

# Dumbarton Oaks

## Research Library and Collection

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### Renovation of the Gardens



The gardens will be closed to the public from July 10, 2017, to March 15, 2018, as we undertake large-scale improvements to the water-supply network. [Visit our website](#) for more information.

### Museum Reopens to Public



The museum reopened on April 25, 2017. After extensive renovations, we welcome visitors to enjoy our galleries and new exhibits. [Visit our website](#) for more information.

### 2017–2018 Fellows and Project Grants

Dumbarton Oaks is excited to announce the recipients of its fellowships and project grants for the upcoming academic year. A diverse group of scholars and students, ranging from recent college graduates to established scholars finalizing longstanding projects, have accepted the awards. For a complete list of awardees and project titles, [visit our website](#).

### Lights in the Dark

Paul Magdalino Delivers Byzantine Studies Public Lecture



As far as the seventh and eighth centuries in Byzantium are concerned, Paul Magdalino believes that “darkness is still a rather appropriate description.” And yet, in a recent talk delivered at Dumbarton Oaks, Magdalino sought to cast “material light” on this darkness by examining two surviving buildings and their connections to demographic revival and reconstruction in the eighth century. [Read a write-up of the talk.](#)

## On Mysticism and Materiality

Racha Kirakosian Examines the Fabric of Medieval Mysticism



From mid-March to mid-April, Dumbarton Oaks welcomed Racha Kirakosian as a Director’s Visiting Scholar. An assistant professor of German and the Study of Religion at Harvard, Kirakosian’s current research project examines medieval female mysticism and its relation to materiality. [Read an interview](#) with Kirakosian.

## Fellows in the Spotlight



Catch up with our fellows and their research in our ongoing series:

- [Nicolas Beaudry](#), a professor at the University of Quebec at Rimouski, has been working on Byllis, an ancient Greek city located in modern-day Albania, for more than a decade.
- [Hartmut Troll](#), a landscape architect and honorary professor at Heidelberg University, is currently researching Friedrich Ludwig von Sckell, who introduced the English garden style into Germany.
- [John Zaleski](#) is a Tyler fellow at Dumbarton Oaks studying the interactions of Christian and Muslim asceticism from the seventh to the ninth century.

[Read similar conversations](#) with other current fellows.



Abbey Stockstill, a Tyler fellow at Dumbarton Oaks whose research centers on the [urban landscape of Marrakesh](#), has been updating the [Middle East Garden Traditions](#) to expand the scholarly purview of the project to the North African landscape. [Read more about her work.](#)

## What We Learned in the Gardens

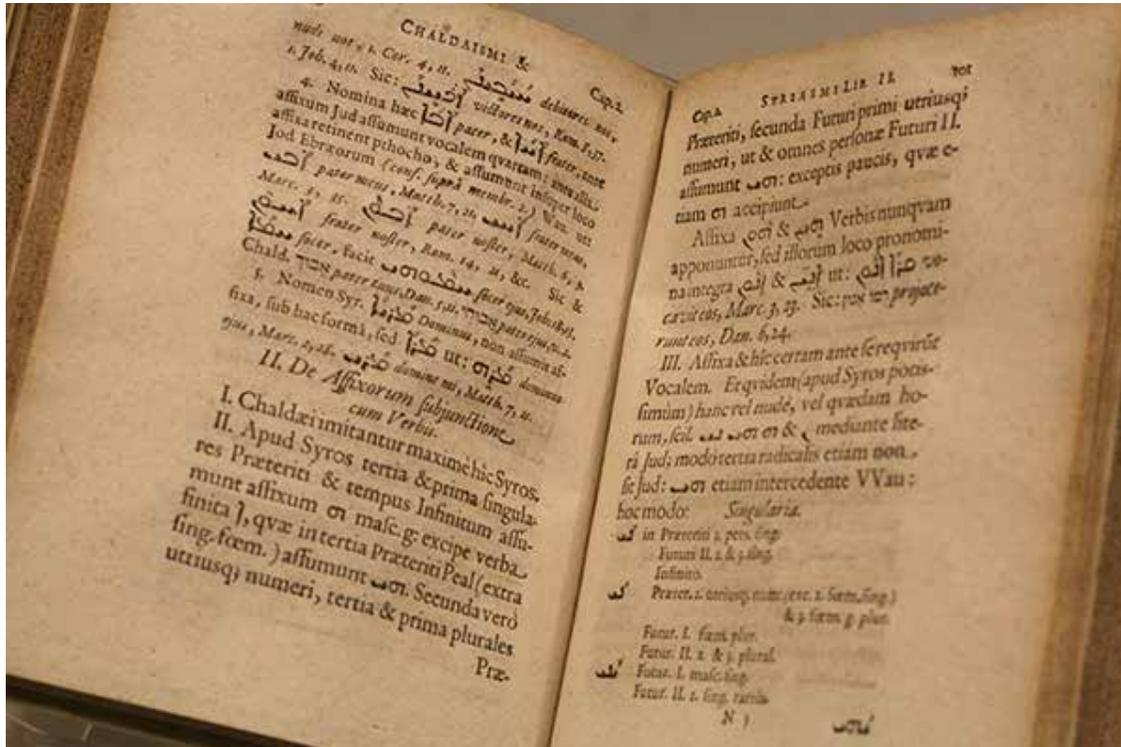
School Programming for Second-Graders Nurtures Curiosity and Wonder



For the past several months, postgraduate fellow Nathalie Miraval has worked to develop and implement educational programming in the Dumbarton Oaks Gardens for second-graders from Hyde-Addison Elementary School. [Read her reflections](#) on the process and a description of the visits.

## New Acquisition

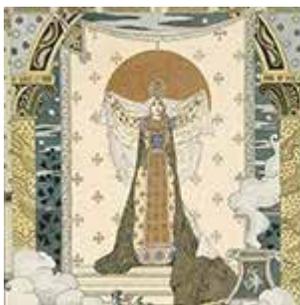
Andreas Sennert's Medieval Grammars



The seventeenth-century philologist Andreas Sennert produced pioneering studies of a number of languages over the course of his life. Recently, the Dumbarton Oaks [Rare Book Collection](#) acquired a compendium of works by Sennert and his mentor Martin Trost that examine the roots of Hebrew, Chaldean, Syriac, and Arabic. [Read more about the acquisition.](#)

## From the Archives

### Images of Another Empress



Although recent news from our [Ephemera Collection](#) has focused on the Byzantine empress [Theodora](#), in this month's post, archivist James Carder draws attention to a different sort of ruler.

Esclarmonde, the fictional Byzantine empress and sorceress featured in Jules Massenet's 1889 opera, is brought beautifully to life in an art-nouveau program. To read more, [visit our website.](#)

## Good Ink

Recently, [KidFriendly DC](#), a website that offers recommendations for recreational activities in the D.C. area, featured the Dumbarton Oaks Gardens on a list of lovely sites that are perfect for [weekday visits](#). "The grounds will be popping with color this time of year," the post reads, "making an already beautiful place even more exquisite."

## Now on View

Discover Dumbarton Oaks' collections in several special exhibitions.



*Women in Art, 1850–1910* examines the fashionably dressed, urban woman of the late nineteenth century in works collected by the Blisses, who admired the art of the Impressionists.



*Ancient Bronzes in the Dumbarton Oaks Collections* highlights the craft of bronze metallurgy and its techniques, and the use and meaning of ancient works in bronze.



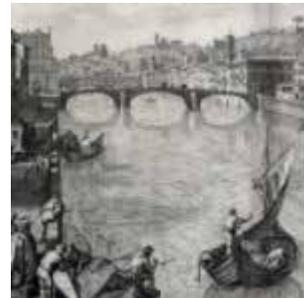
*Imagining the Empress: Theodora in Popular Culture, 1882–1922* shows how the Byzantine empress captured the public imagination at the end of the nineteenth century.



*Early Bliss Acquisitions: Collecting in Paris and London, 1912–1916* explores the taste and acquisitions of Robert and Mildred Bliss when they resided in Paris.



*Ancient Textiles* features late Roman and early Byzantine hangings and curtains alongside Andean looped and woven garments.



*City Water/City Life* traces the development of water elements in three historic cities and their interaction with social and cultural milieus.

