On 13-14 January 2012 a second conversation took place, this time organized with the Council of American Overseas Research Centers (CAORC), led by Mary Ellen Lane. Participants included representatives of the AORCs, Byzantine archaeologists working in host countries, and fellows and staff of Dumbarton Oaks. Colleagues from Harvard, CASVA, the Freer-Sackler and (now) the Getty helped by chairing sessions. On Friday afternoon we heard from the AORCs themselves and from the host countries, and learned how diverse they are. On Saturday we began to address some problems in Byzantine archaeology on a practical level, discussing relations with the academy, with earlier and later archaeologies, and with ministries of tourism in the host country. The afternoon brought further elaboration and discussion of all these, but also added a theoretical aspect in analysing the tensions between Byzantine and medieval, and between archaeology as an institution and archaeology as a critical practice. Participants broke into four groups to brainstorm solutions to problems of job-creation, funding, the integration of Byzantium into diachronic archaeological projects, and ways for the AORCs to collaborate with each other and with other organizations.

INFORMAL TALKS

February 1, 2012: Andy Walker White
*Found Space, Found Method: Some Thoughts on the Social Construction of Early Orthodox Ritual*

February 8, 2012: Jack Tannous
*West Syrian Hagiography in the Islamic Period*

February 15, 2012: Nilgün Elam
*Byzantine Side in Pamphylia, According to the Sigillographic Data*

RESEARCH REPORTS

February 6, 2012: Jeffrey Wickes
*“Out of Books, a World: The Scriptural Poetics of Ephrem’s Hymns on Faith”*

February 13, 2012: Nebojsa Stankovic
*“Late-Byzantine Narthexes (litai) on Mount Athos: Architecture, Liturgy, Patronage”*