Museum Special Exhibition Reception
November 5, 2015, at 6 p.m. | Byzantine Courtyard

Join us for a reception to celebrate 75 Years/75 Objects, the museum’s special exhibition in conjunction with the seventy-fifth anniversary of Dumbarton Oaks. In November the third round of the exhibit, entitled Collecting, will be on display. Light refreshments will be served in the Byzantine Courtyard.

For more information and to RSVP, please email museum@doaks.org.

Fragments for Granted
Byzantine Textiles at Dumbarton Oaks
You’ve seen the colorful Byzantine textiles in our galleries. What’s the story behind them? Check out this video to learn more about our textile collection from Post-Doctoral Teaching Fellow Elizabeth Williams.

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**New in the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library**

The *Poetic Works* of Bernardus Silvestris

Bernardus, a twelfth-century monk in Tours, wanted nothing less than to encompass all of creation as he and his contemporaries understood it—theology and astronomy, geography and biology, botany and anatomy—in a single enormous work of art. The result of his work, the *Cosmographia*, is an underappreciated masterpiece that reacts to classical authors from Plato to Cicero and paves the way for Dante’s *Divine Comedy*.

The Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library’s new edition of the *Poetic Works of Bernardus Silvestris*, edited and translated by Winthrop Wetherbee, brings the *Cosmographia* together with Bernardus’s three other extant poems in a single volume that presents the original Latin alongside an English
prose translation. It is the first new edition of his poetry in more than two decades, and the first ever that is aimed specifically at a general audience.

Read more about the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library’s latest release here.

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**From the Rare Book Collection**

The “Useful Art-Book of Gardening”

Hans Puechfeldner, *Nützliches Khünstbüech der Gartnerej* (probably 1593)

In the late sixteenth century, Hans Puechfeldner, the court gardener of the Holy Roman Emperor Rudolf II, filled three books with hand-drawn designs for elaborate and lavish gardens, inspired by the revolutions in architecture and perspective that were taking place in Northern Europe. Today, one of these unique volumes is in the Dumbarton Oaks Rare Book Collection, and can be viewed anywhere in the world through our Rare Book Digitization Project.

Read more about Puechfeldner’s “wilder imaginings” here.
75th Anniversary Blog
Taking the Plunge: The Dumbarton Oaks Swimming Pool

Seamlessly fitting into the elegant style of the gardens, the swimming pool at Dumbarton Oaks offers Fellows and Staff an aquatic paradise. Incorporated into the designs for the estate as early as 1922, the rectangular swimming pool has undergone significant renovation over time to meet emerging needs and to comply with continually updated regulations. Beloved by the Dumbarton Oaks community, the swimming pool is kept in excellent condition by the Grounds Staff who endeavor to keep the pool suitable for both public view and private use.

Read more here, discover drawings and historic images of the swimming pool in the Garden Archives, and view a before-and-after interactive in the Garden Perspectives online exhibit.

You can also see more entries from the 75th Anniversary blog on our website.
From the Archives
Seventy-Five Years Ago this Month: An Administrative Structure for the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection

On October 28, 1940, a couple of days before the official inauguration of Dumbarton Oaks, the rare book librarian Ethel B. Clark sent Mildred Bliss a “Chart of Personnel” for the administration of the nascent institution. The chart is preserved in the Dumbarton Oaks Archives. In an accompanying letter, she explained: “Here is a chart, embodying, I hope, the ideas of yesterday.”

At the sides of the chart are the words “Inspiration” and “Anima,” with arrows pointing to the founders, “Mr. & Mrs. Bliss.”

Find out more [here](#).

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Good Ink

Dumbarton Oaks Director Jan Ziolkowski has been elected to the Academia Europaea, Humanities Class: Literary and Theatrical Studies.

The *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* praised the Dumbarton Oaks–published volume *Embattled Bodies, Embattled Places: War in Pre-Columbian Mesoamerica and the Andes* for “paving the way forward for more integrated, interregional studies of war in the future.” Read the full review [here](#).

The Friends of Music 2015–16 concert series began on October 4 and 5, with The Knights returning to perform a program of works related to the First World War. Read the *Washington Post*’s review of the concert [here](#).

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Now on View

Find more information about the exhibits and rotations on our [website](#).
75 Years/75 Objects: Reconstructing
October 1–25 in the Special Exhibition Gallery. Curator's Tour on October 16 at 3 p.m.

Coming soon: Collecting
November 1–29. Curator’s Tours on November 6 and 20 at 3 p.m.

Clothing for the Afterlife: Textiles from the Pre-Columbian Collection

Stephens & Catherwood Revisited: Maya Ruins and the Passage of Time
Until November 30 in the Orientation and Rare Book Galleries, and online here.