Mellon Foundation Award in Urban Landscape Studies

Dumbarton Oaks is pleased to announce the award of a major grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to create a new interdisciplinary program in urban landscape studies. The grant of $850,000, disbursed over four years, was awarded through the Mellon Foundation’s initiative in

Above: John Beardsley, Director of Garden and Landscape Studies, and Anatole Tchikine, postdoctoral associate.
“Architecture, Urbanism, and the Humanities.” It will add a significant new focus to the existing program in Garden and Landscape Studies at Dumbarton Oaks, bringing landscape architects and historians together to explore how urban environments got to be the way they are and how best to manage them today.

The grant will be used for the Mellon Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies. It will involve three principal components: a new program of fellowships to be shared among designers and academics, as well as shorter-term residencies for senior practitioners; a series of academic events to foster interactions among scholars and practitioners; and a series of public programs, including lectures, colloquia, workshops, and publications. The Mellon Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies will be led by John Beardsley, Director of Garden and Landscape Studies at Dumbarton Oaks.

Mariët Westermann, Vice President of the Foundation, wrote that “we are thrilled about the work Dumbarton Oaks will be undertaking and the contribution it will make to the developing dialogue between humanities scholars and landscape practitioners. The combined attention to historical and design considerations in landscape urbanism is a powerful development in the field.”

Read more about the new Mellon Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies [here](#).

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**MARAC Finding Aid Award for ICFA**

The Image Collections and Fieldwork Archives (ICFA) has received the 2014 [Frederic M. Miller Finding Aid Award](#) from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference (MARAC). The award was given to “The Byzantine Institute and Dumbarton Oaks Fieldwork Records and Papers, ca. late 1920s-2000s” finding aid for “providing more granular access to a very large collection.” The finding aid is available in both [PDF format](#) and in ICFA’s online inventory, [Atom@DO](#).

The committee evaluates submissions based on their outstanding content, innovation, and design capabilities. Previous winners include: Princeton University Library, Delaware Public Archives, New York Public Library, Archives of American Art (Smithsonian Institution), and the Museum of Modern Art Archives.

Read more about the finding aid award [here](#) and at the [ICFA blog](#).

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**Above:** Conservation of Mosaics in Hagia Sophia, Istanbul, Turkey. Thomas Whittemore and Byzantine Institute fieldworker in apse conch, 1939. HS.BIA.1351. From The Byzantine Institute and Dumbarton Oaks Fieldwork Records and Papers, ca. late 1920s-2000s, MS.BZ.004, Image Collections and Fieldwork Archives.

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**Harvard Heroes Award for Kathy Sparkes**
Kathy Sparkes, Director of Publications at Dumbarton Oaks, has been named a 2014 Harvard Hero. Harvard Heroes is an annual program that recognizes and celebrates the exceptional contributions of Harvard staff. At Dumbarton Oaks, Sparkes has lifted the publication series to a new level of prominence, including two recent book awards in the fields of art history and archaeology (Ancient Maya Art and Past Presented) She also led the development and redesign of the Dumbarton Oaks website, launched in May 2012. Since then, the Dumbarton Oaks website has been visited nearly 690,000 times with more than 4.1 million individual page views.

Pre-Columbian Studies Spring Workshop

“Pre-Wari, Wari, and Inka Khipus: An Investigation of General Andean Cord Recording Principles and Technologies”
April 11 and 12, 2014

Above: A diagram of a Middle Horizon khipu, based on an object from the collections of the American Museum of Natural History (41.2/7679), by workshop participant Professor Jeffrey Splitstoser.

Led by Professor Gary Urton, the workshop explored the bookkeeping that supported the development of state administration and bureaucracy in the Andes, with particular attention paid to the system of Andean cord recording known by the Quechua term khipu and representing a specialized branch of
Ekaterina Nechaeva traveled to Cambridge as part of the Dumbarton Oaks/Harvard Exchange program. While there, she had the opportunity to present the project on which she has been working this year at Dumbarton Oaks to a new audience of colleagues at Harvard. “This enriching experience,” Ekaterina notes, “will be of tremendous inspiration for the development of my project.”

Ekaterina also participated in an informal roundtable, *Border Crossings*, cosponsored by the Medieval Studies and Medieval History workshops.

Read more about Ekaterina’s visit to Harvard here.

Above, left to right: Nate Aschenbrenner, Ekaterina Nechaeva, and Rowan Dorin.

Harvard Class Visit
On April 18, 2014, Professor Dimiter Angelov visited Dumbarton Oaks with five students from his Byzantine Civilization (600–1453) class. During their visit, the students were introduced to several departments of Dumbarton Oaks, participated in two object-study sessions, and had the opportunity to give informal talks on objects from the Byzantine Collection. Aaron Palmer and Daniel Lupatkin presented on a pyxis, Alexandra Tartaglia presented on a reliquary, Diptarka Hait presented on the Roundel with John II Comnenus, and Alicia Koski presented on Byzantine Seals.

Read more about the visit [here](#).

### Music in the Collections of Dumbarton Oaks

A new exhibition, *Music in the Collections of Dumbarton Oaks*, draws items from the library’s general and rare-book collections, the Image Collections and Fieldwork Archives, and the Dumbarton Oaks Archives. Featured are musical manuscripts owned by Mr. and Mrs. Bliss, facsimiles of medieval musical manuscripts (Byzantine, Slavic, and assorted Western), and sources for Pre-Columbian music. Designed to complement the Byzantine Studies and Garden and Landscape Studies symposia, the new installation in the gardens, and the Byzantine Greek Summer School, the exhibition will be on display on level 4 of the Research Library until late July 2014.

From the Archives
The Analog Photography Era (1944–2004)

In 1944, the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection began to commit considerable resources, including a full-time staff photographer, to the acquisition and production of photographic images of Byzantine artworks. This collection, now an integral part of the Dumbarton Oaks Image Collections and Fieldwork Archives, numbered 1,300 images in 1944-45 and grew by some 2,000 or 3,000 images annually until it reportedly reached 10,000 images in 1949-50.

In 1963, Dumbarton Oaks built its first fully appointed photography studio and darkroom. In 1964, a new photographer, Richard Amt, was hired to run this studio. A photograph taken in the studio commemorates the new studio and its first year.

Find out more about the analog photography era at Dumbarton Oaks here.


Friends of Music
REBEL | April 6 and 7, 2013
On April 6 and 7, the Baroque strings of REBEL (pronounced re-BEL), with recorder and flute virtuoso Matthias Maute, performed the final pair of concerts of the 2013–14 season. Their program, called “Rediscoveries,” included rare concertos and sonatas by contemporaries of J. S. Bach: Georg Philipp Telemann, George Frederick Handel, Johann Theile, Theodor Schwartzkopff, Giorgio Belitze, Johann Adolf Hasse, and Anonymous. Matthias Maute’s striking arrangement of J. S. Bach’s “Italian Concerto” as a concerto for recorder and strings transformed the familiar solo keyboard work into a rarity indeed, and was a highlight of the evening.

Good Ink

Sarah Burke Cahalan, Special Projects and Reference Librarian at Dumbarton Oaks, is featured in a series of interviews conducted by Fine Books and Collections, a magazine for rare book professionals.

The Friends of Music concerts by REBEL are reviewed in the Washington Post.

Past Presented: Archaeological Illustration and the Ancient Americas, winner of the Association for Latin American Art’s annual book prize, was reviewed by Dana Leibsohn in the March issue of Visual Resources.

The Athena Ruby font, winner of the prestigious 2013 Typeface Design award, appears in Typeface 34, the annual of the Type Directors Club. The judge’s statement notes that the font “will have a strong impact on interpretation and scholarship.”