Opening April 2, *Written in Knots: Undeciphered Accounts of Andean Life* uncovers a communication system that was portable, precise, and so complex that it remains undeciphered today. 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 khipus 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 khipu known to museums and the latest research into what stories the knots might tell.

**Iconic Byzantine Sculpture Debuts at the Met**

The *Statue of a Roaring Horse* features in an exhibition opening later this month
“Arguably the most important South Arabian sculpture held outside Yemen itself,” according to curators at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the bronze *Statue of a Rearing Horse* has long held
pride of place in the Dumbarton Oaks Courtyard. Starting March 18, the horse is included in a major exhibition at the Met, *The World Between Empires: Art and Identity in the Ancient Middle East*. A favorite piece of famous visitor Eleanor Roosevelt, the horse appears to breathe forcefully through its wide nostrils and flex its muscles. Read the story of how a sculpture discovered in Yemen in more than eighty pieces, through careful conservation and planning, takes up temporary residence in New York—and when it will be coming home.

Travel Grants Expanded for Dumbarton Oaks Symposia

Apply now for Bliss Symposia Awards

Up to 18 graduate students and advanced undergraduates will receive a travel grant and a waived registration fee to attend groundbreaking research symposia in 2019. These Bliss Symposium Awards have been expanded thanks to a new three-year Access Initiative. Awardees in Byzantine, Pre-Columbian, and Garden and Landscape Studies will have access to the latest findings from preeminent scholars in their fields, vibrant discussions, and professional networking. **Apply by March 15 to attend the annual Garden and Landscape Studies symposium**, this year focused on “Landscape, Sport, Environment: The Spaces of Sport from...”
the Early Modern Period to Today.” Find out more about the Bliss Symposium Awards and learn about deadlines for other symposia.

Study Gardens and Urban Landscapes this Summer

Applications due March 15 for Garden and Landscape Studies Graduate Workshop

Spend three weeks considering landscape history and theory, the ecological challenges of the Anthropocene, landscape urbanism, and other key interdisciplinary topics. With the support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, we are pleased to offer an intensive program for early-career landscape scholars and practitioners—typically PhD students and candidates or recent recipients of a Master in Landscape Architecture. Round-trip travel, accommodation, weekday lunches, two study sessions in the Rare Book Reading Room, visits to DC sites such as the National Mall, and a three-day stay with the Oak Spring Garden Foundation (a workshop collaborator) are included. Learn more and apply.
To advance research in the face of the fieldwork standstill in Syria and the destruction of documentation, essential archival resources stored across the US, Europe, and the Middle East must be made more accessible. This can be accomplished, in part, by combining these archival materials with new field research and data. The rise of the internet has facilitated the systematic display, searchability, and easy accessibility of archives—a process still in its infancy—while new geospatial and other digital technologies have provided a wealth of additional data points. Later this month, Dumbarton Oaks facilitates creative approaches to counter loss of cultural heritage at our Byzantine Studies Workshop. Organizers Konstantina Karterouli, Gideon Avni, and Alan Walmsley have invited leading experts to discuss different modes of combining fieldwork research, archival material, and digital data while developing the current understanding of processes of transformation in late antique Syria-Palestine.
Upcoming Exhibits Explore Hidden Highlights of Dumbarton Oaks Collections

Chinese vessels, Byzantine seals, Pre-Columbian tunics, and more

Mark your calendars for April 2, when new exhibits bring fascinating, seldom-seen treasures out of storage and into public view. Beyond Knotting: Wari and Inka Tunics from the Collection, an installation of luxurious tunics from the Andes—some more than 1,000 years old—appears in conjunction with Written in Knots, a major special exhibition of rare South American khipus. 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. Finally, a new series featuring recent discoveries and acquisitions launches in several Courtyard Gallery cases. Some display late Roman and Byzantine scales, weights, and textiles. Another case reveals how Dumbarton Oaks researchers played detective to solve an 800-year-old mystery and showcases important Byzantine lead seals.

Forsythia Dell Soon in Full Bloom
Visit the Garden for a glimpse of gold

March is traditionally the month of forsythia—when golden flowers carpet a secluded corner of our garden, heralding the start of spring. "The onrush of spring at Dumbarton Oaks fairly leaves one breathless before the great billowing mass of forsythia tumbling down hillsides turned to gold," wrote Mildred Bliss, cofounder of Dumbarton Oaks. Sit awhile on the “Two Friends” benches and soak in the glow, which only lasts a few weeks. Discover the Forsythia Dell.

Scholars in the Spotlight

Catch up with our recent speaker and her research
Rosa Ficek talks road trips, violence, and 20th-century modernization, investigating how one transcontinental highway project revealed many Americas. Ficek is associate researcher at the University of Puerto Rico at Cayey.

Digital Tools and Online Treasures

Selections from the Dumbarton Oaks Rare Book Collection

Four online exhibitions curated by Andrés Álvarez Dávila, a Humanities Fellow from 2017 to 2018, unveil close to 300 years of landscape design and architecture in what is now the Netherlands, Germany, and Austria. Meet Hans Vredeman de Vries, a major figure in spreading Renaissance architecture throughout Northern Europe. Delight in Exuberant Visions of the German Baroque, from theatrical palaces and gardens to the Bavarian taste for gaiety. Peruse cityscapes of imperial Vienna to witness the sumptuous development of this Habsburg city in 18th-century Vedute of Vienna. Finally, journey to the Dutch Villas and Gardens of the 17th and 18th Centuries, virtually strolling pleasure houses and gardens that sparked a new villa culture in the Netherlands. Each online exhibition offers zoomable illustrations and valuable context, curating an important selection of European materials from the extensive Dumbarton Oaks Rare Book Collection.
Upcoming Programs

Music at Dumbarton Oaks—Howling Gaels
Irish sing-alongs for St. Patrick’s Day
Sunday, March 17, 7 pm (SOLD OUT) and Monday, March 18, 8 pm

Written in Knots Opening Reception
Behind-the-scenes tours and complimentary refreshments
Thursday, April 4, 6–8 pm

Processions: Urban Ritual in Byzantium and Neighboring Lands
Annual Byzantine Symposium

Landscape, Sport, Environment: The Spaces of Sport from the Early Modern Period to Today
Friday, April 12, 8:30 am–Saturday, April 13, 5 pm

Annual Garden and Landscape Symposium
Friday, May 3, 8:45 am–Saturday, May 4, 5 pm