Please note: events this month are canceled, and the museum and garden are closed until further notice. In the meantime, explore our new and open-access publications, as well as the many digital tools and online treasures of Dumbarton Oaks.

Teotihuacan: The World Beyond the City

New book provides first comparative discussion of Teotihuacan's foreign policy
Teotihuacan was a city of major importance in the Americas between 1 and 550 CE. As one of only two cities in the New World with a population over one hundred thousand, it developed a network of influence that stretched across Mesoamerica. *Teotihuacan: The World Beyond the City* brings together specialists in art and archaeology to develop a synthetic overview of the urban, political, economic, and religious organization of a key power in Classic-period Mesoamerica. Edited by David M. Carballo, Kenneth G. Hirth, and Barbara Arroyo, the volume...
provides the first comparative discussion of Teotihuacan’s foreign policy with respect to the Central Mexican Highlands, Oaxaca, Veracruz, and the Maya Lowlands and Highlands.

New Edited Volume Sheds Light on Pre-Columbian Social Authority

Sacred Matter: Animacy and Authority in the Americas
In practices of animation, things were cast as active subjects, agents of political change, and representatives of communities. Pre-Columbian peoples staked claims to their authority when they animated matter by giving life to grandiose buildings, speaking with deified boulders, and killing valued objects. Likewise, things and places often animated people by demanding labor, care, and nourishment. Sacred Matter: Animacy and Authority in the Americas examines animism in Pre-Columbian America, focusing on the central roles objects and places played in practices that expressed and sanctified political authority in the Andes, Amazon, and
Three New Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library Volumes Now Available

Receive a 20% discount and free shipping to the US and Canada this month
Dive into three new facing-page translations of Byzantine Greek, medieval Latin, and Old English texts, now available from the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library. To receive a 20% discount, plus free standard shipping in the United States and Canada, order from our virtual exhibit hall for the International Congress on Medieval Studies through the end of May. All Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library volumes are eligible, as are selected other books.

The first English translation of *On Morals or Concerning Education* by Theodore Metochites
probes hotly disputed issues in fourteenth-century Byzantine society. Translated by Sophia Xenophontos, the treatise is an exhortation on the importance of education by the prolific late-Byzantine author and statesman. Meanwhile, Appendix Ovidiana: Latin Poems Ascribed to Ovid in the Middle Ages offers the first comprehensive collection and English translation of these pseudonymous medieval Latin poems. Read the volume translated by Ralph Hexter, Laura Pfuntner, and Justin Haynes and consider the question of when imitation of an author morphs into masquerade. Finally, Anonymous Old English Lives of Saints presents new translations and Old English editions from Johanna Kramer, Hugh Magennis, and Robin Norris. The stories detail 22 unattributed lives of saints ranging from Saint Nicholas to Saint Mary of Egypt, set everywhere from Antioch to India.

Woven Interiors: Furnishing Early Medieval Egypt Catalogue Made Open Access

Download the free catalogue for the recent cocurated exhibition
Experience the vibrant colors and array of textures that enlivened interior spaces in early medieval Egypt. Recent exhibition *Woven Interiors*—a collaboration with The George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum—presented rare and fragile masterpieces from major American institutions, including many textiles that had never before been exhibited or had remained in storage for decades. Now, download the digital catalogue free of charge to explore some sixty remarkable pieces. Essays from curators Gudrun Bühl, Sumru Belger Krody, and Dumbarton Oaks Assistant Curator of the Byzantine Collection Elizabeth Dospěl Williams highlight major themes of the exhibition, including aesthetics, sacred imagery, comfort at home, and continuity and change. To purchase a hard copy of the catalogue, contact our Museum Shop.
Order Popular Dumbarton Oaks Books with a Discount in May

Read about Byzantium and the Arabs, the letters of patriarchs, Pre-Columbian art history, and more

If you are working from home during the month ahead, take a break or supplement your research with paperback editions of popular titles published by Dumbarton Oaks. In May, get a 20% discount on any one order, no matter how large. Volumes in Dumbarton Oaks Texts, the Washington series of the international Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae, provide critical editions with facing-page translation, together with introduction and notes or commentary. Available as individual volumes or a complete set, Irfan Shahid’s seven-volume history Byzantium and the Arabs recounts the relationship between the Arabs and the Eastern Roman Empire from 64 BCE to the advent of Islam. Three edited volumes by Elizabeth Benson, first director of Pre-Columbian Studies, examine the cult of the feline, death and the afterlife, and Chavin. Browse these and a number of other titles, using coupon code WFH20 to receive the discount.

Classic Monographs in Pre-Columbian Studies Available for Free Download
Open access to 35 volumes of Studies in Pre-Columbian Art and Archaeology

Classic Maya Place Names

David Stuart and Stephen D. Houston

From Aztec iconography to Olmec paintings to Chavín culture, explore important themes in the series Studies in Pre-Columbian Art and Archaeology. These classic monographs highlight
research drawing on archaeological, art historical, and ethnohistorical approaches to the Pre-Columbian past in Mesoamerica, Central America, and the Andes. Titles include *Zapotec Hieroglyphic Writing, Classic Maya Place Names, The Burial Theme in Moche Iconography, and Ecology and the Arts in Ancient Panama*. Volumes 1–35 of Studies in Pre-Columbian Art and Archaeology are now open-access. Volumes 36–40 are available for purchase in hardcover, or obtain a digital copy via JSTOR by purchase or subscription.

**Thousands of Images of Syrian Architectural Heritage Released on Wikimedia Commons**

**Photographs document a region now devastated by violence**

More than 9,700 photographs of Late Roman and Byzantine monuments in Syria are being uploaded to [Wikimedia Commons](https://commons.wikimedia.org), in keeping with our Access Initiative to make Dumbarton Oaks collections and scholarship more broadly available. In 2016, retired historian Frank Kidner donated photographs he had taken of Syrian sites in the 1980s and 1990s to Dumbarton Oaks. Emphasizing ancient villages in the modern-day province Idlib, west of Aleppo along the border
with Turkey, the Frank Kidner Photographs collection documents sites of historical and archaeological significance while capturing scenes of daily life. His poignant photographs of children playing among the nearly 2,000-year-old ruins stand in stark contrast to familiar images of the ongoing refugee and displacement crisis stemming from the Syrian Civil War. Kidner created a comprehensive resource—drawing together topography, evidence of communities that once lived in the region, and architectural details—that is useful for researchers and scholars across a breadth of fields.

New Distance Learning Materials for Families, Teachers, and Students

Ecology paper craft for young artists and Advanced Placement exam preparation

Families, teachers, and students can find resources on our website to supplement distance learning. High school students planning to take the AP World History exam can practice with a sample Document-Based Question (DBQ), plus grading rubric and tips. Young artists in middle school and up can learn about the plant-bird relationship while creating a stunning hummingbird mobile out of paper. Download these new resources as well as a grade 6–12 ecosystem lesson plan and botanical art coloring sheets related to the exhibition Margaret Mee: Portraits of Plants. And don’t forget our Zoom and Webex backgrounds to bring the garden or museum into your virtual classroom. Check our website for future additions to educational materials.
When Art Meets Conservation

New video and online exhibit for Margaret Mee: Portraits of Plants

As fires in the Amazon threaten the habitats of native plant species, it is even more important now to recognize the work of artists who strive to document, preserve, and protect local flora. A new video explores how artists and illustrators like Margaret Mee (1909–1988) have helped further conservation of the natural world. Meet Alice Tangerini, staff illustrator in the botany department of the National Museum of Natural History, and Nirupa Rao, botanical illustrator and National Geographic Young Explorer, as they discuss their efforts to highlight the agency and importance of plants. Then dive into the online exhibit for Margaret Mee: Portraits of Plants, which examines the enduring interplay between art and science through botanical illustration, watercolor, photography, and new digital tools and maps. Look closely at stunning paintings of Amazonian flora by Mee, and discover the longstanding tradition of women botanical artists and illustrators through Rare Book Collection materials and notable loans.
Discover the Middle Ages and Its Afterlife

Open access and discounted books, virtual tour, lectures, and additional resources
If you are working from home during the month ahead, take a break or supplement your research with paperback editions of popular titles published by Dumbarton Oaks. In May, get a 20% discount on any one order, no matter how large. Volumes in Dumbarton Oaks Texts, the
Washington series of the international Corpus Fontium Historiae Byzantinae, provide critical editions with facing-page translation, together with introduction and notes or commentary. Available as individual volumes or a complete set, Irfan Shahid's seven-volume history Byzantium and the Arabs recounts the relationship between the Arabs and the Eastern Roman Empire from 64 BCE to the advent of Islam. Three edited volumes by Elizabeth Benson, first director of Pre-Columbian Studies, examine the cult of the feline, death and the afterlife, and Chavin. Browse these and a number of other titles, using coupon code WFH20 to receive the discount.

Folger Institute Team Visits the Rare Book Collection

Plant Humanities Initiative scholars shared research with Folger Before "Farm to Table" team in February

From the cold and icy North American coastline to the sumptuous palace gardens of the French kings, one plant inspired curiosity of travelers, doctors, and scholars: arbor vitae, or the “tree of life.” Discover the mysterious tale of this life-giving tree—along with unexpected stories of more familiar plants like turmeric, mint, kudzu, and cacao—in a behind-the-scenes look at ongoing research by the Plant Humanities Initiative. In February, Plant Humanities fellows shared their
work with a group from another Andrew W. Mellon Foundation-funded project: Before “Farm to Table” at the Folger Institute. Building bridges across the projects, the researchers encouraged each other to look at their collections in new ways and discussed such shared themes as indigenous knowledge and plant mobility.

**Dumbarton Oaks by the Numbers**

More than 100,000 pages made open access

![Graph showing digitization progress from 2011 to 2019]

In the past seven years, the Dumbarton Oaks library has digitized over 100,000 pages of rare books, photographs, and archival materials. 12,063 pages were digitized in 2019 alone.

**Plant Spotting Around DC**

Enjoy favorites from our garden in your neighborhood
As the danger of frost recedes in May, the garden springs to life. Here are highlights from our gardens—which you can explore by virtual tour—including plants you might spy on a neighborhood walk or grow in your home garden. Look for peonies, a May-blooming plant with tremendous variety in color and flower form. Just give these perennials well-drained soils, full sun, and some stacking or support, and they will reward you year after year with long-lasting blooms for flower arranging. The vegetable garden also thrives in May. Beets, leeks, chives, and swiss chard are ready for harvest. Throughout the month, gardeners at Dumbarton Oaks plant cool-season kale, rhubarb, parsley, and lettuce, and warm-season tomatoes, eggplants, zucchini, beans, peppers, plus herbs such as basil, rosemary, cilantro, marjoram, and oregano. Finally, this month is ideal for planting summer-flowering annual plants. Some Dumbarton Oaks favorites include petunias, Angelonia, Ageratum (good for sun or shade), Vinca periwinkles, Lantana (good for poor and dry soils in full sun), and marigolds, which also deter pests and rodents in the vegetable garden.

Fellows in the Spotlight

Catch up with our fellows and their research
Ann Komara digs deep into a celebrated nineteenth-century public park transformed from a quarry site, contextualizing highly influential landscapes and urban designs in Second Empire Paris. Komara is a professor of landscape architecture and urban design at the University of Colorado Denver.

Brad Boswell investigates angels, demons, Moses, and the role of narrative conflict in a fifth-century anti-Christian treatise and its lengthy refutation. Boswell is a PhD candidate in early Christianity at Duke University.

Patricia Vigderman explores time, cultural identity, and startling contradictions in Rome, such as antiquities in an electrical plant. Vigderman is emerita assistant professor of English at Kenyon College.

Philip Gant studies landscape and lawsuits, documenting how Korean Buddhist monastics were engaged in some of late Chosŏn society’s most creative legal problem-solving. Gant is a PhD candidate in history and East Asian languages (HEAL) at Harvard University.

Lewis Hyde talks hunting for butterflies, Buddhism, and the problem of the unforgettable. Hyde is Emeritus Richard L. Thomas Professor in Creative Writing at Kenyon College.
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