Apply Now for Fellowships and Short-Term Grants

Spend a conference weekend to two years pursuing your research

Applications are now open for research funding in the 2020–2021 academic year. Residential fellowships enable advanced graduate students and scholars who hold appropriate final
degrees and/or are established in their fields to spend a summer, term, academic year, or two years pursuing research. Plant Humanities Fellowships provide additional opportunities for digital humanities work on a new initiative with JSTOR and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. For those looking for a shorter residence, One-Month Research Awards are open to holders of relevant final degrees, and Short-Term Predoctoral Residencies to advanced graduate students. Project Grants typically fund archaeological fieldwork, documentation of materials at risk of loss, and/or primary research of a specific designed landscape. Finally, graduate students and advanced undergraduates are encouraged to apply for the Bliss Symposium Awards, a travel grant supporting attendance at three annual symposia. (Applications for the Pre-Columbian symposium are due August 1, after which deadlines will be announced for the 2020 Byzantine symposium and Garden and Landscape symposium.)

Digging into DOML

Encounter saints, pirates, and armed invaders with Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library
Who is the strongest saint: a hermit or a bishop? *Saints of Ninth- and Tenth-Century Greece* gathers together seven texts detailing the lives and miracles of saints living in Greece under the rule of the Byzantine Empire, offering no single answer to the fundamental questions of virtue and strength. Stories of the hermit who collects virtues into himself like a bee into a beehive, or the bishop whose saintly actions God reinforces by afflicting a pirate with fever, illustrate the range and breadth in medieval models of holiness and power. This is the first English translation of invaluable historical sources for a time period from which few records survive. In this installment of our series highlighting titles from the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library, managing editor Nicole Eddy points out how *Saints of Ninth- and Tenth-Century Greece* does much to reveal contemporary tensions about violence, power, and the best way for a good person to lead.

**New Latin and Greek Translations in the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library**

Important medieval poem and texts from obscure historical period
Order two new volumes of facing-page translations now available from the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library (DOML). *Architrenius: Johannes de Hauvilla* is a satirical allegory completed in 1184 and a major work of medieval poetry that anticipated the comic visions of Jean de Meun, Bocaccio, and Chaucer. *Architrenius* follows the “arch-weeper,” an educated professional tempted by money and social standing who laments the rampant vices of the world—many of which he has indulged in himself. Winthrop Wetherbee translated the text from Latin. Meanwhile, *Saints of Ninth- and Tenth-Century Greece* illuminates one of the most obscure periods of Greek history—when holy men played central roles as the Byzantine administration reimposed control on southern and central Greece in the wake of Avar, Slavic, and Arab attacks and the collapse of the late Roman Empire.

**Eight Interns Join the Garden, Library, Museum, and More**

_Dumbarton Oaks welcomes 2019 summer interns_
From cataloguing Syrian architectural heritage to investigating the labor history of the Dumbarton Oaks estate, interns support both new and existing projects across the institution. Between June 3 and August 2, they are contributing to rehousing Byzantine coins and seals, developing sustainable management of garden pests and soil, copyediting medieval Latin, creating educational programs for K–12 students, digitizing the Garden Archives, and other institutional activities. Meet the new interns.

**Dumbarton Oaks Welcomes 11 Summer Fellows**

Fellows from eight countries conduct research this summer
A group of 11 incoming scholars study the Aztec pantheon, the literary landscape of late Byzantine poetry, "jaguar-ness," personal appearance in late antiquity, and other valuable research topics this summer. They hail from institutions in the Netherlands, Mexico, Austria, the United States, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Belgium, and Germany. Byzantine and Pre-Columbian scholars who have completed at least one year of graduate study are encouraged to apply for summer fellowships.
Ellipse Garden Reopened

Microbes and months-long renovation restore healthy elegance to the space

On a cold day in January, hatchets, chainsaws, and clippers descended on the Dumbarton Oaks Garden. They had come for the Ellipse: a double ring of trees whose branches and leaves meld together, forming a hedge floating high off the ground. But the trees were dying. A multiyear plan to restore the Ellipse culminated this winter and spring, when more than 25 people worked to reinvigorate the ecosystem of the space and plant trees that will hopefully survive 100 years. Learn how microbes, soil science, meticulous measurement, and more improved the sustainability of the Ellipse while preserving its elegance.

Cool Pastels and Summer Heat

Purchase garden tickets in advance to see new summer colors
Gardeners recently planted a swath of new flowering plants of all shades, filling the garden with annuals to bring color and life until the summer perennials bloom. Visitors can experience petunias, the clustered flowers of lantanas, zinnias, and the starlike pentas blooms. The Herbaceous Borders explode with pastels and lighter colors in the hundred-foot beds flanked by two yew trees, nicknamed Mr. and Mrs. Yew in a sly nod to the Dumbarton Oaks cofounders. Hotter colors rule in the Fountain Terrace, a traditional garden blending the styles of English cottage and Arts and Crafts. (The Fountain Terrace reopens this weekend after restoration work.) For the first time, you can reserve tickets online in advance, allowing you to skip the line at the entrance.

Scholars in the Spotlight

Catch up with our recent speaker and his research
Alberto Bardi introduces an international network of 14th-century scholars who shaped the development of astronomy, examining cross-cultural exchanges in Byzantium. Bardi joins the Polonsky Academy for Advanced Studies at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute as a postdoctoral research scholar this fall.

Digital Tools and Online Treasures

Digitized Rare Books

Peruse, zoom, print, and request downloads of more than 165 rare books of enduring value to Byzantine, Pre-Columbian, and Garden and Landscape Studies. The books and manuscripts include paintings by pioneering botanical artist Maria Sibylla Merian, a 17th-century guide to the Quechua language, two so-called “Red Books” by important English landscape designer Humphry Repton,
illustrations documenting Hagia Sophia, and Japanese watercolors. Journey through Europe, Asia, and the Americas via the high-resolution zoomable images in Digitized Rare Books. More objects from the Rare Book Collection are slated to be digitized in the near future.

Ongoing Programs

Special Exhibition:

Written in Knots

Kickstart your summer by exploring Written in Knots: Undeciphered Accounts of Andean Life, which 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. 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:

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

Now on view for a limited time are four exhibits showcasing Byzantine seals and weights, new acquisitions to the Ephemera Collection, rarely seen Asian art, and Pre-Columbian textiles. 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.
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. 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. 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.

Upcoming Programs

Friday, June 7, 3–4 pm and every other Friday
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**
Cocurated exhibition of vibrant and rare decor at the Textile Museum

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

**Ornament: Fragments of Byzantine Fashion**
Special exhibition showcasing dress textiles, bodily vestiges, modern aesthetics