



Upcoming Events

Sacred Matter: Animism and Authority in the Pre-Columbian Americas

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 due to the renovation of the Dumbarton Oaks Museum, this event will be held off-site at the Naval Heritage Center. Visit our [website](#) for more information and to register.



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, focusing on new bioarchaeological evidence that has questioned the pigeonholing of diverse communities into preconceived ethnic categories. Examining a breadth of recent research, this lecture will discuss, among other phenomena, sedentization, conversion, and assimilation in medieval Eastern Europe. For more information, visit our [website](#).

Fellows for 2016–2017 Academic Year

Dumbarton Oaks Welcomes Forty-Five Award Recipients

Dumbarton Oaks is proud to welcome its fellows for the 2016–2017 academic year this month. In addition to the nine summer fellows who departed in August, twenty-four fellows and junior fellows have been named for the fall and spring terms, as well as four Tyler fellows, three Mellon fellows, and five project grant recipients.

The full list of incoming [fellows](#) and [project grant recipients](#) can be found on our website.

Dumbarton Oaks at the Rio Olympics

Margaret Mee's Painting Included in the Opening Ceremony



The artist Margaret Mee created strikingly accurate gouache paintings of rare Brazilian plants during her lifetime, twenty-one of which were acquired by Mildred Bliss for the Garden Library at Dumbarton Oaks. Recently, one of these paintings—Mee's depiction of the *Nematanthus fluminensis*, a red-leaved gesneriad native to Brazil—was incorporated into a piece of backdrop art for the Rio Olympics by graphic designer Olivia Ferreira.

From the Archives

The Dumbarton Connection

According to Paul Neeson, Chairman of the Dumbarton Castle Society in Scotland, there are



over two hundred entities worldwide with the name Dumbarton. A recent visit from Neeson gives archivist James Carder the chance to reflect on the etymological and historical roots of Dumbarton Oaks' name in this month's [post](#).

From the Garden Blog

Container plants thrive near the Herb Garden. Photo taken by gardener Luís Mármol.



Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection
1703 32nd Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20007

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