Athena Ruby Typeface Design Award

Athena Ruby, the OpenType font developed by Dumbarton Oaks for the scholarly publication of Byzantine inscriptions, has received a Typeface Design award from the Type Directors’ Club. Athena Ruby was ranked first, as a judges’ choice, from a pool of more than 200 entries.

Upcoming Events

Wrinkle Face and Iguana: Companions to a Moche Epic

Public lecture by Christopher Donnan, University of California—Los Angeles
Thursday, May 16, 5:30 p.m.
To register, please contact museum@doaks.org

Moche civilization flourished on the north coast of Peru between approximately 100 and 800 CE. Although the Moche had no writing system, they left an extraordinary artistic record of their beliefs and activities. Frequently depicted in Moche art are an individual we call Wrinkle Face, and his companion, an anthropomorphized iguana. Wrinkle Face and Iguana participate in such a wide range of activities that they appear to be symbiotic figures playing central roles in a major epic story.
Christopher B. Donnan is Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at UCLA. Considered one of the world’s foremost authorities on the Moche, he has long combined archaeological research with the systematic analysis of Moche art. Recent publications include *Moche Portraits from Ancient Peru* and *Chotuna and Chornancup: Excavating an Ancient Peruvian Legend*.

Image: *Painted Stirrup-Spout Bottle*, Moche, 400-600 CE, Ceramic, PC.B.578.

**Cultural Landscape Heritage in Sub-Saharan Africa**

**2013 Garden and Landscape Studies Symposium**  
**May 10-11, 2013**

In forty years of symposia, the Garden and Landscape Studies program at Dumbarton Oaks has addressed a nearly global range of cultures, epochs and subjects. But one region is conspicuously absent: sub-Saharan Africa. This omission is particularly glaring, given that the subcontinent is one of the oldest inhabited landscapes on earth, with a staggering range of geographies, cultures, histories and patterns of settlement.

Addressing this gap in scholarship, the symposium will focus primarily on cultural landscape heritage: what we know—or think we know—of pre-colonial landscapes; how they were read and misread in the colonial era; and how they are being reinterpreted in the present for various purposes, including conservation, economic development, education and the creation of national identity.

For the symposium program and further information please visit the [website](#).


**Four Byzantine Manuscripts**

**New Museum Exhibition**

Conceived in conjunction with the 2013 Byzantine Symposium on the “New Testament in Byzantium” the exhibition “Four Byzantine Manuscripts” offers a glimpse into the world of handwritten illuminated texts of the New Testament and draws exclusively from the museum’s Dumbarton Oaks
Byzantine Collection.

The four manuscripts, dating from the eleventh to the thirteenth centuries, represent four book types with varied textual compositions and accompanying illuminations. The miniatures emphasize the sociality of the text, reinforced by sacred symbols and representations that adorned their protective book covers.

The special exhibition will be on view until the end of September 2013. Read more and find the four manuscripts fully digitized and available online here.

_Ces pièces immortelles: Early Numismatic Books in the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library_

New Rare Book Exhibit

New Finding Aids from the Image Collections and Fieldwork Archives

The Image Collections and Fieldwork Archives (ICFA) at the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection is pleased to announce the publication of four new finding aids on the department's archival collections webpage:

*Thomas Whittemore Papers, ca. 1875-1966*
*Early Archaeological Projects Associated with Thomas Whittemore, 1910s-1930s*
*Byzantine Institute and Dumbarton Oaks Fieldwork Records and Papers, ca. late 1920s-2000s*
*Paul Atkins Underwood Research Papers, ca. 1936-1950*

*Read more*>>

Staff Accolades

*Gail Griffin*, Director of the Gardens, has received a 2013 Harvard Hero award. This Harvard program celebrates the outstanding achievements of staff at every level and from across the University, especially those who over the past year have demonstrated the highest levels of contribution, impact, and excellence.
There will be a celebration for the 2013 Harvard Heroes, hosted by President Faust, at Sanders Theatre on June 13, at 3:30 p.m.

Image: Gail Griffin photographed by Joe Mills.

Read more>>

Joel Kalvesmaki, Editor in Byzantine Studies, oversaw the development of Athena Ruby, the OpenType font for Byzantine inscriptions that has recently received a Typeface Design award.

Jan Ziolkowski, Director of Dumbarton Oaks, gave a paper on “The Romantic Range of Romanness” at the Fellows’ Plenary Session of the 2013 Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America. The meeting took place from April 4th to April 6th in Knoxville, Tennessee, and was hosted by the University of Tennessee, the Marco Institute for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, and the Sewanee Medieval Colloquium.

In March, Shalimar Fojas White, Manager of ICFA, presented at the Institute of Museum and Library Services’ annual WebWise conference in Baltimore, MD. She gave a project demonstration for the Nicholas V. Artamonoff Collection online exhibit. IMLS and Heritage Preservation have invited Fojas White to repeat the Artamonoff presentation as an online webinar, as part of their WebWise Reprise 2013 program. Fojas White’s session, Using Collections Images in Online Exhibits, will be held on June 3, 2013 from 2-3:30 PM.

Off the Press

Viewing the Morea: Land and People in the Medieval Peloponnese

Edited by Sharon E. J. Gerstel

“I'm going to tell you a great tale, and if you will listen to me, I hope it will please you.” The opening line of the Chronicle of the Morea sets the stage for this volume, which examines the late medieval Peloponnese following its conquest by Crusader knights. Too often omitted from this myth of Crusader foundation are the large numbers of Orthodox villagers and town dwellers who
shared the region. Layered upon the historical and physical topography of this region, too, are the traces of the Venetians, whose “right eye,” Modon, was located at the southwestern tip of the peninsula. The Turkish layers, revealed in standing fortresses, toponyms, vernacular poetry, and pottery, also left deep traces on the ground and remain in collective memory. The authors of this volume look at the Morea and its people in the broadest possible manner and with careful attention to written and material evidence, historiography, economic networks, and the making—or re-telling—of myths.

**Read more and purchase>>**

**Merchants, Markets, and Exchange in the Pre-Columbian World**

*Edited by Kenneth G. Hirth and Joanne Pillsbury*

This book examines the structure, scale, and complexity of economic systems in the pre-Hispanic Americas, with a focus on the central highlands of Mexico, the Maya Lowlands, and the central Andes. Societies in the Mexican highlands are recognized as having a highly commercial economy centered around one of the world’s most complex market systems; those of the Maya region are characterized as having reciprocal exchange networks and periodic marketplaces that supplemented the dominant role of the palace; and those of the central Andes are recognized as having multiple forms of resource distribution, including household-to-household reciprocity, barter, environmental complementarity, and limited market exchange. Papers in this volume examine various dimensions of these ancient economies, including the presence of marketplaces, the operation of merchants, the role of artisans, and the trade and distribution networks through which goods were bought, sold, and exchanged.

**Read more and purchase>>**

**Designing Wildlife Habitats**

*Edited by John Beardsley*

The vision of a garden shared peacefully by humans and animals is a familiar, but elusive, landscape trope. Whether threatened by habitat destruction or climate change, displaced by urbanization or invasive species, poisoned by industrial toxins, or hunted to extinction, many wild animals have failed to thrive in the company of people. There is growing scientific consensus that we are in the midst of the sixth great extinction in earth history—and the first caused by human activities. What agency can landscape architects and garden designers have in conserving or restoring wildlife diversity? This volume gathers essays by designers, scientists, and historians to explore how
they might better collaborate to promote zoological biodiversity and how scientific ambitions might be expressed in culturally significant and historically informed design.

Read more and purchase>>

From the Archives

“Underworld Courier”: The Dumbarton Oaks Newsletter from the Pre-Digital Era

During the early years of the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, a group of eight librarians, cataloguers, and researchers inhabited the basement area that now houses the Dumbarton Oaks Archives. They referred to this area as “The Underworld.” In 1941, with the participation of Louisa Bellinger, Research Assistant for the Dumbarton Oaks Census, this group “published” Dumbarton Oaks’ first newsletter, the “Underworld Courier.” In the “Courier,” which was typed and replicated with carbon paper, there were brief reports on all aspects of the new institution: the library, the Collection, the Census, the gardens, the Fellows’ Quarters—even a weather report.

Read more>>

Image: From the “St. Valentine’s Day Issue” (1941), with images of a selection of Coptic textiles depicting “Cupid” and hearts.

Friends of Music

Two gifted young virtuosi filled the Music Room with a tasty musical meal on April 21 and 22, at the final concerts of the 2012-13 season. Displaying some flashy finger work tempered with considerable musicality, violinist Ray Chen’s and pianist Julio Elizalde’s program of standards by Mozart, Brahms, Ysaÿe, and Saint-Saëns was a huge audience pleaser. As an encore, the artists offered the “Theme from Schindler’s List,” by John Williams, bringing the concert year to a sweet and wistful close. The concert was reviewed favorably in the Washington Post.
The Friends of Music 2013-14 season will be announced in the June newsletter. The series is always open to new subscribers, when space is available. You may learn more about the Friends of Music on our [website](#).

Image: Ray Chen and Julio Elizalde in the Music Room.

**Good Ink**

The April issue of *Architect*, the magazine of the American Institute of Architects, highlights the Pre-Columbian Pavilion at Dumbarton Oaks, designed by Philip Johnson, as “the best hidden secret in Washington, D.C.” Read it [here](#).

**Now on View**

- **All Sides Considered**
  
  New Research on the Maya Collection
  
  Open through June 21, 2013

- **50 Years of Pre-Columbian Art**
  
  through December 2013

- **Architectural Contrasts**
  
  through December 2013