaria, a subject I began to investigate at the Dumbarton Oaks Coins & Seals Summer School in 2011."

## Summer Fellows

Dumbarton Oaks is thrilled to welcome the Summer 2012 fellows! For a complete listing of fellows and their research topics, please visit our [website](#).

---

## Off the Press



Dumbarton Oaks Publications is pleased to announce the reprint of the Commentary on the *De administrando imperio*. Arriving fifty years after the first and hitherto only printing, this edition is a companion piece to one of Dumbarton Oaks' most popular books, the critical edition and translation of a key tenth-century text treatise. The *De administrando imperio*, compiled by Constantine VII Porphyrogenitus in the tenth century, is one of the most important historical documents surviving from the middle Byzantine period, containing a wide variety of information on foreign relations and internal administration. A companion to the critical text edited by Gyula Moravcsik and translated by Romilly J. H. Jenkins (Dumbarton Oaks Texts 1), the Commentary was written in 1962 by a team of eminent scholars led by Jenkins. It remains the most thorough and authoritative study of this significant medieval text. In addition to extensive commentary on the historical, geographical, and philological nuances of the Greek text, this volume contains a bibliography, map, genealogical charts, and indexes.

Other recent publications:



Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library

*Apocalypse: An Alexandrian World Chronicle*, edited and translated by Benjamin Garstad

---

## From the Archives

*Pebble Samples for the Pre-Columbian Gallery Planter Courts*

## James Carder



Beginning in 1959, the American architect Philip Johnson designed the exhibition pavilion for the Robert Woods Bliss Collection of Pre-Columbian Art at Dumbarton Oaks. The pavilion was completed in 1963 and opened to the public for the first time on December 10 of that year. During the design-development phase of this project, it was decided to add "four small courts [to the interior of the pavilion] that would hold planters and be glazed on the court side and vaulted with translucent but opaque plastic

domes." Johnson specified that polished Japanese pebbles be used on the floors of these planter courts, and his firm sent to Japan for samples sometime after October 17, 1961. The sample pebbles that Johnson chose were submitted to Dumbarton Oaks for approval. The printed label on the top of the sample box has Japanese characters indicating (1) region, (2) beach, (3) small, (4) coast, (5) pebble, and (6) typical product. The printed and inscribed label on the side reads: # 86183 MADE IN JAPAN. This box of sample pebbles remains part of the Dumbarton Oaks Archives, AR.OB.Misc.011.

---

## Staff and Fellows Accolades

Cécile Morisson, Advisor in Byzantine Numismatics, participated in the [LX Settimana di Studi sull'Alto Medioevo](#), in Spoleto (April 12-17, 2012), on the theme "Il Fuoco nell'alto Medioevo [Fire in the early Middle Ages]" with a paper entitled "Feu et combustible dans l'économie byzantine."

Joel Kalvesmaki's article "The Epistula fidei of Evagrius of Pontus: An Answer to Constantinople" was published in the most recent issue of the *Journal of Early Christian Studies* (20, no. 1 [Spring 2012]: 113-39). Joel is Editor in Byzantine Studies at Dumbarton Oaks.

---

## Friends of Music

### Announcing the 2012–2013 Concert Season!

#### Valerie Stains



This season the Friends of Music is thrilled to present two brilliant young musicians who are rapidly rising on the international scene: the phenomenal pianist Alessio Bax, and the brilliant violinist Ray Chen. Other highlights include the acclaimed male a cappella ensemble Cantus, and the celebrated virtuoso guitarists, Sergio and Odair Assad. For a complete season schedule, including more information about the artists, please [read more >](#)

Image: Ensemble Caprice performs in the Music Room at Dumbarton Oaks.  
Photo by Joe Mills.

---

# Good Ink

- *Cloud Terrace* was featured twice on Patty Szymkowicz's blog, [Magpie's Nest](#). The blog includes photos by Stephen Jerrome of Cao/Perrot Studio.
- 

## Upcoming Events

Arrival of Summer Fellows and Interns

Start of Greek Summer School

Monday, June 4

Social Media Presentation: Perry Hewitt, Chief Digital Officer, Harvard University

Friday, June 15

DO/Conversations Series

"Thornton's Temple of Flowers"

Friday, June 15

Welcome Coffee for Fellows and Interns

Monday, June 18

Farewell Event for Byzantine Assistant Curator Stephen Zwirn

Monday, June 25

Dumbarton Oaks  
1703 32nd Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20007

[www.doaks.org](http://www.doaks.org)

Copyright © 2012 Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and  
Collection. All rights reserved.

Want to have The Oaks News  
delivered directly to your inbox  
each month? Just click [here](#) to  
subscribe!

[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)