



DUMBARTON OAKS

RESEARCH LIBRARY AND COLLECTION

Landscape Matters: News from GLS @ Dumbarton Oaks

The Garden and Landscape Studies program at Dumbarton Oaks is pleased to share with you the following news about the past academic year, and announcements regarding 2014-15 fellows, fellowship applications, new programs, forthcoming colloquium and symposium, and new publications.

2013-14 in review



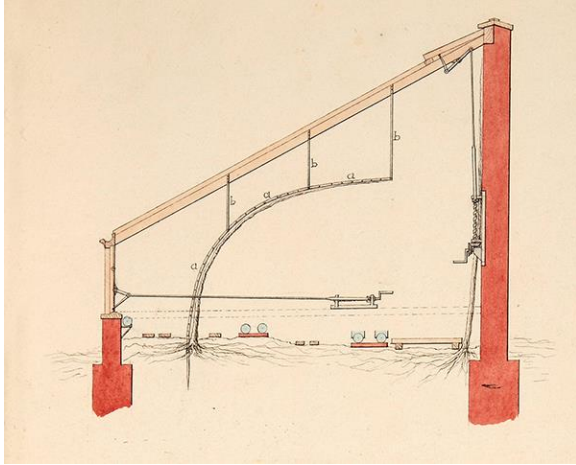
Speakers at Symposium "Sound and Scent in the Garden," May 2014

For the program in Garden and Landscape Studies, 2013-14 marked an important new point of departure. We submitted a successful application to the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for a major **initiative in urban landscape studies**, planned to bring designers and historians together at Dumbarton Oaks over the next three years (2015-18) to address the landscape consequences of advancing urbanization. Details are below. At the same time, we continued to develop our traditional areas of strength, hosting the fellowships, lectures, symposium, and garden installation project that have become the hallmarks of garden and landscape studies at Dumbarton Oaks.

The **annual symposium**, organized by Garden and Landscape Studies senior fellow D. Fairchild Ruggles and held May 9-10, 2014, was on the subject of “Scent and Sound in the Garden.” Featuring 14 speakers—a truly global team in terms of institutional affiliations, range of subjects, and scholarly perspectives—the symposium examined one of the most difficult topics in landscape history: sensory perception. While we often approach gardens as things to be seen—thus engaging the rational, intellectual part of the human brain—“Sound and Scent in the Garden” explored the more elusive experiences of sound and smell. Although important dimensions of garden design and performance that have powerful effects on the human body, memory, and imagination, these senses are ephemeral and do not lend themselves easily to scholarly investigation. How does the historian capture those sensations except through words which survive in manuscripts and printed books, themselves visual media? Aside from stating that a flower is fragrant, how can the historian bring out the cultural meanings of its specific scent, beyond stating that it is sweet or pungent or that it smells like something else, incurring a circular pattern of description and association? Can the historical soundscape of a garden with running water and nightingales be meaningfully recreated for ears that are accustomed to the loud hum of air conditioning and the roar of car engines? The papers in the symposium explored the ways that the historical experience of sound and scent can be recuperated, and examined the meaning of those senses for cultural history and landscape design, past and present. For a complete list of speakers and their topics, see www.doaks.org/research/garden-landscape/garden-and-landscape-symposia-and-colloquia/symposium/sound-and-scent-in-the-garden/sound-and-scent-in-the-garden



Fellows and staff, Fall 2013.



Technology for peach forcing in Hans Jancke's *Travel Report*, 1875, part of the new *ex horto* series

The annual **colloquium**, with seven speakers, was held on November 1, 2013, on the subject of "Travel and Translation." Its aim was to explore the ways in which landscape design ideas are transmitted and exchanged—sometimes through literal travel and translation, and sometimes through study, absorption, and interpretation. This colloquium also marked the launching of *ex horto*, a new Dumbarton Oaks series of translations of classic and rare texts on garden history and on the philosophy, art, and

techniques of landscape architecture, the first two volumes in which, presented below, were published in the fall of 2013. The focus of the

colloquium was on eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Germany and Central Europe, with comparative talks on Italy, England, Ireland, and the United States. Topics included the German response to English and American ideas about metropolitan park design; travel in the context of gardeners' education in nineteenth century Germany; the travels of Irish revolutionaries in France and the impact of these experiences on the formation of their ideas; the response to Palladian villa gardens in the context of the Grand Tour; and the adoption of English landscape garden forms in Hungary in the course of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. For a complete list of speakers and their topics, see www.doaks.org/research/garden-landscape/garden-landscape-symposia-and-colloquia/farrand-colloquium/travel-and-translation-1/fall-2013-colloquium-2013travel-and-translation201d

Other **academic events** during the year included lectures by **Georges Farhat** of the University of Toronto on "Le Nôtre and Versailles in Modernity," an examination of the enduring legacy of the great French landscape designer on the 400th anniversary of his birth, and by **Eugene Wang** of Harvard University, who spoke on the Qianlong Emperor's Garden in the Forbidden City, drawing out both its temporal and spatial narrative qualities. We also hosted numerous informal talks by visiting scholars, one-month research stipend recipients, and interns, who spoke to staff and fellows as well as invited guests. Speakers included **Betsy Anderson**, University of Washington, on "Beatrix Farrand's Design of the Naturalistic Stream Valley in Dumbarton Oaks Park"; **Joseph Disponzio**, New York City Department of Parks and Recreation/Columbia University, on "Jean-Marie Morel and the Invention of Landscape Architecture"; **Felicia M. Else**, Gettysburg College, on "Water and the Medici: An Interdisciplinary Study of Festivals and Gardens"; **Peter Harnik**, Center for City Park Excellence, Trust for Public Land, on "Urban Green: Innovative Parks for Resurgent Cities"; **Thomas Mical**, University of South Australia, on "Landscapes of Power in Baroque Greenwich"; **Luke Morgan**, Monash University, Australia, on "The Monster in the Garden: Reframing Renaissance Landscape Design"; **Heather Morrison**, SUNY New Paltz, on "Imperial Gardens and Viennese Botanists: The Travel and Collecting Practices of a 1783 Botanical Expedition"; **Ana Duarte Rodrigues**, New University of Lisbon, on "Unknown Gardens: Literary Sources in Portugal"; **Boris Sokolov**, Russian State University

for the Humanities, Moscow, on “Russian Poliphilo: Comprehensive Translation and Interdisciplinary Research on Hypnerotomachia Poliphili”; and **Jason Ur**, Harvard University, on “Landscape Planning in the Core of the Assyrian Empire. Ca. 900-600 BC.” All these events were ably organized by the Program Coordinator in Garden and Landscape Studies, Jane Padelford.



The Dumbarton Oaks' copy of “Hypnerotomachia Poliphili” (1499, Venice) was utilized by research stipend recipient Boris Sokolov to create the first Russian translation of this publication.

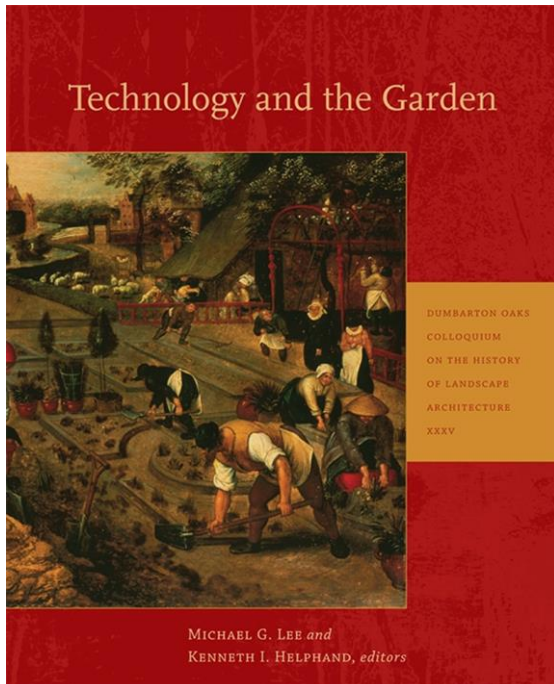


Fountain of the Harpies, 16th century, Boboli Gardens, Florence, Italy. Image courtesy Luke Morgan, a 2014 stipend recipient from Monash University in Australia who gave a talk on “The Monster in the Garden: Reframing Renaissance Landscape Design.”

New Publications

Our **publications** program continued to be active on many fronts, thanks to the efforts of post-doctoral associate Anatole Tchikine. This year, the proceedings of the 2011 symposium were published as *Technology and the Garden*, edited by Kenneth Helphand and Michael Lee www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780884023968. The first two titles appeared in *ex horto*, the translation series of classic and rare texts on garden history and on the philosophy, art, and techniques of landscape architecture. One is a travel report by the German court gardener Hans Jancke, “An Apprenticeship in the Earl of Derby's Kitchen Gardens and Greenhouses at Knowsley, England” (1874-75), the manuscript of which is in the Rare Book Collection at Dumbarton Oaks. The publication is a joint project with the Center of Garden Art and Landscape Architecture at Leibniz University Hannover. The other is the translation of *Die Gartenkultur des 20. Jahrhunderts* by the German theoretician and designer Leberecht Migge, one of the least known and most interesting texts of the

modern era in landscape architecture, which appeared on the centenary of the book's original publication in 1913. Next up in the series is a volume of translations of the Chinese Kangxi emperor's poems and prose descriptions of the "36 Views of the Bishu Shanzhuang." It will be published together with first-ever side-by-side reproductions of the complete



woodblocks and copper plate engravings commissioned by the emperor, which were instrumental in bringing knowledge of Chinese gardens to Europe. The goal of *ex horto* is to make available in English both works in manuscript that have never been published and books that have long been out of print; the series will eventually constitute a library of historical sources that have defined the core of the field. By making these works more available, the series will help provide access to the foundational literature of garden and landscape studies.

Meanwhile, work continues on the proceedings of the 2012 symposium, "Food and the City," edited by Dorothee Imbert, and the 2013 symposium, "Cultural Landscape Heritage in Sub-Saharan Africa," edited by John Beardsley. For a full list of Garden and Landscape titles from

Dumbarton Oaks and for information on ordering the books, go to www.doaks.org/research/garden-landscape/garden-and-landscape-publications.

This year, we also took steps to insure that the **website** "Middle East Garden Traditions" will continue to be updated and available to both scholars and students of garden design in the Islamic World. Deniz Turker and Aleksandar Sopov, two Tyler Fellows—Harvard graduate students who were in residence at Dumbarton Oaks working on their own research and institutional initiatives—helped update the site and prepare it for its new home on the Dumbarton Oaks website.

Contemporary Art Installation

The fourth in our occasional series of contemporary **art installations**, a temporary sound sculpture by composer Hugh Livingston entitled *The Pool of 'Bamboo Counterpoint,'* was installed in the gardens in the spring to coincide with the "Scent and Sound" symposium.

Dr. Livingston installed a group of twelve organ-like pipes in the ornamental pool that designer Beatrix Farrand placed in lieu of a stage below the brick amphitheater in the gardens, bringing out the theatrical potential of the site. The pipes, made of clear acrylic with speakers mounted on the top, may be seen as a chorus of different voices, finding their way at the beginning of an opera rehearsal. The individual voices create a soundscape of remixed recordings collected in the gardens and augmented by newly composed musical

materials, many of which are related to bamboo growing near the pool. Sounds include bamboo percussion and flutes made from culling the adjacent grove, and wind, from rustling to roaring, recorded late at night.

In addition, Dr. Livingston spent some time with the 1926 Steinway in the historic Music Room in the Main House at Dumbarton Oaks, where Stravinsky's eponymous concerto was first performed. Fragments and figments of Stravinsky are also present in the sound installation's vocabulary, using computer software that generates real-time improvised variations from the original source material. The software also executes spatial algorithms which carve out trajectories in space, giving a unique sculptural quality to the presentation of sound, which seems at times to migrate in a clockwise direction, at others in the reverse.

From a distance, on the amphitheater steps, visitors perceive the chorus as a melded whole. Up close, as the visitor circulates the perimeter of the pool, the individual components and their counterpoint become more obvious. Sound resonates off the surface of the water and fills the enclosure created by the amphitheater, the bamboo to the east, and the steep slope to the west.



Composer Hugh Livingston graduated cum laude in music from Yale, has an MFA in contemporary music from the California Institute of the Arts and a doctorate from UC San Diego. As an artist, he draws on the history of outdoor music making as well as natural sound and psychoacoustic principles to create site-specific soundscapes.



The project was jointly organized by the garden staff with the Garden and Landscape Studies program. A sound video can be heard at: www.doaks.org/research/garden-landscape/contemporary-art-installations/hugh-livingston/hugh-livingston.

Changes in the committee of Senior Fellows

Two senior fellows reached the end of their terms of service to Dumbarton Oaks: Dorothee Imbert of the Ohio State University, who was the most recent Chair of the committee, and Mark Laird of the Harvard Graduate School of Design. We will miss their expertise and their abundant collegiality. We are fortunate that two other distinguished scholars in the field of garden and landscape studies have accepted invitations to serve on the committee: Sonja Dümpelmann of the Harvard Graduate School of Design, and Georges Farhat of the University of Toronto. D. Fairchild Ruggles is the new Chair.



Mark Laird (left) and Dorothee Imbert (right).
Image of Dr. Imbert courtesy David Torrence.

New Mellon Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies

Complementing our traditional strengths, an indication of additional future directions in Garden and Landscape Studies was given by the receipt of a major award from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to create a new interdisciplinary program in urban landscape studies. The grant was awarded through the Foundation's initiative in "Architecture, Urbanism, and the Humanities," launched in 2012 to support scholarship and higher education at the intersection of architecture and the humanities. Bringing together landscape architects and historians, it will explore how urban environments got to be the way they are and how best to manage them today. This grant is one of 15 made by the Mellon Foundation so far to major institutions of higher education and research, to foster the joint contributions that the humanities and the design and planning disciplines may make to the understanding of the processes and effects of burgeoning urbanization.

The program at Dumbarton Oaks will involve three principal components: new semester-long fellowships to be shared among designers and academics, as well as shorter-term residencies for senior practitioners; a series of academic events that will create a framework for interactions among these scholars and practitioners, along with other humanities scholars at Dumbarton Oaks and neighboring academic institutions; and a series of public programs, including lectures, colloquia, workshops, and publications, all aimed at disseminating the initiative's work nationally and internationally. The Mellon

Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies will be led by John Beardsley, Director of Garden and Landscape Studies at Dumbarton Oaks.

The project will be organized around broadly conceived themes, structured to acknowledge the current importance of sustainability, adaptability, and resilience, but to foster a greater historical awareness of these concepts. The themes will promote an understanding of cities as landscape systems by inviting engagement with such topics as topography, hydrology, climate, and urban form; landscape and public history; the urban/rural interface; urban biodiversity; productive urban landscapes; the repurposing of derelict urban spaces; and informal urbanism. In these ways, the project seeks to enlarge the discourse of landscape urbanism, still relatively professionalized and Western in focus, to encompass a wide range of cultures and topics.

Dumbarton Oaks is one of the few institutions in the world with a program devoted to garden and landscape studies that is already targeted at both humanities scholars and landscape practitioners. This grant will significantly expand the opportunities offered by the institution to for both of these groups, fostering constructive dialogue between them about the history and future of urban landscapes, and encouraging them to bridge the gap between their professional modes of thinking. To foster this interchange, Dumbarton Oaks seeks candidates for the Mellon Fellowships with a demonstrated capacity for cross-disciplinary work, and encourages collaborative applications from teams of designers and historians working on similar topics or the same city. Additional details on the program, including terms and application deadlines, will posted in October on the Garden and Landscape Studies webpage.



The Ideal City, ca. 1480-1484, Fra Carnevale, oil and tempera on panel. Image courtesy the Walters Art Gallery

2014-15 Fellows in Garden and Landscape Studies



Summer fellow Ilaria Andreoli (center) and rare book librarian Linda Lott (right) showing staff and fellows the books Ilaria used for primary research. Photo courtesy François Dupuigrenet Desroussi, July 2014.

The following **summer fellows** were in residence at Dumbarton Oaks in the summer term, 2014:

Ilaria Andreoli, CNRS/Université de Caen Basse-Normandie
"Pietro Andrea Mattoli's Discorsi on Dioscorides: The publishing strategies behind a Renaissance best-seller"

Antonio Jose Mezcuca López, Universidad de Granada
"The Feilaifeng Research Project"

Margaret Samu, Stern College for Women-Yeshiva University
"Baroque Sculpture Display in Peter the Great's Summer Garden"

The following **academic year fellows** will be in residence at Dumbarton Oaks in 2014-15:

Fellows

Felix Arnold, German Archaeological Institute (spring term)
"Islamic Gardens and Palaces in the West: archaeological evidence and architectural interpretation"

Raffaella Fabiani Giannetto, University of Pennsylvania
"From Palladian Villa to American Plantation: gardens and the ideology of country living"

Danielle Joyner, University of Notre Dame
"Landscapes and Medieval Arts"

Paul Kelsch, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
"Natural Histories of the Theodore Roosevelt and Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Memorials"

Micheline Nilsen, Indiana University South Bend (fall term)
"From Turnips to Lawn Chairs: allotment gardens in Europe, 1920 to 1975"

Junior Fellows

Jessica Herlich, College of William and Mary
"Algonquian Gardens in Tidewater Virginia"

Kaye Wierzbicki, Harvard University

“Garden Work: The Horticultural Formation of American Literature 1850 – 1930”



Jain rock-cut site at Muttupatti with ca. 9th or 10th-century carvings, Tamilnadu, India. Photo by Lisa N. Owen, 2011.

Forthcoming colloquium and symposium

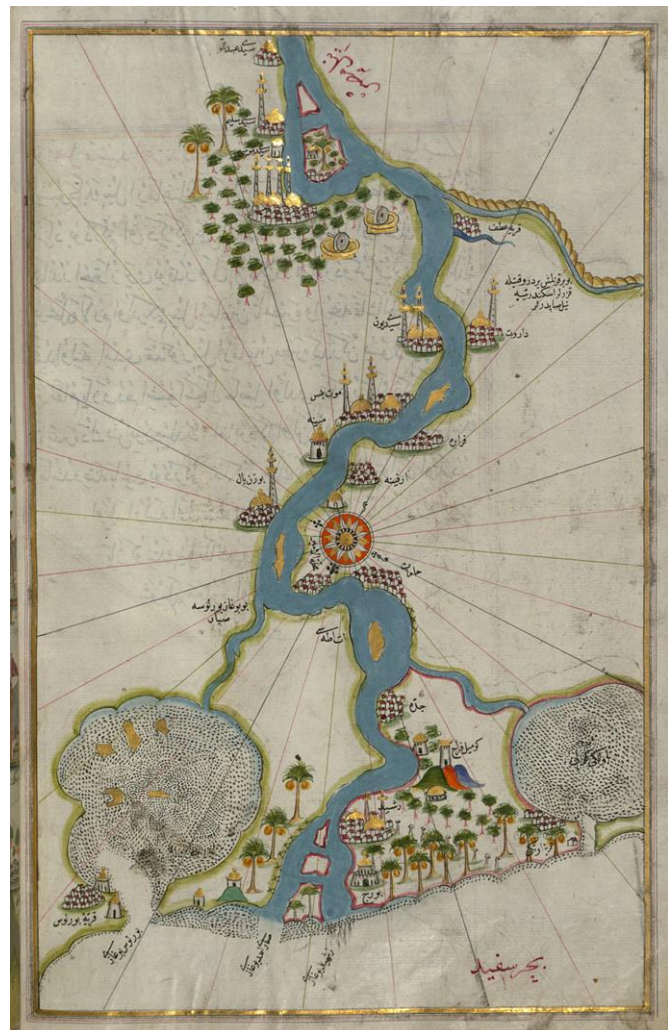
The annual fall **colloquium** for 2014 will be held on Friday, November 14. Co-organized by John Beardsley and Subhashini Kaligotla, formerly a scholar in residence at the Center for Advanced Studies in the Visual Arts at the National Gallery of Art and now a predoctoral fellow at the Getty Research Institute, the colloquium will focus on the relation between **landscape and sacred architecture in pre-modern South Asia**. Because Dumbarton Oaks and, more

largely, the field of garden and landscape studies have already seen extensive research into Islamic gardens in general and Mughal gardens in South Asia in particular, we want to push the focus back in time. Since so much that remains from the pre-modern era in South Asia is temple architecture, the colloquium will focus heavily though not entirely on temples: Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain; constructed and rock-cut. The colloquium will also address other kinds of ritual sites, including monastic complexes, water architecture, and funerary monuments. These structures will be considered in connection to landscape: their relation to topography, climate, and hydrology; to water storage and management; and to larger landscape contexts including nearby settlements, rivers, and roads. Presentations will address the spatial configurations of these sites—orientations, approaches and circulation—as well as spatial practices, including rituals such as pilgrimage and procession, but also methods of food production and irrigation that kept temple communities functioning, and practical considerations like fortification. We also expect some consideration of the ways inscriptions, literary texts, or architectural treatises, for example, gave rise to or relate to specific relationships with landscape.

Speakers include Kurt Behrendt, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Pia Brancaccio, Drexel University; Crispin Branfoot, SOAS, University of London; Robert DeCaroli, George Mason University; Padma Kaimal, Colgate University; Lisa Owen, University of South Texas; and Tamara Sears, Yale University. Additional information will be posted in September at: www.doaks.org/research/garden-landscape.

A call for papers has gone out for the spring **symposium**, which will be held May 8-9, 2015. Organized by senior fellow Thaisa Way, the symposium will focus on “**River Cities: Historical and Contemporary**.” Resilience and adaptability are increasingly recognized as

key elements of viable urbanism. But how have these concepts been understood historically? And how do they shape the design and stewardship of urban landscapes today? The dynamic relationships between cities and their rivers present a particularly critical instance of adaptability and resilience. Building on the emergence of urban humanities and urban landscape history, we propose to consider the urban river as a city-making landscape deserving of careful reading and analysis: past, present, and future. The subject of this symposium builds toward the new multi-year Mellon-funded initiative in urban landscape studies described above. The initiative's principal goal is to create a dialogue between designers and scholars to address the landscape consequences of advancing urbanization. With this task in mind, the 2015 symposium aims to bring together the work of contemporary designers with the historical perspectives of scholars, encouraging practitioners and historians to bridge the gaps between their modes of thinking. We would particularly welcome proposals for collaborative or paired presentations by designers and historians working on similar topics or the same city. Cities have emerged on the banks of rivers throughout history. Rivers are multi-faceted ecological, cultural, economic, and political agents, providing resources such as food, water, irrigation, sanitation, and transportation—and liabilities including flooding, drought, and occasional changes in their locations. While many cities share the history of rivers running through their cores, the relationships between rivers and cities are shaped by unique circumstances. New Orleans and Cairo, for example, were both located on the silt deposited by floods; yet, as these cities grew, one used a dam and the other levees to harness their rivers. While describing the river as part of urban infrastructure, how can we read the river landscape as a dynamic catalyst in the urban process? What is the role of the river, beyond its performance as a transportation corridor and a water source? How do its place, its flow, its speed, and its dynamic character shape the development of cities and the experience of the urban landscape spatially, geographically, and temporally? What landscape elements are distinctive to these urban river contexts—bridges, parks, ports, weirs, mills, various defensive structures—and how might the landscapes of inland river cities differ from those in deltas and on estuaries?

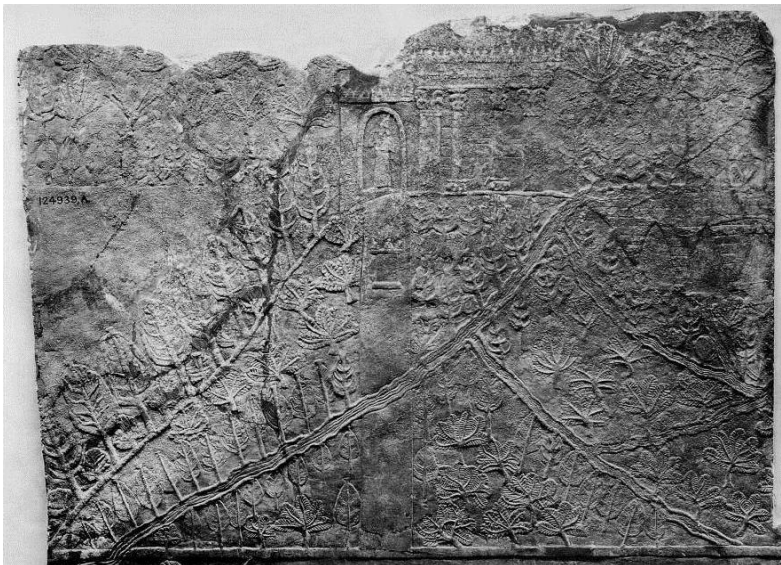


Map of the River Nile from its Estuary South, 11th century. Image courtesy the Walters Art Museum.

and on estuaries?

Another aspect of the relationship between cities and rivers that this symposium will explore concerns its representation in human experience, practice, and imagination. How do rivers frame the urban experience? Do they offer a connection to nature in the city as so many have claimed we need? What are their cultural and ritual uses? What can we discover by investigating the historical role of the river and city-making that might offer an alternative perspective on contemporary issues of access to clean water, public space, transportation, and the challenges of climate change are addressed? How might a historical investigation offer a means to re-imagine the way we think about and use our urban rivers today? Conversely, how can the spatial thinking of designers today revise our historical understandings of rivers and cities?

To be considered for the 2015 Dumbarton Oaks Garden and Landscape Studies symposium: “River Cities: Historical and Contemporary,” **please submit a 300 word abstract to Thaisa Way (tway@uw.edu) by September 14, 2014.**



An aqueduct and canals in an Assyrian garden, ca. 605 B.C. King Ashurbanipal's palace at Nineveh (Iraq). Image courtesy the British Museum. Anthropology professor Jason Ur from Harvard, was the 2013-14 project grant recipient. He researched the impacts of early urban communities on their landscapes using field survey and satellite remote sensing techniques.

Fellowship and Project Grant applications and deadlines

Dumbarton Oaks continues to offer **residential fellowships** in three areas of study: Byzantine Studies, Pre-Columbian Studies, and Garden and Landscape Studies; opportunities include Academic Year Fellowships, Academic Year Junior Fellowships, and Summer Fellowships. **The deadline for all residential fellowships is November 1.** In selecting fellows, the Garden and Landscape Studies program at Dumbarton Oaks seeks a balance between historical research and investigations of current practice, between inquiries at the scale of the garden and those addressing

larger landscapes. The program invites consideration of all aspects of this interdisciplinary and international field; applicants are encouraged to consider topics from a variety of perspectives.

The category of **Project Grants** has been expanded; we will now accept applications for a broad array of projects including field research, site analysis, botanical surveys, heritage conservation and restoration planning, with the goal of promoting the preservation and

understanding of historic gardens and other significant designed landscapes. Past projects can be viewed at www.doaks.org/research/garden-landscape/garden-and-landscape-project-grant-reports. Applicants must contact the Director of Studies at landscape@doaks.org no later than **October 1, 2014**, to determine if the project is within the purview of Dumbarton Oaks. **Application deadline November 1.**

One-Month Research Stipends of \$3,000 to are available to scholars holding the PhD or other relevant terminal degree (e.g., MLA for Garden and Landscape studies applicants) . **Short-term Pre-Doctoral Residencies** are also available, for periods up to four weeks; deadlines for these residencies are rolling. Complete details on research opportunities and application procedures for fellowships, residencies, and stipends are available at www.doaks.org/research/fellowships-and-grants