Upcoming Events

Glorifying the City in Counter-Reformation Italy: Girolamo Righettino Rediscovered
Denis Ribouillault Delivers the 2016 Garden and Landscape Studies Public Lecture

Wednesday, November 9, 5:30 p.m.
The Oak Room, Fellowship House, 1700 Wisconsin Avenue NW

Denis Ribouillault, associate professor in early modern art history and graduate program director at the University of Montreal, Canada, will deliver a lecture on the city views drawn by the Italian theologian Girolamo Righettino in the mid-sixteenth century. Righettino's drawings offer a window into the intricacies of urban art in Counter-Reformation Italy. Ribouillault's talk will utilize newly discovered documents to investigate the relationships between religious and territorial power, politics and urban space, and allegory and topography. For more information and to register, visit our website.

Documentary Filmmaking as Vocation
The Dumbarton Oaks Humanities Fellowships Lecture Series

Thursday, November 17, 5:30 p.m.
The Oak Room, Fellowship House, 1700 Wisconsin Avenue NW

D.C.-area documentary filmmakers Erica Ginsberg, Sandy Cannon-Brown, and Andy Fernandez will discuss their work and careers in the second of six talks held in association with the new Dumbarton Oaks Humanities Fellowships. The discussion will focus on the broad ideals that have inspired their work and the practical steps they've taken to produce it. For more information or to
RSVP, please contact events@doaks.org.

Interpreting Pre-Hispanic Peru through Its Textiles
Ann Pollard Rowe Delivers the 2016 Pre-Columbian Studies Public Lecture

Thursday, December 1, 2016, 5:30 p.m.
The Oak Room, Fellowship House, 1700 Wisconsin Avenue NW

The dry desert coast of Peru has preserved many textiles, which attest to a rich and varied tradition. Boasting intense technological complexity and elaborate religious iconography, these textiles afford a powerful and unique view into the cultures that made them. Ann Pollard Rowe, research associate of Western Hemisphere Textiles at the Textile Museum, will discuss several examples, including specimens from the Late Paracas period, tapestry-woven Huari textiles, and tunics and other garments found in Chancay. For more information and to register, visit our website.

Monarch Butterflies Flutter By
The New Pollinator Garden at Dumbarton Oaks

Over the past year, the garden staff has installed a new pollinator garden in the swale near the garden offices. Deirdre Moore, Tyler fellow in Garden and Landscape Studies, designed the garden to attract a range of pollinators, including several monarch butterflies, which hatched from eggs as caterpillars, formed chrysalises, and then emerged as adults this past fall. Watch video of these life stages of the monarch butterfly shot here at Dumbarton Oaks, and look at a photo slideshow of the development of the new garden, on our website.

Looking for the Nomads
Florin Curta Delivers the 2016 Byzantine Studies Public Lecture

On October 13, Professor Florin Curta of the University of Florida spoke on the difficulties of studying nomadic peoples in general, and the particular struggles of tracing nomadic interactions with the Byzantine Empire. His talk, “An Uneasy Relation: Byzantium and the Nomads,” delineated the contemporary Byzantine understanding of nomads, a view heavily reliant on classical stereotypes, while discussing new archaeological evidence that has recently complicated longstanding ethnographic classifications of nomadic peoples. The lecture can be viewed online, while a summary of the talk can be read here.

Contextualizing Robert
The 2016 Garden and Landscape Studies Colloquium on Hubert Robert and French Garden Culture

What led the French painter Hubert Robert to develop his innovative style of capriccio painting? What experiences shaped his worldview, half-romantic and half-fantastic, yet always ruin-obsessed? How did his second career as a landscape designer influence his intricately plotted paintings? On September 27, the Garden and Landscape Studies program at Dumbarton Oaks held its annual colloquium, a day-long event that attempted to answer these questions while providing a nuanced overview of French garden culture in the 1700s. A summary of the day’s proceedings can be read online.

Fellows in the Spotlight
Eleni Kefala, Jessica MacLellan, and Adam Goldwyn

This year, Dumbarton Oaks is glad to be able to offer a window on the weekly research reports
given by fellows—one of the traditions that best draws together the institution’s intellectual energy in collegial conversation. Eleni Kefala, Jessica MacLellan, and Adam Goldwyn recently delivered research reports that contextualized their work in the fields of Byzantine and Pre-Columbian studies. Read short summaries of their talks, along with brief question-and-answer sessions, on our website.

The New Testament in Byzantium

New from Dumbarton Oaks Publications

The 2013 Byzantine Studies spring symposium is now available in physical form. The New Testament in Byzantium (Harvard University Press), edited by Derek Krueger and Robert S. Nelson, contains the polished results of the symposium, which sought to investigate the myriad ways that the New Testament was entangled in Byzantine life and thought. A successor to The Old Testament in Byzantium (2010), the current volume offers a synoptic view of the intersections of liturgy and culture, examining the astonishing pervasiveness of the New Testament in Byzantine times, from the way it was understood, known, and read, to the way it structured time and shaped the nature of preaching throughout Byzantine history. More information can be found on the Harvard University Press website.

Good Ink

Cultural Landscape Heritage in Sub-Saharan Africa, edited by Garden and Landscape Studies Director John Beardsley, was recently written about in the African Studies Review. Describing the volume as a “beautifully produced book,” the review cited the volume’s excellent historical outlines and intriguing suggestions for further research as standout elements.

Thanks to the Bliss Symposium Awards, two graduate students from Harvard were recently able to attend the Garden and Landscape Studies colloquium on Hubert Robert and French garden culture. Cabelle Ahn, a PhD candidate in the history of art and architecture, and Carlo Urmy, an MLA candidate at the Graduate School of Design, spent the day reflecting on topics ranging from the French picturesque to the temporality of sculpture. Read their dispatches on the day’s proceedings and what they learned.
From the Archives
Ephemera: Dumbarton Oaks Disciplines as Viewed in Popular Culture

Since 2015, the Dumbarton Oaks Archives has been collecting historical ephemera related to its fields of study. In this month’s post, Lane Baker, the postgraduate fellow in ephemera, sorts though the postcards, stamps, playbills, and flyers that constitute the collection, homing in on three unique items that offer forgotten perspectives on the past.

From the Gardens

Autumn flowers on the Fountain Terrace. Photo: Nathalie Miraval.