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Dumbarton Oaks Professor in Residence

Gary Urton



Dumbarton Oaks is thrilled to announce that Professor Gary Urton has joined the incoming Fellows as Dumbarton Oaks Professor in Residence for the fall term.

Professor Urton's research focuses on various topics in pre-Hispanic and early colonial intellectual history in the Andes, and draws on materials and methods in archaeology, ethnohistory, and ethnology. During his time as Dumbarton Oaks Professor in Residence, he will continue to pursue his work on Andean *kipus*, the knotted string recording devices that have fascinated him since the early nineties.

Read more [here](#).

Inaugural Dumbarton Oaks Early-Career Musician Residency

Caroline Adelaide Shaw

Dumbarton Oaks is delighted to introduce Caroline Adelaide Shaw as the recipient of the inaugural Early-Career Musician Residency.

Trained as a violinist, Ms. Shaw is also a singer in the Grammy Award-winning Roomful of Teeth. In 2013, she became the youngest ever winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Music for her composition *Partita for 8 Voices*. As a violinist, Ms. Shaw performs primarily with the American Contemporary Music Ensemble (ACME).

Read more [here](#).



Public Lecture in Byzantine Studies

“Ancients and Moderns: Reconsidering Style in the Visual Arts of Late Antiquity”

Sarah E. Bassett, University of Indiana, Bloomington
Thursday, September 25, 2014, at 6:15 p.m.



Roman art in the period between Augustus and Justinian follows a formal trajectory that moves from “naturalism” to “abstraction.” This formal shift is, in turn, symptomatic of a larger change in cultural orientation, one that is understood to abandon the corporeal and the rational in favor of the incorporeal and the spiritual. The lecture will begin by identifying the origin of the equation of naturalism with rationality and abstraction with spirituality in the critical and

historiographic traditions of the early twentieth century. From there, it will explore the ways in which this intellectual construct has guided the modern evaluation and understanding of late antique art. Finally, it will consider the possibility of an alternative critical language, one rooted in the late antique vocabularies of rhetoric and literary criticism, with the aim of suggesting how the use of such terminology might shape new understandings of late antique art and visual experience.

Sarah Bassett is associate professor of medieval Mediterranean art in the Department of the History of Art at Indiana University.

Read more [here](#).

Arrival of the 2014–2015 Fellows



On September 8, the Dumbarton Oaks scholarly community welcomed twenty-seven new Fellows, the largest cohort in the institution's history.

Please consult the list of Fellows for 2014-2015 and their projects on the recently redesigned [Fellowship pages](#).

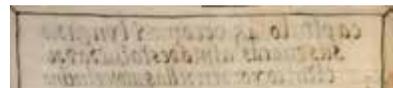
The [application](#) deadline for the 2015-2016 academic year is November 1, 2015.

Find out more about this year's Fellows [here](#).

Library Exhibit

Standing on Ceremony: Processions, Pathways, and Plazas

Traces of processions that once wound along roads, filed through cities, and hiked over mountains can be found throughout the Americas. Although these processions have either long ceased



or have assumed substantially different forms, the remains of many Pre-Columbian civilizations provide suggestive evidence of their ceremonial importance. Drawing on materials from the Dumbarton Oaks Library and Archives, this exhibit accompanies the Pre-Columbian fall symposium, “Processions in the Ancient Americas: Approaches and Perspectives.”

Read more about the exhibit [here](#).

Right: “Procesión general de los indios antiguos,” from a colonial Peruvian manuscript: Martín de Murúa, *Códice Murúa: Historia y genealogía de los reyes incas del Perú del padre mercenario Fray Martín de Murúa: Códice Galvin*, commentary by Juan Ossio (Madrid, 2004).

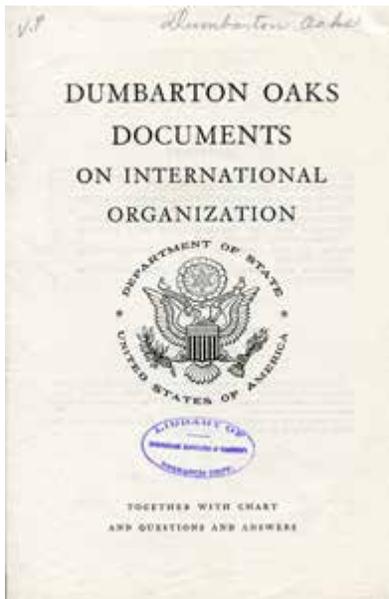
Byzantine Greek Summer School



The Byzantine Greek summer school, taught by Alice-Mary Talbot, former director of Byzantine Studies, and Stratis Papaioannou, associate professor of classics at Brown University, took place at Dumbarton Oaks in July. Students from Hungary, Italy, Germany, Romania, and the United States came together for four weeks to read hagiography, charters, historiography, fiction, and rhetoric, and to study epigraphy and paleography. Students also viewed Dumbarton Oaks exhibits and facsimiles with Museum Director Gudrun Bühl and Byzantine Librarian Deb Brown, and reflected on the milieu of Byzantine literature with Director of Byzantine Studies Margaret Mullett.

From the Archives

70th Anniversary of the Dumbarton Oaks Conversations



This summer marks the 70th anniversary of what have come to be called the “Dumbarton Oaks Conversations.” Undertaken at the height of the Second World War, these “conversations” were a series of informal meetings among American, British, Russian, and Chinese diplomats on the question of establishing an international organization for maintaining peace and security in the world. They were organized by the U.S. Department of State, using the facilities of Dumbarton Oaks, and were held between August 21 and October 7, 1944. The Dumbarton Oaks Conversations would lead directly to the signing of the United Nations charter in San Francisco on June 26, 1945.

In 2004, the Dumbarton Oaks Archives acquired seven rare pamphlets on the Dumbarton Oaks Conversations that had been de-accessioned from the library of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. The pamphlets—all but one written in 1944 during the months immediately after the close of the “conversations”—attempted to explain the outcome of the meetings at Dumbarton Oaks to various interested constituents, including the U.S. Senate. The pamphlets offer an interesting glimpse into how these constituents interpreted, agreed with, or objected to the meaning and purpose of the goals voted on in October at Dumbarton Oaks.

Find out more about the Dumbarton Oaks Conversations [here](#).

Above: “Dumbarton Oaks Documents on International Organization, Together with Chart and Questions and Answers,” *Department of State, Publication 2223* (November 20, 1944).

Behind the Scenes

Onyx Mask from Teotihuacan



During certain times of the year, the morning sunlight shines through the onyx mask from Teotihuacan, rendering it translucent. This happens between the hours of 9:30 and 10 a.m., when the museum is closed to visitors. Above is the mask on September 16 (left), juxtaposed with a study picture of the object (right).

Above: Onyx marble mask, Teotihuacan, Classic period (200-900 CE), PC.B.055, Pre-Columbian Collection, Dumbarton Oaks Museum. Left photo by Juan Antonio Murro.

Further Afield

Jan Ziolkowski, director of Dumbarton Oaks, attended the VIIIth International Medieval Latin Congress, held on September 10-13 at the École normale supérieure in Lyon, France. The theme was “The Sense of Time.” Professor Ziolkowski opened and closed the congress, and presided over the final session.

Ziolkowski, after serving as vice president of the International Medieval Latin Committee in the 1990s, was elected president in 1999. At this congress, the committee, which is closely allied with the editorial and advisory boards of the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library, voted upon the location, time, and theme of the next congress.

Good Ink

A [review](#) of Albrecht Berger, *Accounts of Medieval Constantinople: The Patria* (Harvard University Press, 2013), volume 24 of the [Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library](#), appeared in the September issue of the *Bryn Mawr Classical Review*.

Now on View



Seldom Seen

A Selection of Prints, Drawings and
Decorative Art Never Before on Public Display

EXTENDED THROUGH OCTOBER 12, 2014

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