

DUMBARTON OAKS

ART • NATURE • SCHOLARSHIP

Introduction

The spring and summer terms in the Byzantine Studies Program at Dumbarton Oaks were impacted by the outbreak of COVID-19. Our spring 2020 fellowship cohort had to bid farewell to the cherished stacks of the library and the collegial gourmet lunches by the middle of March, while they continued living in the Fellowship House. We supported them financially and logistically, by offering limited borrowings of library books, by facilitating and reimbursing early departures, and by hosting frequent socially distanced gatherings in the blooming garden.

While our Summer 2020 Fellows were offered a deferral to the Summer of 2021, we held our Byzantine Greek Summer School virtually, with instructors and participants being spread from California to Greece. At the end of the program, the participants from Canada, Italy, the Netherlands, Russia, Hungary, and the USA were enthusiastic about the instructors, the materials, and the scholarly camaraderie that developed in the “heterotopia” of zoom.

We were also delighted to welcome summer interns from Harvard who acquired hands-on experience working virtually in the library, the museum, and the publications department. Our intern Audrey Pettner, a rising senior from the Department of History of Art and Architecture, split her time between two worthy projects: the updating of the [Gender in Byzantium Bibliography](#) (under the supervision of Anna Stavrakopoulou, the Program Director, and of the Gender in Byzantium Advisory Board), and producing new interviews for the [Oral History Project](#). Audrey completed a total of nine new interviews, with world-class Byzantine scholars, which are being processed for uploading towards the end of the year.

In addition to the above, this summer we launched our limited podcast series, with three episodes already available, featuring senior scholars (Anthony Kaldellis, Niels Gaul, and Christina Maranci) discussing with advanced graduate students or recent PhDs (Jake Ransohoff, Divna Manolova, and Erin Piñon) fascinating topics like the impact of imagination on Roman law, self-fashioning in Elizabethan England and Byzantium, and the dynamic relationship between Byzantine and Armenian studies.

On September 1st, Dumbarton Oaks organized a webinar on Hagia Sophia, entitled the “History of the Building and the Building in History”. With the participation of four stellar

scholars and some 500 attendees, the webinar had the highest attendance of any Dumbarton Oaks event to this day.

2020-2021 Byzantine Studies Fellows

In 2020, we welcomed our new Byzantine Fellows!

FELLOWS

- **Stefanos Alexopoulos** (Catholic University of America), “Popular Piety and Official Liturgy in Byzantium: The Office of Holy Communion”
- **Nicola Aravecchia** (Washington University in St. Louis, Spring), “Early Christianity in Egypt’s Western Desert: The Fourth-Century Church at Amheida”
- **Emilio Bonfiglio** (Boğaziçi University), “A Sociocultural History of Translations in Medieval Armenia”
- **Lilia Campana** (Texas A&M University), “Byzantine Ship Design and Its Legacy in the West: Nautical Archaeology, Shipbuilding Texts, and Mediterranean Contexts”
- **Dmitry Korobeynikov** (University at Albany, State University of New York, Spring), “Toward a New Concept of the Christian-Muslim Boundary Zone: Byzance en dehors de Byzance in the Eleventh and Twelfth Centuries”

JUNIOR FELLOWS

- **Romain Goudjil** (Sorbonne Université), “Imperial Justice, Ecclesiastical Justice: Issues of Jurisdiction in Byzantium, Tenth–Fifteenth Centuries”
- **Alex C.J. Neroth van Vogelpoel** (University of Notre Dame), “Known in the Baking of the Bread: The Preparation of the Eucharistic Gifts in the East Syriac Tradition”

WILLIAM R. TYLER FELLOWS

- **Kelsey Eldridge**, “Porphyry Sarcophagi and the Material Language of Byzantium”
- **Sarah Porter**, “Early Christian Deathscapes”
- **Hannelore Segers**, “Paraphrasis and Cento: A Comparative Analysis of Late Antique Greek and Latin Versification”

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

- **Stephanie Caruso**, “Redirecting Gazes: The Design and Reception of a Late Antique Pictorial Motif”

VISITING SCHOLARS

- **Dimitar Angelov** (Harvard University), Dumbarton Oaks Professor of Byzantine History
- **Eurydice Georganteli** (Harvard University), Lecturer on Art History and Numismatics
- **Ioli Kalavrezou** (Harvard University), Dumbarton Oaks Professor of Byzantine Art History

For more information on Dumbarton Oaks fellowships, including how to apply, please visit our [website](#).

2020 Online Greek Byzantine Summer School Program



2020 Byzantine Greek Summer School Program participants and instructors on Zoom. Top left: Louis-Patrick St-Pierre, Mary Maschio, Thompson Wells, Vasily Zagrebin, Marco Comunetti, Elisabetta Barili, Mustafa Yıldız, Elisa Galardi, Stratis Papaioannou (Instructor), Juan Bautista Juan-López, Irene Jacobs, and Alexandros Alexakis (Instructor).

The [Byzantine Greek Summer School](#) went virtual this summer, bringing together ten graduate students from all over the globe. Instructed by [Professors Alexandros](#)

[Alexakis](#) (University of Ioannina) and [Stratis Papaioannou](#) (University of Crete), the Summer School supported the study of medieval Greek, paleography, and Byzantine book culture through online instruction and a rich collection of digital resources. While the program was unable to meet on the Dumbarton Oaks campus, the students still gained invaluable experience, devoting four weeks of their summer to the study of late antique and medieval Greek texts.

Dumbarton Oaks Byzantine Podcast Series



Floor Mosaic, Early Byzantine, Fourth - Fifth Century (Dumbarton Oaks Collection, BZ.1938.72)

This past summer, the Byzantine Studies Program released a **limited series podcast**, featuring distinguished Byzantine scholars, who discussed with a younger scholar from their

field an article or a book from another field that has had a profound impact on their work.

We are excited to announce the continuation of the series in the fall. In the meantime, listen to the other episodes [here](#).

- Episode 1: “The Roman Mind and the Power of Fiction” with Professor Anthony Kaldellis and Jake Ransohoff
- Episode 2: *Renaissance Self-fashioning: From More to Shakespeare* with Professor Niels Gaul and Dr. Divna Manolova
- Episode 3: *Treasures in Heaven: Armenian Illuminated Manuscripts* with Professor Christina Maranci and Erin Piñon

Fall 2020 Visiting Scholar Ioli Kalavrezou

Professor Kalavrezou joins Dumbarton Oaks virtually this fall

We are delighted to have Professor Ioli Kalavrezou this fall as a visiting scholar in the Byzantine Studies Program. Professor Kalavrezou has been the Dumbarton Oaks Professor of Byzantine Art History in the Department of History of Art and Architecture at Harvard University since 1989, having taught earlier at the University of California, Los Angeles, and at Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich. She has served as chair of the department for six years and is also Senior Fellow and senior research associate at Dumbarton Oaks, as well as a trustee at the Cyprus Research Institute.



Of special interest in her research are topics in political and ideological history, the relationship of Church and State, the role of King David in manuscript illumination, the cult of the Virgin Mary, the sun imagery in the person of the emperor, and private devotion, as for example in her book on Byzantine steatite icons. During her virtual academic appointment, Professor Kalavrezou will interact with the scholarly community.

Professor Ioli Kalavrezou. Image courtesy of Harvard University.

Fall 2020 Visiting Scholars Dimiter

Angelov and Eurydice Georganteli

Professor Anaelov and Dr. Georganteli extend their stay at Dumbarton Oaks



Professor Dimiter Angelov (left) and Dr. Eurydice Georganteli (right). Image courtesy of Dumbarton Oaks.

We are also delighted to have Professor Dimiter Angelov and Dr. Eurydice Georganteli this fall as visiting scholars in the Byzantine Studies Program. They both joined us in Spring 2020 and have extended their stay at Dumbarton Oaks into this semester.

"Hagia Sophia: The History of the Building and the Building in History," Zoom Webinar

**September 1, 2020 | 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. EDT |
Zoom**



*Possibly Pierre Iskender, Study of Light, Hagia Sophia, Istanbul, Turkey. 1948.
The Byzantine Institute and Dumbarton Oaks Fieldwork Records and Papers, circa late
1920s–2000s, HS.BIA.1734, Image Collections and Fieldwork Archives, Dumbarton Oaks.*

On September 1, 2020, the introductory webinar, “Hagia Sophia: The History of the Building and the Building in History,” brought together four distinguished scholars who have actively promoted research on the Hagia Sophia, covering general historical facts on the monument and its uses, Dumbarton Oaks’ involvement, and issues related to its recent reconversion to a mosque. Ioli Kalavrezou, Robert Nelson, Bissera Pentcheva, and Tuğba Tanyeri-Erdemir participated, with discussion moderated by Elizabeth Bolman.

We are delighted to announce that the Hagia Sophia webinar recording is now available

[online](#).

In addition, scholars may [explore the history of Hagia Sophia through a rich digitized collection](#), including archival resources, rare books, lead seals, books and publications, and online exhibits. Dumbarton Oaks holds extensive documentation of the monument's restoration throughout the 1930s and 1940s, as well as an architectural survey of Hagia Sophia conducted from the late 1930s to the 1980s. Browse photographs, fieldwork notebooks, films, and other documents. A number of lead seals dating from between the seventh and fourteenth centuries attest officials at Hagia Sophia, the best-known of all Byzantine churches. Delve into scholarship on medieval travelers to Constantinople as well as the mosaics at the church.

"Rethinking Byzantine Masculinities: Gender, Sexuality, Emotions, Devotion," Zoom Webinar

**October 30, 2020 | 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. EDT |
Zoom**



The Forty Martyrs of Sebasteia (detail), Late Byzantine, ca. 1300. Byzantine Collection, BZ.1947.24, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection.

For the past five decades, Byzantinists have explored gender and sexuality. More recent work

has turned to gendered emotions and religious devotion. While much of this research has its origin in women's history, there has been an increasing interest in men, including monks and eunuchs, and in the articulations and performances of masculinity.

On October 30, 2020, four scholars—Derek Krueger, Claudia Rapp, Mark Masterson, and Shaun Tougher—engaged in conversation about their research on gender, sexuality, emotions, and devotion, reflecting on their work and its evolving academic and nonacademic contexts.

2020-2021 Upcoming Events

"People and Power in Byzantium," Virtual Colloquium

**November 5-6, 2020 | 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. EST |
Zoom**



“Scene from the fields,” Biblioteca Nacional de España, Codex Vit. 26-2 (Madrid Skylitzes), fol. 82v; facsimile edition, edited by Agamemnon Tselikas, Athens: Militos, 2000

The annual Byzantine Studies Colloquium, “People and Power in Byzantium,” organized by Claudia Rapp (University of Vienna and Dumbarton Oaks), with support from Anna Stavrakopoulou and Judy Lee, will be held on November 5-6, 2020 via Zoom.

Research on the social and economic history of Byzantium has tended to focus on the upper levels of society, where the evidence is abundant and relatively easily accessible. It has traditionally been dominated by attention to the large structures of church and state, represented through the key figures of patriarch and emperor, and how they implemented their economic and ideological interests. This has resulted in a top-down view of Byzantine society. In recent years, however, greater attention has been paid to the study of group formation, especially with a view to vertical mobility through patronage networks. This colloquium aims to foreground these recent advances in scholarship.

The colloquium brings together eight specialists who investigate the formation of groups based on shared purpose, whether social, economic, or religious. Of particular interest is the interplay between external pressures and internal motivation in the perception and representation of groups, on the one hand, and in the formation of groups and networks, on the other. This often involves searching out previously unknown or underappreciated sources,

or subjecting better-known sources to new analytical questions.

By elucidating these phenomena in different periods of Byzantine history and in different geographical and social settings, this colloquium raises important issues of scope regarding the methodology and interpretive models for the study of Byzantine society.

Speakers

- Daniel Caner, Indiana University, Bloomington
- Paul Magdalino, University of St. Andrews
- Ekaterini Mitsiou, Academy of Sciences of Göttingen and Austrian Academy of Sciences
- Lee Mordechai, Hebrew University, Jerusalem
- Claudia Rapp, University of Vienna and Dumbarton Oaks
- Youval Rotman, Tel Aviv University
- Teresa Shawcross, Princeton University
- Kostis Smyrlis, National Hellenic Research Foundation

Register to attend [here](#).

Public Lecture by Eric McGeer Honoring John Nesbitt, "The chatter, dialogue and squabble of the Byzantine corridors of power': Writing History in the Aftermath of Mantzikert (1071)"

**November 18, 2020 | 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. EST |
Zoom**



The medieval Armenian city of Ani now in Turkey as viewed from Armenia, from the cover of "Byzantium in the Time of Troubles: The Continuation of the Chronicle of John Skylitzes (1057–1079)." Image courtesy of Brill.

This lecture honors John Nesbitt, a distinguished Byzantine historian and scholar in Byzantine sigillography who served as a research associate at Dumbarton Oaks from 1987 to 2009. Eric McGeer, his friend and former colleague, discusses their book [*Byzantium in the Time of Troubles: The Continuation of the Chronicle of John Skylitzes \(1057–1079\)*](#), published in January 2020.

Register to attend [here](#).

Online Resources

"Ancient Art at Dumbarton Oaks," Online Exhibition

February 10, 2020 - July 2021



Vessel Fragment with Dionysos and a Satyr(?). Image courtesy of Dumbarton Oaks Collection (BZ. 1946.9).

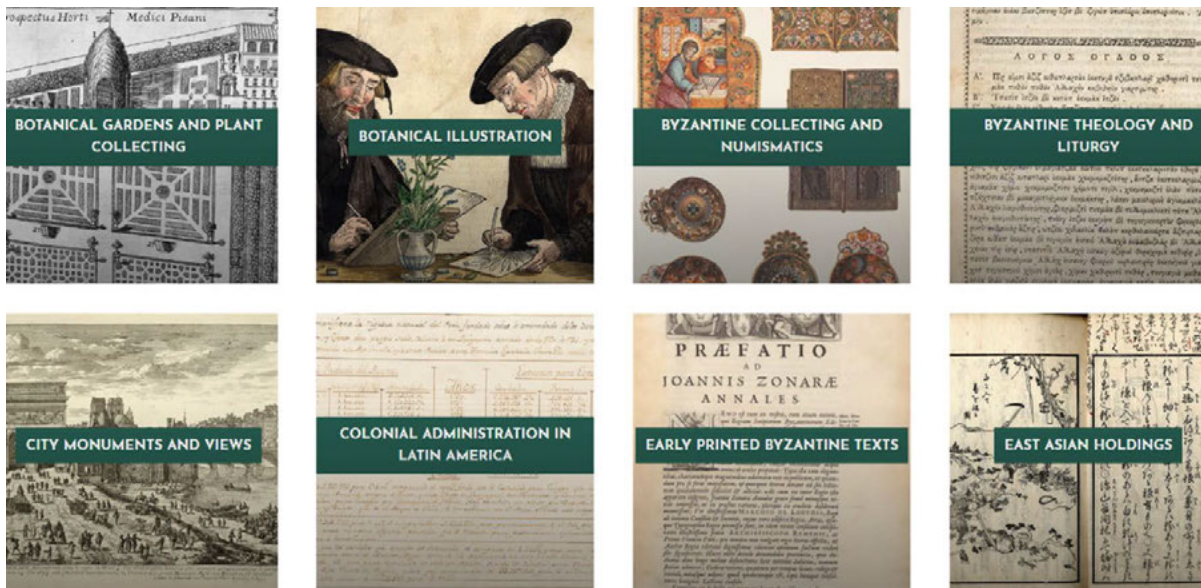
Art from the ancient Mediterranean represents a small but significant part of the Dumbarton Oaks collections. The works were acquired to complete the collection's documentation of the history of artistic styles, techniques, and iconographies. When viewed alongside Byzantine art, they offer an opportunity to consider the continuities and changes in artistic production from the classical to medieval periods.

This reinstallation has been curated by Elizabeth Dospěl Williams, Associate Curator of the Byzantine Collection, and Kelsey Eldridge, PhD Candidate in the History of Art at Harvard University and 2019–2021 William R. Tyler Fellow.

While Dumbarton Oaks is currently closed to the public, explore the online exhibit [here](#).

Collection Strengths

An evolving tool that currently highlights twelve distinct areas, with more to come soon



Collection Strengths. Image courtesy of Dumbarton Oaks.

Dumbarton Oaks is delighted to announce the launch of [Collection Strengths](#), the first online guide to the Rare Book Collection. This new descriptive tool offers a detailed overview of the collection's holdings in each of the three programs of study, Byzantine, Pre-Columbian, and Garden and Landscape Studies. It also allows researchers to explore connections across these three fields through broad thematic categories, such as travel, cartography, and technology. The goal of Collection Strengths is to create a single access point to link the institute's various resources, facilitating general access to the collection and consolidating the use of its digitized holdings.

Each Collection Strength page provides a narrative overview of the specific area represented within the collection and includes search tips for locating the rare materials in the library catalog. It also creates structured access to digitized rare books with links to related online exhibits and archival and museum collections at Dumbarton Oaks. In addition, the guide includes links to the available external resources that might be of relevance to scholars.

For the Byzantine Studies Program, the Collection Strengths currently highlights areas such as [“Byzantine Collections and Numismatics,”](#) [“Byzantine Theology and Liturgy,”](#) [“Early Printed Byzantine Texts,”](#) and [“Eastern Mediterranean Monuments.”](#)

Publications

Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library (DOML)

Marking our 10 year anniversary



DOML volumes. Image courtesy of Dumbarton Oaks.

The Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library (DOML) is a facing-page translation series designed to make the written achievements of medieval and Byzantine culture available to both scholars and general readers in the English-speaking world. It offers the classics of the medieval canon as well as lesser-known gems of literary and cultural value to a global audience through accessible modern translations based on the latest research by leading scholars in the field.

This year marks our ten-year anniversary (2010–2020). The first volumes to appear, in November of 2010, were *The Vulgate Bible, Volume I: The Pentateuch*, edited by Swift Edgar; *The Arundel Lyrics*; *The Poems of Hugh Primas*, edited and translated by Christopher J. McDonough; and *The “Beowulf” Manuscript: Complete Texts and “The Fight at Finnsburg,”* edited and translated by R. D. Fulk. The first Byzantine Greek volume to appear was in May of 2012, *Miracle Tales from Byzantium*, translated by Alice-Mary Talbot and Scott Fitzgerald Johnson. Including the three fall 2020 volumes, the series now numbers 66 volumes, 19 of them Byzantine Greek.

Find more information and a complete list of titles at www.domedieval.org. Here are a few upcoming/recent titles:

Volume 61

On Morals or Concerning Education by Theodore Metochites

Translated by Sophia Xenophontos

On Morals or Concerning Education is an exhortation on the importance of education by the prolific late-Byzantine author and statesman Theodore Metochites (1270–1332), who rose to the aristocracy from a middle-class background but fell from favor late in life and died as a monk. As a manual of proper living and ethical guidance, the treatise offers unique insights

into the heightened roles of philosophy and rhetoric at a time when the elite engaged intensely with their Hellenic heritage, part of a larger imperial attempt to restore Byzantium to its former glories.

On Morals probes hotly disputed issues in fourteenth-century Byzantine society, such as the distinction between the active and contemplative life and the social position of scholars. Metochites's focus on the character and function of Christian faith also reflects ongoing debates regarding the philosophy of religion. Occasional autobiographical digressions offer fascinating glimpses of Metochites's distinctive personality.

This volume provides the full Byzantine Greek text alongside the first English translation of one of Metochites's longest works.

Volume 64

***Homilies by Sophronios of Jerusalem* (forthcoming November 2020)**

Edited and translated by John M. Duffy

Sophronios, born in Damascus around 560, was a highly educated monk and prolific writer who spent much of his life traveling in the Eastern Roman Empire and promoting the doctrines of the controversial Council of Chalcedon (451). The *Homilies*—like his poetry, biographies, and miracle accounts—bear eloquent testimony to his tireless struggle on behalf of Orthodoxy and the Christian way of life. The seven sermons collected here were delivered during his short tenure, at his life's end, as patriarch of Jerusalem (634–638). He saw the Holy City capitulate to the Arab army (638). His Nativity Sermon (634), given while Bethlehem was under siege and his congregation was barred from the annual procession from Jerusalem to the birthplace of Christ, vividly reflects the approach of Islamic forces. Other targets of his venom include pagans, Jews, and despised heretics of all hues. Based on a completely new edition of the Byzantine Greek text, this is the first English translation of the homilies of Sophronios.

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