

# DUMBARTON OAKS

ART • NATURE • SCHOLARSHIP

## Introduction

In 2019–2020, the Program in Byzantine Studies hosted the biggest cohort of scholars in the last decade. Fellows, postdoctoral researchers, and shorter-term scholars from ten countries (Australia, Canada, Cyprus, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and the United States) brought with them their diverse and multilayered expertise (art history, history, philology, religious studies, and theology) contributing to a very productive year, which yielded ground-breaking scholarship and success in the job market.

In the fall we hosted a splendid public lecture by **Dr. Helen Evans**, Mary and Michael Jaharis Curator of Byzantine Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, a highly successful colloquium on “The Insular Worlds of Byzantium,” and an event in honor of **Dr. Cécile Morrisson**, who has served as the Advisor for Byzantine Numismatics at Dumbarton Oaks for the last twenty years. In the spring, we welcomed three distinguished visiting scholars, **Professor Dimiter Angelov** and **Dr. Eurydice Georganteli** from Harvard University, as well as **Professor Anthony Kaldellis** from The Ohio State University. Despite the unavoidable cancelations because of the pandemic, the members of our community were offered hospitality and support at all levels, even beyond the end of the academic term.

Now that we are all transitioning to virtual encounters and visits, our online catalogues of textiles and coins are an even more important tool for the international scholarly community, which is reflected by the ever-growing number of visits.



*November 2019 Byzantine Colloquium Speakers. Top left: Salvatore Cosentino, Jonathan Shea, Joanita Vroom, Anna Stavrakopoulou (Program Director), William Caraher, Sarah Davis-Secord, Luca Zavagno (Colloquiarch), and Nikolas Bakirtzis (Colloquiarch).*



*December 2019 Cécile Morrisson Event Speakers. Top left: Jakub Kabala, Alicia Walker, Jan Ziolkowski (Director), Pagona Papadopoulou, Cécile Morrisson, Anna Stavrakopoulou (Program Director), and Susan Boyd.*

## 2019-2020 Byzantine Studies Fellows

In May, we said farewell to our 2019-2020 Fellows, as well as our Visiting Scholars. We will miss their scholarship and friendship at Dumbarton Oaks!

### Fellows

- **Costas N. Constantinides** (University of Ioannina, Spring), “Catalogue of the Monastery of Iveron Greek Manuscripts, Vol. 2, MSS 101–200”
- **Matthew R. Crawford** (Australian Catholic University, Fall), “The Bishop versus the Emperor: Social Imagination and Intellectual Formation in Late Antique Alexandria”
- **Arianna Gullo** (University of Glasgow), “Ekphrasis and Epigram in the Age of Justinian”
- **Jakub Kabala** (Davidson College), “The Struggle for Great Moravia: Visions of Space in Byzantium, Francia, and the Papacy, 800–900”
- **Matthew Kinloch** (Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften), “Gender and Marginality: Protagonists and Minor Characters in Byzantine Historiography”
- **Savvas Kyriakidis** (Independent Scholar), “Oath-Taking and Oath-Breaking in Byzantium

(Thirteenth-Fourteenth Centuries)”

- **Hélène Rochard** (École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris, Fall), “Rediscovering Bawit: Pictorial Evidence for Monasticism in Byzantine and Early Islamic Egypt”
- **Baukje van den Berg** (Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Spring), “Studying Classics in Twelfth-Century Byzantium”
- **Warren Woodfin** (Queens College, City University of New York), “Between Image and Sacrament: The Problem of Liturgical ‘Realism’ in Byzantine Art”

#### Junior Fellows

- **Brad Boswell** (Duke University, Fall), “Cyril against Julian: Traditions in Conflict”
- **Alasdair Grant** (University of Edinburgh, Spring), “Cross-Confessional Captivity in the Later Byzantine World, ca. 1280–1460”
- **Mikael Muehlbauer** (Columbia University), “Bastions of the Cross: Medieval Rock-Cut Cruciform Churches of Tigray, Ethiopia”
- **Felege-Selam Solomon Yirga** (The Ohio State University), “The *Chronicle* of John of Nikiu: Sources, Contexts, and Afterlife”
- **Flavia Vanni** (Centre for Byzantine, Ottoman and Modern Greek Studies, University of Birmingham), “Byzantine Stucco Decoration: Cultural and Economic Implications across the Mediterranean World, 850–1453”

#### William R. Tyler Fellows

- **Walter Chahanovich**, “Ottoman Eschatological Enthusiasm: Ps.-Ibn al-‘Arabī and Predicting the End of the World”
- **Kelsey Eldridge**, “Porphyry Sarcophagi and the Material Language of Byzantium”
- **John Mulhall**, “Eastern Knowledge, Latin Letters: A Cultural History of the Medieval Translation Movement, ca. 1050–1350”
- **Sarah Porter**, “Early Christian Deathscapes”

#### Visiting Scholars

- **Dimitar Angelov** (Harvard University), Dumbarton Oaks Professor of Byzantine History
- **Eurydice Georganteli** (Harvard University), Lecturer on Art History and Numismatics
- **Anthony Kaldellis** (The Ohio State University), Professor of Classics and Chair of the Department of Classics





*2019-2020 Dumbarton Oaks Byzantine Fall Fellows. Top left: Jakub Kabala, Felege-Selam Solomon Yirga, Walter Chahanovich, Matthew Kinloch, Warren Woodfin, H  l  na Rochard, Flavia Vanni, Arianna Gullo, Brad Boswell, Kelsey Eldridge, Matthew Crawford, Mikael Muehlbauer, Savvas Kyriakidis, Anna Stavrakopoulou (Program Director), Sarah Porter, and Stephanie Caruso.*



*2019-2020 Dumbarton Oaks Byzantine Spring Fellows and Visiting Scholars. Top left: Dimiter*

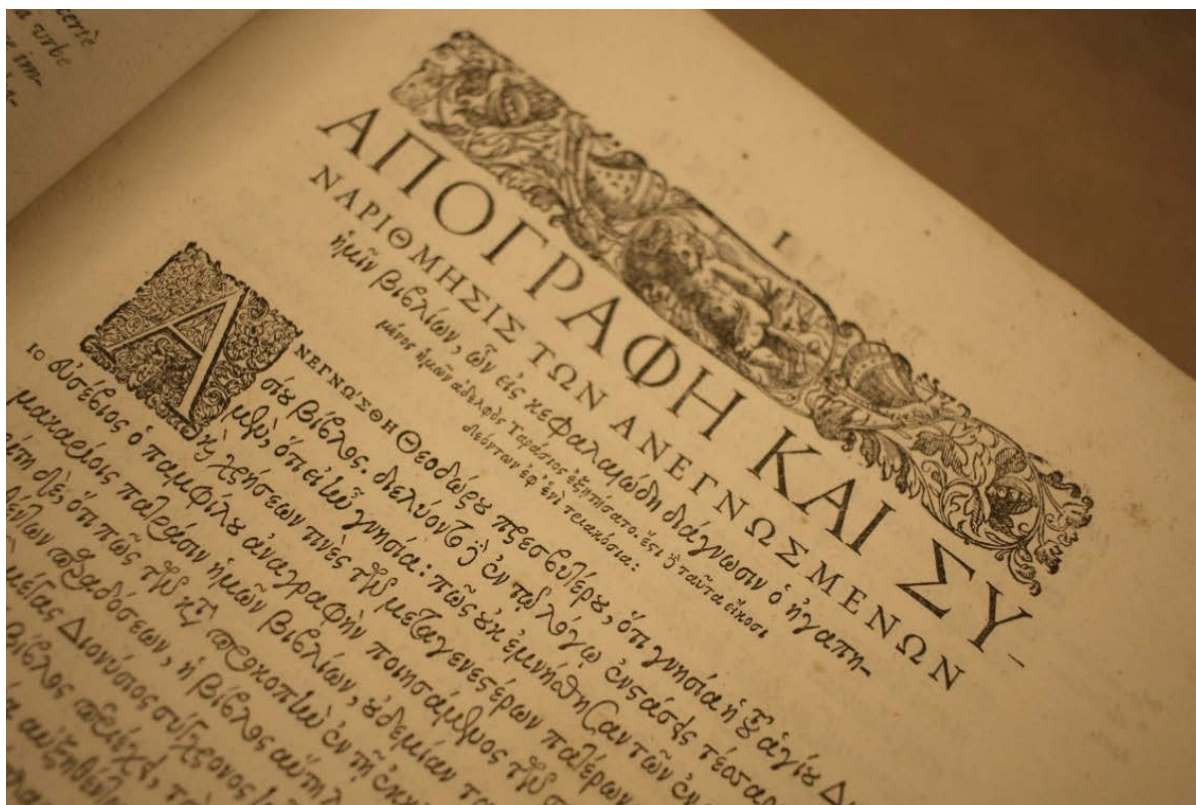
*Angelov, Baukje van den Berg, Costas Constantinides, Anthony Kaldellis, Eurydice Georganteli, and Alasdair Grant.*



*Zoom Research Report on April 13, 2020 by Byzantine Fellow, Baukje van den Berg.*

## Virtual Summer Programs





*Manuscript in the Dumbarton Oaks collection. Image courtesy of Dumbarton Oaks.*

### **2020 Online Greek Byzantine Summer School Program**

We are delighted to announce that Dumbarton Oaks will be moving forward with an online program for the Byzantine Greek Summer School. As originally planned, the program will run from June 29 to July 24, 2020.

This year, the intensive Byzantine Greek Summer School, instructed by **Professors Alexandros Alexakis** (University of Ioannina) and **Stratis Papaioannou** (University of Crete), will aim to support the study of medieval Greek, paleography, and Byzantine book culture through online instruction and resources, such as the rich digital collections of Dumbarton Oaks (including several Byzantine manuscripts and art objects) as well as the increasing number of digital manuscript collections in libraries and related institutions globally.

### **2020 Byzantine Virtual Internship**

We are also delighted to announce that **Audrey Pettner**, a rising senior from Harvard University, will be joining Dumbarton Oaks virtually as a Byzantine Studies Intern this summer, working with Dr. Anna Stavrakopoulou. She will be conducting bibliographical research online in order to update the **Gender in Byzantium bibliography**, an important resource that currently includes publications up to 2014; the whole project will be overseen by the **Gender in Byzantium Advisory Board** (Professor Leonora Neville, chair, Professor Roland Betancourt, Professor Stavroula Constantinou, Professor Adam Goldwyn, Dr. Matthew Kinloch and Professor Mati Meyer, members). In addition, she will gain hands-on experience online with the **Oral History Project**, which offers precious information on Byzantine Studies at Dumbarton Oaks, from the 1940s onwards. Throughout the summer, Pettner will work on researching existing material and conducting new online interviews to add to the Oral History Project.

### **Summer Podcasts**

In July, August, and September, the Byzantine Studies Program will release a **limited series podcast**, featuring distinguished Byzantine scholars, who will discuss with a younger scholar from their field an article or a book from another field that has had a profound impact on their work. Podcast speakers and discussants are to be announced.

### **Zoom Webinars**

To encourage and increase scholarship among Byzantinists, the **Byzantine Senior Fellows** will pair up with one or two scholars of their choice, including but not limited to Dumbarton Oaks alumni, to discuss a favorite topic for them, within their special field, with one part of the discussion focusing on current scholarly trends and the other connecting the topic to the here and now. There are two Zoom Webinars led by the Senior Fellows scheduled for October and we will be sending updates about additional webinars as they are scheduled. More information, including dates, webinar topics, and zoom links are to be announced.

## **Ancient Art at Dumbarton Oaks**

**February 10, 2020 to July 2021 - Dumbarton Oaks  
Museum**





*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. [Visit the online exhibit to see more.](#)

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.

## Online Catalogue of Byzantine Coins

### Expanding Digital Scholarship of Byzantine Coins



*Justin I, Gold, Solidus, Thessalonike, 518-522. Image Courtesy of Dumbarton Oaks Collection.*

**Explore** the newly minted collection of Byzantine Coins. Close to 800 Byzantine coins acquired in the last two decades are now available in the Online Catalogue of Byzantine Coins, which presents zoomable images, translations, transcriptions, measurements, and commentary on hundreds of coins. For the first time, numismatists and Byzantinists can look at these objects via a free digital catalogue.

## Online Catalogue of Byzantine Seals

### Advancing Byzantine Studies through Seals

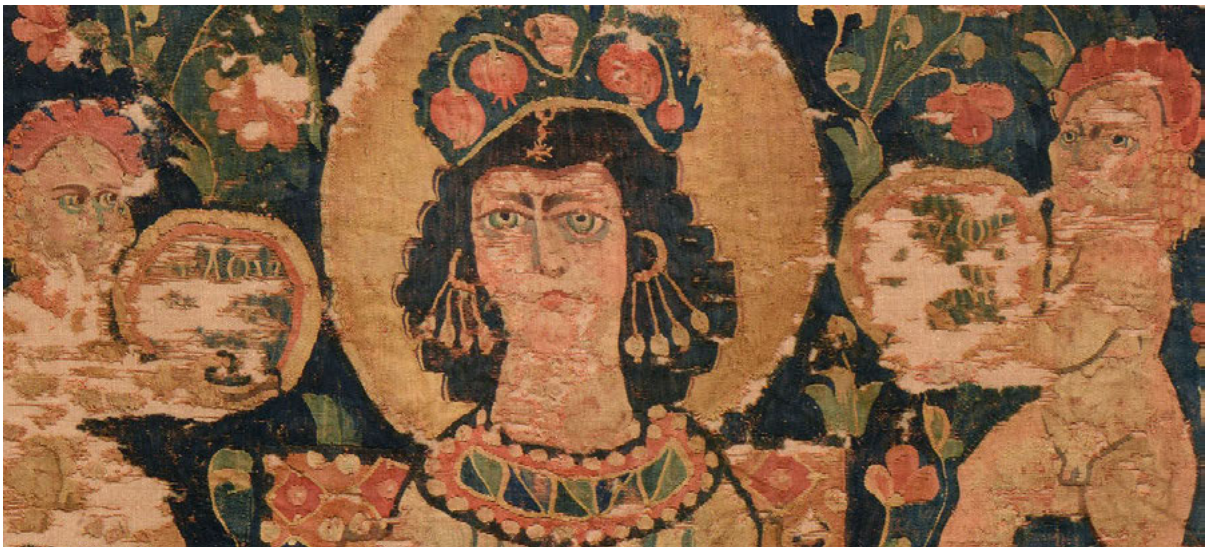


*Seals in the Dumbarton Oaks collection. Image by Dumbarton Oaks.*

**Browse** our collection of Byzantine Seals, learn about sigillography, and explore highlights. An ongoing project to record the 17,000 Byzantine lead seals held by Dumbarton Oaks and publish them online, the collation of the data on seals in the Dumbarton Oaks collection with evidence from other sources will advance research in many areas, notably prosopography, philology, art history, economic, institutional and administrative history, and historical geography.

## Textile Online Catalogue

### Cataloguing Textiles from the Second to the Seventeenth Century





*Hanging with Hestia Polyolbus, Egypt, ca. 6th c. Image Courtesy of Dumbarton Oaks Collection.*

**Explore** Dumbarton Oaks's unique collection of Byzantine and early Islamic textiles. The objects, which include major monuments like Hestia Polyolbus, range in date from the second to the seventeenth century and emerged from the textile-making traditions of Egypt, Mesopotamia, the Indian subcontinent, and the Byzantine heartlands. Each entry features high-resolution photography, archival photography where applicable, art-historical analyses, and full exhibition history, bibliography, and provenance information. The most important pieces also feature technical analyses to give a grounding in the material aspects of the textiles.

We look back on the legacy of the Dumbarton Oaks collections and our institution's mission to publish the complete holdings of the Byzantine Collection. And we look forward to the possibilities of digital cataloguing formats in making scholarly research and publications timely, accessible, and connective.

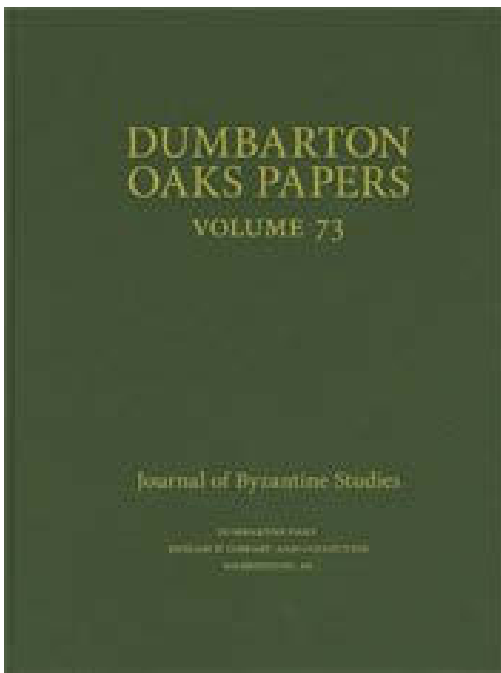
## Publications and Acquisitions

### From the Material World to the Homiletic Tradition



#### Dutch Masterpiece Exchange

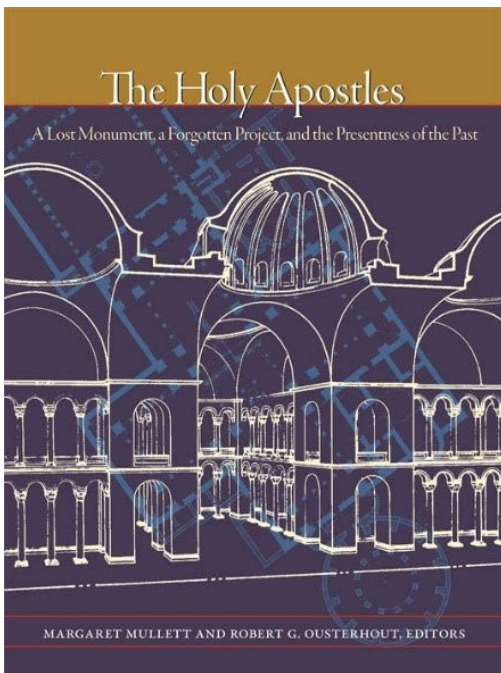
Learn more about the Dutch Golden Age masterpiece loaned to Dumbarton Oaks by the Art Institute of Chicago.



### **Dumbarton Oaks Papers, Volume 73**

**Find out more** about our most recent DOP edition.

Published annually, the journal Dumbarton Oaks Papers was founded in 1941 for the publication of articles relating to Byzantine civilization.



### ***Dumbarton The Holy Apostles: A Lost Monument, a Forgotten Project, and the Presentness of the Past***

**Margaret Mullett and Robert G. Ousterhout, Editors**

**Find out more** about our newest volume in the Dumbarton Oaks Byzantine Symposia and Colloquia collection. This volume represents two feats: the fruits of one of Dumbarton Oaks' renowned symposia and the completion of a research project that began at Dumbarton Oaks back in the 1940s.

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