

Dumbarton Oaks  
Research Library and Collection

## Byzantine Studies Program Newsletter



*2019-2020 Summer scholars (Coins and Seals Summer Program participants and instructors, summer interns, summer fellows, One-Month Research Awardees, Plant Humanities Summer Program participants)*

*Image: Dumbarton Oaks*

The summer term in the Byzantine Studies Program at Dumbarton Oaks was joyfully productive: we welcomed eight summer fellows (natives of Belgium, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, and Romania, who came both from home and from institutions in Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.). The group developed a mutually enriching intellectual camaraderie, both within the confines of the Research Library and beyond it, during explorations of the stimulating cultural scene of Washington, D.C.

Furthermore, summer interns from Harvard acquired hands-on experience working in the

library, the museum, and the publications departments, and seven Coins and Seals Summer Program students (from Canada, Greece, Italy, Turkey, and the United States) were initiated into the multilayered universe of the unique Dumbarton Oaks coins and seals collections.

At the same time, at the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library (HMML) in Minnesota, two select groups of international students enjoyed intensive language learning programs in Coptic and Syriac, taught by **Dr. Robert Kitchen**, **Dr. Sergey Minov**, **Prof. Victor Ghica**, and **Dr. Alin Siciu**.

We also had seven One-Month Research Awardees and three Short-Term Predoctoral Residents from around the world come to do work on various publications and projects, complete research for dissertations, and prepare for general exams.

On July 1, 2019, we welcomed **Dr. Claudia Rapp**, currently Professor of Byzantine Studies at the University of Vienna, to the Byzantine Senior Fellows Committee for a three-year term.

At the end of the summer, Dumbarton Oaks is co-organizing with the Textile Museum *Woven Interiors*, a unique textile exhibition featuring a remarkable array of fabrics used in secular and sacred spaces. *Ornament: Fragments of Byzantine Fashion* will open in early fall and will include dress textiles evoking fashions from a long-lost world. Moreover, our online catalogues of textiles and coins have been made available to the scholarly community.

Lastly, in the spring of 2020, we will be welcoming four visiting scholars to campus (please see below for their names and titles). We are looking forward to a series of vibrant and creative discussions among members of the community.

## Summer Fellows



*2019-2020 summer fellows. Top left: Jan Willem Drijvers, Martina Filosa, Anna Stavrakopoulou (Program Director), Panagiotis Theodoropoulos, Krystina Kubina, Jessica Varsallona. Bottom left: Eden Slone (Program Coordinator), Vladimir Ivanovici, Julie Van Pelt, Rachele Ricceri.*

*Image: Dumbarton Oaks*

After a highly productive time using Dumbarton Oaks library and collection resources, our 2019 summer fellows have departed. We are sad to see them go!

## **Coins and Seals Summer School & Visit to HMML**



*2019 Coins and Seals Summer Program participants. Top left: Antonio Di Cosmo, Aristotelis Nayfa, Daniel Zimmerman, Anna Stavrakopoulou (Program Director), Mustafa Yildiz, Aikaterini Peppa. Bottom left: Nastasya Kosygina, Jonathan Shea (instructor), Alan Stahl (instructor), Aurora Camaño.*

*Image: Dumbarton Oaks*

During the month of July, Dumbarton Oaks hosted students for the 2019 Coins and Seals Summer Program. Instructed by **Dr. Alan Stahl** (Princeton University) and **Dr. Jonathan Shea** (Dumbarton Oaks), students learned the basics of Byzantine numismatics and sigillography with hands-on seminars, collections viewings, and completion of original research projects.

**Dr. Anna Stavrakopoulou**, Program Director for Byzantine Studies, visited the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library at the heart of the architecturally unique St. John's University campus in scenic Minnesota. She met with the enthusiastic students and faculty of the DO/HMML Coptic and Syriac School, visited with **Father Columba Stewart**, HMML Executive Director, and was guided through the amazing collaborative [project of the St. John's Bible](#) by its director, **Tim Ternes**.



*Dumbarton Oaks and Hill Museum & Manuscript Library 2019 Syriac and Coptic Summer School.*

*Starting from the front, left to right: Valentina Grasso, Mostafa Younsesie, Bogdan Draghici, Antonio Musto, Amal Abdelaziz Shehata, Anna Stavrakopoulou (Program Director for*

*Byzantine Studies at Dumbarton Oaks), Sergey Minov (Syriac instructor), Victor Ghica (Coptic instructor), Abby Kulisz, Dingjian Xie, Alin Suciu (Coptic instructor), Mahmut Agbaht, Marianna Zarantonello, Joanna Wegner, Nikita Andrejevs, Robert Kitchen (Syriac instructor), Johnathan Hardy, Stanislau Paulau, Matteo Milesi, Augustine Dickinson, Daniel Zelenin, Douglas Whalin, Ángel Narro.*

*Image: Wayne Torborg, 2019, Hill Museum & Manuscript Library, Saint John's University, Colledgeville, Minnesota, USA.*

## 2019-2020 Byzantine Fellows



*The 2019-2020 Fellows at Dumbarton Oaks.*

*Image: Dumbarton Oaks*

We are excited to welcome our new Byzantine fellows this year!

### 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 (13th–14th 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** (Central European University, Spring), “Grammar Education in Byzantium (11th–12th Centuries)”
- **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

- **Sasson Chahanovich**, “Islamic Mysticism and Apocalypticism in the Eastern Mediterranean”
- **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 – SPRING 2020**

- **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
- **Walter Pohl** (University of Vienna/Austrian Academy of Sciences), Director of the Institute for Medieval Research of the Austrian Academy of Sciences

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

## **Byzantine Studies Award Opportunities**

### **One-Month Research Awards**

Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection offers One-Month Research Awards of \$3,000 to scholars holding a PhD and working on research projects in Byzantine studies or related fields. The awards were established to make the intellectual community, as well as the library, rare book, garden, and museum resources, of Dumbarton Oaks more widely available to a broader range of scholars for shorter terms and with some flexibility in starting dates. Awards are intended especially for those who might not be able to avail themselves of a longer-term fellowship at Dumbarton Oaks, or scholars in related disciplines who seek greater exposure to our fields of study. **Applications due October 1, 2019 for January 15 – June 30 award period.**

### **Fellowships**

Fellowships (junior, regular, summer, Tyler) are awarded to scholars on the basis of demonstrated scholarly ability and preparation of the candidate, including knowledge of requisite languages, interest and value of the study or project, and the project’s relevance to the resources of Dumbarton Oaks. **Applications due November 1, 2019 for the 2020-2021 academic year.**

For further information on all awards, please visit the Dumbarton Oaks [website](#).

## Public Lecture by Helen Evans

**"Spheres of Influence: Byzantine Art in the Global Middle Ages"**



*Dr. Helen Evans.*

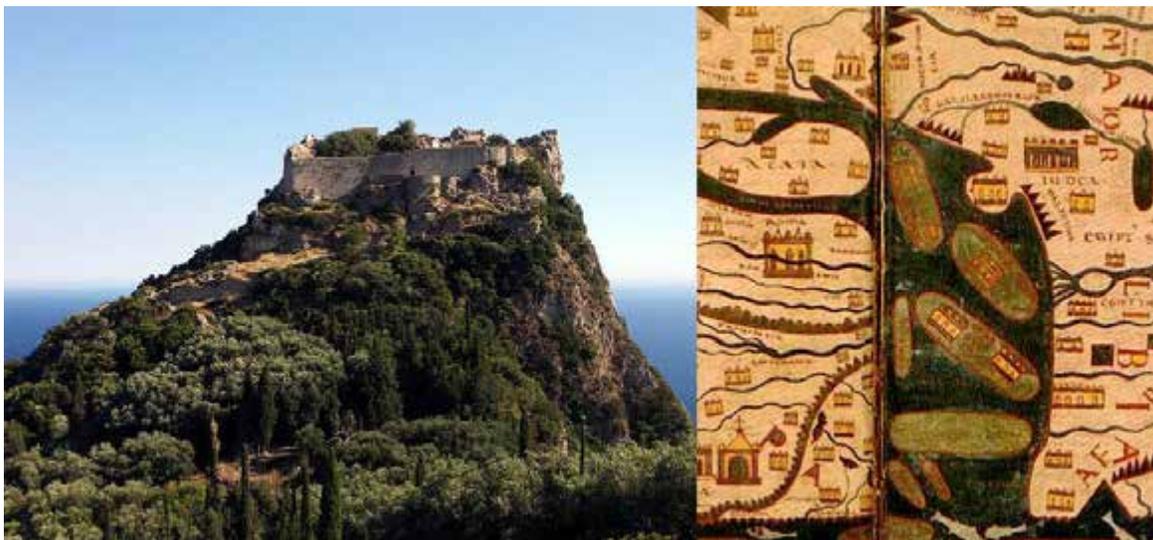
*Image: Dumbarton Oaks*

**Dr. Helen Evans**, Mary and Michael Jaharis Curator of Byzantine Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, will give a lecture titled “Spheres of Influence: Byzantine Art in the Global Middle Ages” on **November 14, 2019** at 6:00 pm. Dr. Evans will consider how the role of Byzantine art and culture and its interconnections with lands beyond its territorial borders should be central to the growing interest in the Global Middle Ages.

Check our [website](#) in October for a link to register. This event is free.

## Byzantine Studies Colloquium

## "The Insular Worlds of Byzantium," November 15, 2019



*Angelokastro, Corfu (image: Dr.K./Wikimedia Commons); The Mappa Mundi of Saint Beatus of Liébana, ca. 730–ca. 800.*

*Image: Medievalist.net*

Byzantine islands have been largely considered marginal to the dramatic political, social, and economic changes the Byzantine heartland experienced in the seventh century and at the onset of Arab expansion in the eastern Mediterranean. Major islands, such as Sicily, Sardinia, Malta, and the Balearics, were lost forever. Others, like Crete and Cyprus, remained in flux until they were briefly reclaimed by Byzantium in the tenth century before coming under Latin control during the Crusades. Contrary to the perspectives offered by written sources (Byzantine, Arab, and Western), which for the most part dismiss them as marginal spaces, places of exile, or military outposts along maritime frontiers, islands constitute the best examples of the transformative adaptability of Byzantine society during periods of volatility and transition. Instead of decline and abandonment, archaeological work and results point to the existence of active communities, local and regional economic exchanges, and cultural continuities and interconnections during the period between the seventh century and the fall of Constantinople to the Crusaders in 1204.

Speakers will address the topic of Byzantine islands through case studies viewed in their broader Mediterranean and comparative contexts. The exploration of islands as hubs where Byzantine, Islamic, and Western European cultures encountered and influenced the local political, economic, and social structures will permit new insights into the networks of island societies and their legacies. Not only were islands located along commercial shipping routes, but, as spaces of adaptive economic activities and social strategies that were molded by

military and political realities, they presented unique opportunities for cultural interconnections. In this context, the "[The Insular Worlds of Byzantium](#)" will provide new and revised perspectives on the Byzantine Mediterranean and beyond.

### **Speakers**

- **Nikolas Bakirtzis**, The Cyprus Institute
- **William Caraher**, University of North Dakota
- **Salvatore Cosentino**, Università di Bologna
- **Sarah Davis-Secord**, University of New Mexico
- **Michael Decker**, University of South Florida
- **Jonathan Shea**, Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection
- **Joanita Vroom**, Leiden University
- **Luca Zavagno**, Bilkent University

Register to attend [here](#).

## **2019-2020 Upcoming Events**

### **November 14, 2019**

"Spheres of Influence: Byzantine Art in the Global Middle Ages," public lecture by Helen Evans

### **November 15, 2019**

"[The Insular Worlds of Byzantium](#)," colloquium

### **December 4, 2019**

Event in honor of **Dr. Cécile Morrisson** (by invitation only)

### **March 14, 2020 (tentative)**

Teaching Day

### **April 24-25, 2020**

"[Byzantine Missions: Meaning, Nature, and Extent](#)," symposium

## New Online Catalogue of Byzantine Coins

Recently acquired coins now available to view



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

## Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library



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.

[Find more information and a complete list of titles online.](#)

#### **Volume 54 - new release**

#### **[Saints of Ninth- and Tenth-Century Greece](#)**

Edited and translated by **Anthony Kaldellis** and **Ioannis Polemis**

[Saints of Ninth- and Tenth-Century Greece](#) collects funeral orations, encomia, and narrative hagiography. Together, these works illuminate one of the most obscure periods of Greek history—when holy men played central roles as the Byzantine administration reimposed control on southern and central Greece in the wake of Avar, Slavic, and Arab attacks and the collapse of the late Roman Empire. The bishops of the region provided much-needed leadership and institutional stability, while ascetics established hermitages and faced invaders. The Lives gathered here include accounts of Peter of Argos, which offers insight

into episcopal authority in medieval Greece, and Theodore of Kythera, an important source for the history of piracy in the Aegean Sea.

This volume, which illustrates the literary variety of saints' Lives, presents Byzantine Greek texts written by locals in the provinces and translated here into English for the first time.

### **Volume 56 - upcoming release**

#### ***Allegories of the Odyssey: John Tzetzes* (forthcoming November 2019)**

Edited and translated by **Adam J. Goldwyn** and **Dimitra Kokkini**

Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* were central to the educational system of Byzantium, yet the religion and culture of the Homeric epics—even the ancient Greek language itself—had become almost unrecognizable to Byzantine Greek readers coming to the texts nearly two millennia later. The scholar, poet, and teacher John Tzetzes (ca. 1110–1180) joined the extensive tradition of interpreting Homer by producing his [Allegories of the Iliad](#), dedicated to the foreign-born empress Eirene. Tzetzes later composed the *Allegories of the Odyssey*, a more advanced verse commentary, to explain Odysseus's journey and the pagan gods and marvels he encountered. Through historical allegory, the gods become ancient kings deified by the pagan poet; through astrological interpretation, they become planets whose positions and movements affect human life; through moral allegory Athena represents wisdom, Aphrodite desire. This edition presents the first translation of the *Allegories of the Odyssey* into any language.

### **Other DOML News**

The series wishes a fond farewell to **Dr. Alice-Mary Talbot** (Director of Byzantine Studies Emerita at Dumbarton Oaks), our outgoing Byzantine Greek editor, who has been with the series since its inception and retired this year at the end of June. We are extremely grateful for her stalwart leadership over the last decade, overseeing the publication of (including the forthcoming ones) eighteen Byzantine Greek volumes (such as her own [Miracle Tales from Byzantium](#), cotranslated by **Scott Fitzgerald Johnson**, and [Holy Men of Mount Athos](#), coedited and translated by **Richard P. H. Greenfield**, with additional contributions by **Stamatina McGrath** and **Alexander Alexakis**).

Alice-Mary is succeeded as Byzantine Greek editor by two co-editors, **Alexander Alexakis** (Professor of Byzantine Literature in the Department of Philology of the University of Ioannina, Greece) and **Richard Greenfield** (a professor in the Department of History at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario). Both Alex and Richard have been members of the Byzantine Greek editorial board since its inception. In addition to collaborating with Alice-Mary on [Holy Men of Mount Athos](#), Richard also translated [The Life of Saint Symeon the New Theologian: Niketas Stethatos](#). We look forward to even more fantastic Byzantine volumes under their leadership!

# Exhibitions

## *Woven Interiors*

On view at the Textile Museum: August 31, 2019 - January 5, 2020



*Fragmentary roundel, Egypt, Late Roman Period, fourth-century. Wool; tapestry woven. The Textile Museum 71.10.*

Image: [The George Washington University Museum and the Textile Museum](#)

Vibrant colors and an array of textures enlivened the interior spaces of early medieval Egypt. Textiles were omnipresent in the villas, palaces, pavilions, churches, mosques, and humble abodes of Byzantine and early Islamic Egypt. [Woven Interiors: Furnishing Early Medieval Egypt](#) provides insight into the decoration of these areas, inviting the viewer to experience stunning tapestries featuring mythical beings and intriguing iconography alongside household objects and luxurious gold jewelry.

*Woven Interiors* will feature approximately sixty remarkable examples of hangings, curtains, bedcovers, pillows, and other fabrics intended for use in a range of sacred and secular spaces. These fabrics served as cozy bed cloths, adorned bare walls, cushioned hard surfaces, and veiled sacred spaces. The exhibition presents masterpieces from the Textile Museum and the Dumbarton Oaks collections, supplemented with important loans from major American institutions. The fragility of these rare pieces—which include early carpets, fabric

icons, and tapestry-woven hangings—means that many have never before been exhibited, or have remained in storage for decades. Textiles will be supported by related objects in other materials—like wood, gold, and silver—to evoke the plush surroundings of the Byzantine and early Islamic Mediterranean worlds.

This exhibition is curated by **Elizabeth Dospel Williams**, Assistant Curator of the Byzantine Collection; **Gudrun Bühl**, Director of the Museum für Lackkunst, Münster; and **Sumru Belger Krody**, Senior Curator, The George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum.

[Visit the exhibition website](#) for hours and admission.

## ***Ornament: Fragments of Byzantine Fashion***

**On view at Dumbarton Oaks: September 10, 2019 - January 5, 2020**



Excavations in the nineteenth-century unearthed scores of the ornate dress textiles which wrapped the people of medieval Egypt in their graves. [Ornament: Fragments of Byzantine](#)

[\*Fashion\*](#) brings together complete tunics, parts of garments, and contemporary replicas of ancient dress to evoke the fashions of this now lost world. These textiles often preserved traces of their wearers in the forms of folds and stains, providing researchers with important information about the people buried in these garments. But alongside these bodily vestiges, the decoration of these textiles reveals much about the sophistication and aesthetics of the period in which they were crafted. Often cut into pieces by dealers at the time they were sold on the art market, these fragments survive in an incomplete state that has complicated our understanding of Byzantine dress practices.

The textiles on view in this exhibition represent a small part of the holdings in the Byzantine collection, which will feature in a free digital catalogue available on the Dumbarton Oaks website. With their spectacular range of colors, patterns, and ornamental motifs, the textiles display the remarkable skill of ancient craftsmen and a compellingly modern aesthetic.

This exhibition is curated by **Elizabeth Dospel Williams**, Assistant Curator of the Byzantine Collection, and **Gudrun Bühl**, Director of the Museum für Lackkunst, Münster, with assistance from **Samuel Shapiro**, Postgraduate Curatorial Fellow, Museum Department.

## **Publications and Acquisitions**

### **From the material world to the homiletic tradition**



### Dumbarton Oaks Papers, vol. 72

[Click here](#) to learn more about the most recent DOP edition.



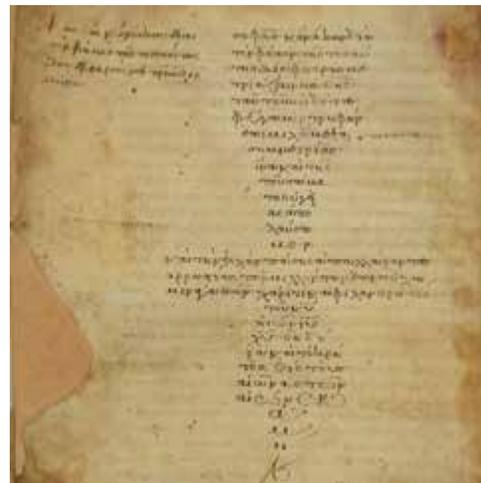
### Digitized Byzantine Manuscripts

[Explore](#) our collection of digital facsimiles and high resolution images.



### Mansfield Coin Acquisition

[Find out](#) about the promised gift of coins from Steve Mansfield to Dumbarton Oaks.



### John Chrysostom Manuscript Acquisition

[Learn more](#) about Dumbarton Oaks' acquisition of this ninth-century Byzantine manuscript.

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