Museum Closure Announcement
Renovations from May 23 through the End of 2016

The Dumbarton Oaks Museum is closed to the public through the end of 2016. The gardens are open as usual, and both introductory group tours and booked private tours are offered.

Notes on the 2016 Garden and Landscape Studies Symposium
Thinking About “Landscape and the Academy”

The 2016 Garden and Landscape Studies symposium explored the many landscapes of the academy. John Beardsley and Daniel Bluestone presided over four groups of talks that considered not only central campuses but also designed landscapes managed by universities such as gardens, arboretums, and forests. The conference provided opportunities both to reflect on the importance of landscape to Dumbarton Oaks and to explore the complex and constant management of landscape and its larger role in our lives. Learn more about the ideas in play at the symposium in this dispatch.

Chinese Ambassador Visits Dumbarton Oaks
Thirty Young Diplomats Also Visit Birthplace of the United Nations
On the occasion of China’s “Youth Day” on May 4, Dumbarton Oaks received a visit from Chinese Ambassador Cui Tiankai, who was accompanied by thirty young diplomats from China. The group was eager to see the Music Room, where the conversations that laid the groundwork for the United Nations were held in 1944, and were also given a tour of the museum and gardens. Dumbarton Oaks presented the ambassador with gift copies of its new publication, *Thirty-Six Views: The Kangxi Emperor’s Mountain Estate in Poetry and Prints*.

From left to right: Chinese Ambassador Cui Tiankai; John Beardsley, director of Garden and Landscape Studies; Alison Hardie, senior fellow in Garden and Landscape Studies; Jan Ziolkowski, director of Dumbarton Oaks

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**Spectroscopic Analysis of Museum Objects**

Dumbarton Oaks Collaborates with the Walters Art Museum

A number of the cultures whose artwork fills Dumbarton Oaks worked extensively with various kinds of greenstone, including jadeite. By applying spectroscopy—techniques that analyze the spectrum scattered by a material when radiation strikes it—researchers can now discover previously unknown information about the origin and composition of the greenstone used in different museum objects. Find out more about the
spectroscopic work currently undertaken on the collection, in collaboration with the Walters Art Museum in Baltimore, in this story on our website.

Greenstone crocodilian pendant, PC.B.263, Pre-Columbian Collection, Dumbarton Oaks Museum

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**From Garden to City**

Urban Landscape Outreach Launch

In April and May, the Mellon Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies launched its outreach programs for students from the greater Washington, D.C., area. Students explored the Dumbarton Oaks Gardens through a series of workshops and used the gardens as the basis for their own thinking about landscape and design. Find out more about the Mellon initiative and its imaginative new work introducing secondary students to Dumbarton Oaks in this piece on our website.

Mellon fellow Jeanne Haffner works with students from Achievement Prep in Washington, D.C.

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**Good Ink**

Dumbarton Oaks in the News

In the *Washington Post*, Michael Dirda calls Prince Hermann von Pückler-Muskau’s *Letters of a Dead Man*, recently published by Dumbarton Oaks, a “classic of travel literature,” comparing the prince’s account of his time in Britain to Stendhal’s writings on Italy. “This richly illustrated edition . . . is one of those books that bring an era to life,” Dirda writes. “En route to England, Pückler visits the aged Goethe in Weimar; in London, he dines with the great financier Nathan Rothschild; later, he flirts with the Duchess of St. Albans, a foundling raised by gypsies who slept her way to the top.” *Letters of a Dead Man* is available from Harvard University Press.
The Washington Post's Adrian Higgins meditates on the role of designed landscapes in academic life, including a mention of Dumbarton Oaks: “Harvard University’s research center at Washington’s Dumbarton Oaks provides the sweetest blend of landscape and academia, even if the Georgetown garden started life as a private paradise.”

In another piece, Higgins features an installation on the Arbor Terrace that recreates a sixteenth-century physic garden in Padua. He also explores Dumbarton Oaks' links to the Paduan model through Beatrix Farrand and the Rare Book Collection.

**From the Archives**

**Household Linen**

The number of linens needed for a household the size of Dumbarton Oaks was considerable. Preserved in the Dumbarton Oaks Archives is a pamphlet titled “Facts Worth Knowing about Household Linen and Collection of Recipes for Removing Stains.” Published in 1921, this pamphlet originally belonged to Mildred Bliss’s mother, Anna Dorinda Blaksley Barnes Bliss, and is inscribed on the cover: “Property of Mrs. W. H. Bliss, please return.” Apparently, Anna Bliss gave the pamphlet to her daughter, as the cover is also inscribed: “Valuable. Keep for Mildred.” Take a look at all the facts worth knowing on our website.

**From the 75th Anniversary Blog**

Where Have We Been? Where Are We Going?

Our yearlong 75th Anniversary Blog concluded last month with a two-part post reflecting on the institute’s past, its multifaceted present, and its bright future. The library, museum, gardens, publications department, and three programs of study all look back at their past and chart a course into new waters. What might Dumbarton Oaks look like in another decade? Get a taste of what lies ahead in our first and second posts.

**Now on View**

Explore special installations in the Dumbarton Oaks Gardens while the museum is closed for
Garden Perspectives

Discover how the gardens have changed since the 1920s in this series of historic and contemporary photographs, on view in the Catalogue House.

Arbor Terrace Physic Garden

See a recreation of Padua's Orto Botanico on the Arbor Terrace until midsummer 2016.