



Upcoming Events

Sacred Matter: Animism and Authority in Pre-Columbian America

The 2016 Pre-Columbian Studies Symposium

October 7–8, 2016

Naval Heritage Center, 701 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20004

This symposium will examine animism in the Pre-Columbian Andes, Amazon, and Mesoamerica. Scholars from many disciplines will shed light on how social authority was claimed and sanctified in practices that birthed, converted, or destroyed certain objects and places, as well as the social and natural order from which these things were said to emerge. Please note that this event will be held off-site at the Naval Heritage Center. Visit our [website](#) for more information.



An Uneasy Relation: Byzantium and the Nomads

A Byzantine Studies Public Lecture

October 13, 2016, 5:30 p.m.

The Oak Room, Fellowship House, 1700 Wisconsin Avenue NW

Florin Curta, a professor of medieval history and archaeology at the University of Florida, will speak on the evolving understanding of Byzantium's interactions with nomadic peoples. He will focus on new bioarchaeological evidence that has questioned the pigeonholing of diverse communities



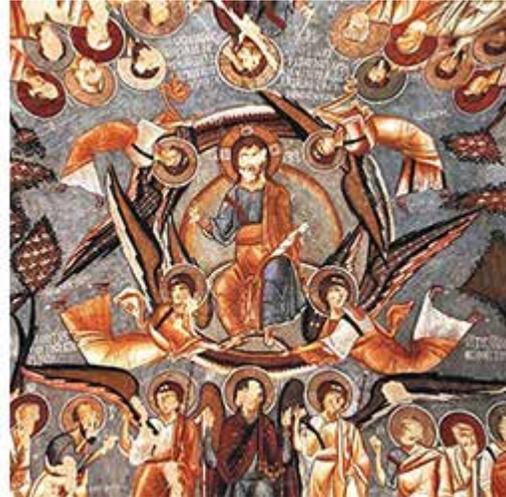
into preconceived ethnic categories. Examining a breadth of recent research, Curta will discuss, among other phenomena, sedentization, conversion, and assimilation in medieval eastern Europe. For more information, visit our [website](#).

Monumental Painting in Byzantium and Beyond: New Perspectives

The 2016 Byzantine Studies Colloquium

November 4, 2016, 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
The Oaks Room, Fellowship House, 1700
Wisconsin Avenue NW

While research into monumental pictorial art in countries such as Greece, Bulgaria, Serbia, the Republic of Macedonia, and increasingly Turkey remains a mainstay of art historical inquiry, in the United States this area of study has received less attention in recent years. This year's Byzantine Studies colloquium will foster dialogue and pose new questions about reception, materiality, and the interplay of different representational forms and systems of signification. To register, and for further information, visit our [website](#).



The Friends of Music 2016–2017 Concert Series

Henschel Quartett, *Bach's American Christmas*, and More

The Friends of Music continues a legacy of classical music at Dumbarton Oaks that goes back to the days of Robert and Mildred Bliss. This season, which begins later this month, will bring performers ranging from the Tempest Trio and Henschel Quartett to pianist Pedja Muzijevic and period-instrument ensemble Three Notch'd Road. [Subscribe](#) now to take advantage of our entire concert season!



Defining Margins, Reconsidering Images

Introducing Elena Boeck, New Director of Byzantine Studies



“Strange images find me,” says Elena Boeck. “Strange” and “outlying,” “liminal” and “borderline” —these words crop up frequently when Boeck, who recently began her five-year tenure as director of Byzantine Studies, speaks of her work. Perhaps because her research centers on the odd, out-of-place, and oftentimes mysterious visual clue, her way of speaking is staunchly investigative; her sentences advance steadily and logically, extended every now and then by a favorite phrase: “This is why . . .” Find out more about Dumbarton Oaks’ new director of Byzantine Studies in [this profile](#).

Dumbarton Oaks Humanities Fellowships

Three Young Humanists from Harvard Arrive for a Year of Practical Learning and Career Preparation

Dumbarton Oaks is excited to announce the launch of a new fellowship this year for young postgraduates interested in a broad array of humanistic careers: the Dumbarton Oaks Humanities Fellowships, launched in partnership with the Folger Shakespeare Library, the National Gallery of Art, and the George Washington University Museum and the Textile Museum. Fellows will spend the first half of the year learning new skills, and the second half applying them to new or ongoing projects. Find out more about this new program and our inaugural cohort of three young humanists on our [website](#).



Rhetoric and Rewriting

New Titles in the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library Series



A lion who becomes enchanted by a beautiful girl

and asks for her hand in marriage? The city of Babylon narrating its own fall? Discover these stories and more in two new titles in the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library series: *The Rhetorical Exercises of Nikephoros Basilakes* and *The Old English History of the World*. Both works, which are available this month, are concerned, either directly or obliquely, with the power of rhetoric and the act of rewriting. Find out more about these crisply translated works and the tales inside on our [website](#).

Fellows in the Spotlight

Brian Bauer

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. The first fellow to offer a report this year is Brian Bauer, professor of anthropology at the University of Illinois at Chicago, who will be working on books on the Wari Empire and its culture during his time at the institute. Read a short summary of his talk, along with a brief question-and-answer session, on our [website](#).



Good Ink

Watch the London Review of Books’ [video feature](#) on *Letters of a Dead Man* with reviewer Nicholas Penny, former director of the National Gallery in London. Penny also published [a review of the book](#) in the pages of the *LRB* in June. In a separate review of the same volume, Gillian Mawrey writes in the July issue of the *Historic Garden Review*: “This splendid modern edition has scholarly appendages which fill in the background without slowing the racy tone.”

Former junior fellow Andrew Hamilton, currently in the Society of Fellows at Princeton University, gave this talk at Yale University Art Gallery on the royal Inca tunic in the Dumbarton Oaks collection, in conjunction with the gallery’s exhibit *Weaving and the Social World: 3,000 Years of Ancient Andean Textiles*. Thanks to the Art Gallery, you can now [watch it on YouTube](#).

DCist [raves](#) about our gardens: “The real magic . . . is getting lost in the labyrinth of gardens. Romantics, (non-commercial) photographers, and anyone still pining after *The Secret Garden* won’t be disappointed by the idyllic grounds.”

From the Archives

The Dumbarton Oaks Gardens in Vivid Black and White



Over the years, the Dumbarton Oaks Archives and House Collection have received prints of many black-and-white images that were taken in the gardens. Photographers include Julia Cart, Tanya Marcuse, and Joe Mills. Archivist James Carder has assembled a small selection of these captivatingly textured images this month, which can be found at the [archives blog](#).

From the Garden Blog

Early-autumn sunflowers, cosmos, and zinnias in the Cutting Garden. Photo: Luís Mármol.



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