Dumbarton Oaks has a long history of collecting and researching textiles, yet its holdings of Byzantine and early Islamic fabrics had never been systematically published. Now, see more than 200 objects in high resolution in a newly-launched online textile catalogue. They include major holdings, such as Hestia Polyolbus, and range in date from the 2nd to the 17th century, emerging from the textile-making traditions of Egypt, Mesopotamia, the Indian subcontinent, and the Byzantine heartlands. Explore downloadable high-resolution images, object descriptions, and expert essays on the context and uses of furnishing textiles. Learn about the history of the
catalogue, which has its roots in a 2015 museum conference and nine decades of textile acquisitions.


**Last Month to Apply for 2020–2021 Fellowships**

Spend up to an academic year focused on your research

Explore our 2020–2021 funding opportunities in Pre-Columbian, Garden and Landscape, and Byzantine studies. Apply by **November 1** for [summer or term-time fellowships](#) or [Project Grants](#), which typically support archaeological investigation and the recovery, recording, and analysis of materials that would otherwise be lost. [Plant Humanities fellowships](#) provide research and professional development opportunities in special collections, the cultural histories of plants, and digital humanities. Two new Mellon fellowship programs are available this year focused on “Democracy and the Urban Landscape: Race, Identity, and Difference”: [Urban Landscape fellowships](#) for cross-disciplinary scholars and [History Teaching fellowships](#) for faculty instructors.
12 Unusual Seals Acquired for the Byzantine Collection

Visiting expert Father Joachim Cotsonis evaluates the striking imagery

A major new acquisition has strengthened the Byzantine seal collection, already one of the most comprehensive in the world. The 12 lead seals contain underrepresented family names, unexpected early military ranks, and uncommon iconography. From bureaucrats to the deacon of Hagia Sophia to soldiers, they belonged to a wide swath of people and range from the 8th to the 14th or 15th century. Father Joachim (John) Cotsonis, director of the library at the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Massachusetts, evaluated the new acquisitions and taught students in the Coins & Seals Summer Program about the iconography of Byzantine seals. Discover the new seals and their exquisite designs.

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

Seven Matched Hollow Gold Jaguars from Peru’s Early Horizon

Heather Lechtman, Lee Allen Parsons, and William J. Young
Through its Access Initiative, Dumbarton Oaks aims to make as many of its collections and resources as possible freely available online. The Studies in Pre-Columbian Art and Archaeology series highlights current research drawing on archaeological, art historical, and ethnohistorical approaches to the Pre-Columbian past in Mesoamerica, Central America, and the Andes. **Volumes 1–35** are now open access. Titles include *Zapotec Hieroglyphic Writing*, *Classic Maya Place Names*, *The Burial Theme in Moche Iconography*, and *Ecology and the Arts in Ancient Panama*. Volumes 36–40 are available for purchase in hardcover or digital copy and by subscription via JSTOR.

**New UV Filters Protect Historic Garden and Local Wildlife**

**Small change for big sustainability benefits**

Ducks, frogs, toads, birds, dragonflies, and several species of turtle enjoy the watery oases in the gardens, most of which pioneering landscape architect Beatrix Farrand designed and
implemented as part of her original plans for the Dumbarton Oaks Garden. Read about four new ultraviolet light filters recently installed in garden fountains to ensure better environmental stewardship and protect wildlife while preserving Farrand’s masterpiece. By conservative estimates, anticipated water savings total more than 280,000 gallons, coupled with a reduction of 500 pounds of chlorine per year. The UV filters only affect single-celled organisms such as algae, allowing for a better habitat for the wildlife frequenting the garden.

Single Tickets On Sale for Music at Dumbarton Oaks

Reserve seats for fall concerts

Three fall concerts by groundbreaking classical musicians now offer single tickets for purchase. (This year we will also be offering discounted $30 under 30 tickets for Monday concerts to students and young professionals age 30 and under, with a valid ID.) On October 6 or 7, experience a composer hailed by BBC World News as one of the most talented of his generation, Mohammed Fairouz. Then hear Lavinia Meijer, an innovative harpist who has collaborated with Iggy Pop and Sufjan Stevens, on October 27 or 28. Finally, catch them before they sell out: the Knights, a beloved collective of adventurous musicians finishing a three-season
residency on December 1 and 2. Want to reserve your spot for our 2020 concerts, featuring an electrifying one-piano-four-hands performance; the most important Vivaldi discovery in 75 years; a world premiere; and orchestral, chamber, and classical pieces from beloved composers like Debussy, Philip Glass, Bach, Haydn, and Stravinsky? Subscribe now to seven evenings of world-renowned musical talent in an intimate venue.

Delight in the Splendor of Chrysanthemums

Historic blooms on view in the garden

Surround yourself with color this autumn: chrysanthemums in shades of peach, pink, yellow, white, orange, and apricot abound in the garden, mixed in with many other kinds of flowers in Fountain Terrace and in the Herbaceous Border. Many of the varieties are historic ones used by pioneering landscape designer Beatrix Farrand and no longer commercially available. As in the world of fashion, plant breeders constantly make new selections and older flower varieties fall out of favor. Our gardeners cultivate these heirloom plants, take cuttings, and grow new generations. Look out for October Glow, Emperor of China, the 1965 variety Bronze Dot, Tanya, Single Apricot, Spider, Seizan, and the 1897 Japanese variety called Sunstone. Reserve tickets
to see the chrysanthemums.

Scholars in the Spotlight

Catch up with our recent speakers and their research

Vera Klontza-Jaklova searches for the missing people of Crete by developing a method to find remnants of the island's Arabic period. Klontza-Jaklova is head and assistant professor of classical archaeology at Masaryk University.

Trent Barnes studies Teotihuacan, the largest city of the Mesoamerican Early Classic period, and examines its influence across centuries and over thousands of kilometers. Barnes is a PhD candidate in the history of art and architecture at Harvard University.


Joachim Wolschke-Bulmahn considers suffering in the garden, highlighting Gethsemane, extinct fruit trees, and disappearing baroque gardens. Wolschke-Bulmahn is professor of landscape
Before there was the United Nations, there were the Dumbarton Oaks Conversations: a series of talks in the summer and fall of 1944 between delegations from the United States, United Kingdom, Soviet Union, and China. From meetings and luncheons in the house and gardens of Dumbarton Oaks emerged a tentative agreement that was instrumental in laying the groundwork for the United Nations Charter adopted the following year. Now, on the 75th anniversary of these talks, browse a new resource of documents, commentary, and photographs connected to the Dumbarton Oaks Conversations. Explore the planning, participants, sessions, and receptions of the diplomatic event with more than two dozen zoomable and searchable images. Order a reprint of proceedings from the 1994 conference examining the history of the Conversations, with a new preface by Director Jan Ziolkowski.

Ongoing Programs

Ornament: Fragments of Byzantine Fashion

Visit the new exhibition today
Excavations in the 19th century unearthed scores of the ornate dress textiles that wrapped the people of medieval Egypt in their graves. Now open, *Ornament: Fragments of Byzantine Fashion* brings together complete tunics, parts of garments, and contemporary replicas of ancient dress to evoke the fashions of this lost world. *Ornament* is the largest-ever exhibition of the rare Byzantine textiles held by Dumbarton Oaks, showcasing close to 60 pieces. These textiles often preserved traces of their wearers in the form of folds and stains, providing researchers important information about the people buried in these garments. With their spectacular range of colors, patterns, and ornamental motifs, the textiles display the remarkable skill of ancient craftspeople and a compellingly modern aesthetic.

**Woven Interiors: Furnishing Early Medieval Egypt** at The Textile Museum
In the early medieval era, the eastern Mediterranean’s palaces, villas, and sacred spaces were richly decorated with hangings, curtains, and other luxury fabrics. Co-organized with Dumbarton Oaks, *Woven Interiors: Furnishing Early Medieval Egypt* brings together rarely displayed artworks from the 4th to 12th centuries to reveal how textiles infused warmth and beauty into Egypt’s interiors. This exhibition is at the George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum.

**Special Displays:**

Last weeks of *Piety and Pleasure: Western Travel to the Holy Land*
See postcards, posters, magazines, rare books, and more illuminating the Western pilgrims, tourists, and scholars who made the Holy Land a popular destination at the turn of the 20th century. *Piety and Pleasure: Western Travel to the Holy Land* is slated to close October 21. Meanwhile, in a nearby case, examine jade, ivory, and mother-of-pearl Asian art from the 17th to 20th centuries in *A Nobility of Matter: Asian Art from the Bliss Collection*, with objects ranging from a Qing dynasty cricket container to Japanese scroll weights. Finally, visit our special display of weights, balances, and a scale the Romans and Byzantines used to ensure accurate transactions in the marketplace. On the reverse of the display, discover an 800-year-old mystery from the 17,000-strong Dumbarton Oaks Byzantine seal collection.

**Upcoming Programs**
Sunday, October 6, 7 pm, and Monday, October 7, 8 pm
Mohammed Fairouz concert
One of the most talented composers of his generation

Saturday, October 12
2 pm
Techniques and Materials in Byzantine Egypt
Gallery talk by Ornament curator

Sunday, October 27, 7 pm, and Monday, October 28, 8 pm
Lavinia Meijer concert
Groundbreaking harpist performs Debussy and Philip Glass

Saturday, November 2
2 pm
Roman, Coptic, Byzantine, Islamic: Defining Community in Medieval Egypt
Gallery talk by Ornament curator
Our mailing address is:

Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection
1703 32nd Street NW
Washington, DC 20007