

# DUMBARTON OAKS

ART • NATURE • SCHOLARSHIP

## News from Garden and Landscape Studies

*A message from Thaisa Way, Program Director of Garden and Landscape Studies*

We do not know where this newsletter will find each of you as COVID-19 has changed our daily lives in innumerable ways and the protests in support of the Black Lives Matter in our public realm have again challenged us to think deeply about our scholarship, teaching, and civic engagement. We hope this message finds you safe, healthy, and with your community(ies). The Garden and Landscape Studies Program at Dumbarton Oaks is completing a remarkable year for scholarship and fellowship despite the challenges of Spring 2020.

We are pleased to share with you the following news about the past academic year and announcements regarding fellowship applications, forthcoming events, and new publications.

## 2019-2020 In Review

## Academic Events and Public Programs



*GLS Fellows 2019-2020.*

We have had the honor and pleasure of a strong community of fellows this year. They were each not only productive in their own projects but also significantly and broadly contributed to the larger scholarly community in ways that will endure into the future. Ann Komara came with the intention to write three articles and left with the outline of a book on the Butte Chaumont in Paris. Lindi Masur has all but finished her dissertation while bridging the GLS and Pre-Columbian departments through her research into agricultural practices in twelfth and thirteenth century Ontario, dispelling long held myths along the way. Zeynep Kezer has uncovered significant narratives on the agriculture and land uses of the eastern landscape of Turkey under the

Ottomans in the early twentieth century, including the silk industry, metal roofs, and the flooding impacts of logging, suggesting a much more complex environmental and political narrative on the Armenian genocide. Katherine Coty's research on Bomarzo and the Sacro Bosco is already challenging current assumptions about the garden, suggesting a complex interpretation of the genius loci that is regionally grounded. Paradise gardens, in a similar manner, will be re-imagined with the scholarship of Annette Geisecke, as she ties Pasargadae and the East to the emergence of Roman gardens and landscapes. This spring, Erika Milam joined us to share her study of slow science and the work of in-the-field scientists researching animals over decades. Additionally, we had our one-month research award scholars and predoctoral students, each of whom shared in the collective learning that continues to define our community. This is how we shape the field, one scholar at a time, but not alone, rather in community, as a collective inquiry into why, how, where, when, and for/ by whom our gardens and landscapes are shaped, used, and remembered. This year was no different, even as it was interrupted and challenged by COVID-19.

The annual fall colloquium was devoted to the subject of "[Interpreting Landscapes of Enslavement](#)" bringing scholars, leaders, and community advocates together to talk about the role of landscape in developing narratives of American history. Held October 25, 2019, it was organized in conjunction with the Mellon Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies, supported by a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. This colloquium anticipated our Spring Symposium on the legacies of segregation and spatial inequality in urban landscape. The colloquium focused on strategies for revealing and interpreting histories of slavery and its legacies. We considered how we are recovering and sharing the landscape narratives of enslaved humans, and the violence perpetrated on their descendants, in site histories and public education. We heard from historians about sugar and its role in the landscape of enslavement and about *confederaphilia* and Jim Crow. We heard how Monticello alongside museums such as Montpelier and Whitney Plantation have shaped interpretative programs that grapple with how these were sites of human struggle and tragedy, alongside strong resistance and resilience. Faculty at the University of Virginia, Georgetown University, and the University of Alabama shared how they understand, interpret, and share their histories of engagement in the near eradication of indigenous tribes and the brutal system of slavery and the slave trade.

The discussions we began at this colloquium are crucially important as schools and museums are our landscapes of learning, stewarding our students and scholars. These are the places and communities that hold the responsibility and privilege to describe both our histories and who we are today. Museums suggest where we think we came from and what we have valued. Universities not only teach history but frame what it means to be an educated citizen. And yet until the 1990s, neither type of institution undertook serious shared efforts to grapple with the essential ways in which the genocide of indigenous tribes, slavery, and enslavement molded our history, thus defining who we are to this day. It was an inquiry-rich day with questions, challenges, and collective learning. Thank you to the Mellon Foundation for the generous support for this work, which included funding of travel awards, which enabled six graduate students to attend the colloquium. Read about the students and their narrative reports on the [Awards for Students page](#).





*Thaisa Way with the Mellon student awardees who participated in the colloquium "Interpreting Landscapes of Enslavement," October 2019.*

The spring public lecture by Christine DeLucia on "**Memoryscapes of King Philip's War: Revisiting Indigenous and Colonial Places, Histories, and Legacies**" was cancelled due to COVID-19, though fortunately, we were able to invite her to speak at the Graduate Workshop. Our first virtual **Garden and Landscape Studies Graduate Workshop**, a three-week intensive course, was held from May 18 to June 5. This program, in its fifth year, brings graduate students together from across disciplines to inquire and challenge landscape and garden history and historiography. The focus this year was on histories and narratives of the public realm, a topic that could not be timelier. The nine participating **students shared their research** while contributing to building the resources for teaching and research histories of our public realm through digital tools. We invited scholars (historians, geographers, designers, and preservationists among others) to share their work through a lecture, followed by a one-on-one interview with a student on methods and frameworks. Thank you to each of the visiting scholars; we learned so much from you. We are very excited by the opportunities this workshop offered and look forward to sharing our collective learning.

## Summer Programs





© Gordon Parks, courtesy The Gordon Parks Foundation

*Outside Looking In, Mobile, Alabama, 1956. Photo by Gordon Parks. © The Gordon Parks Foundation.*

Building on our Mellon Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies, and in particular, the 2019 Colloquium on “Landscapes of Enslavement,” our GLS 2020 symposium **“Segregation and Resistance in America’s Urban Landscapes”** brings scholars together to engage with the urban landscape and environment in the Americas. The legacies of segregation, apartheid, and colonialism, as they construct inequitable land use in cities, are essential domains of study for landscape historians. Drawing from investigations of sites of memory, trauma, and racialized experience, this symposium invited scholars to engage with the urban landscape or environment through interrogating the means by which inequities, displacement, and spatial violence have affected the creation, development, and use of various spaces and sites in the urban public realm. Our scholars prepared a broad range of papers that explore the means by which inequities, displacement, and spatial violence have informed the creation, development, and use of spaces and sites in the public realm of American cities. Papers include “The Concrete Supply Chain: Environmental Racism in the Lehigh Valley,” “Erasing Blackness in Suburban Appalachia,” and “Communal Gardens and Urban Apartheid in Chinatown: Merced, CA, 1870–1910.” As we

were unable to host the symposium here at Dumbarton Oaks, we have re-formatted our two-day symposium as a series of monthly virtual events to be shared over the summer months. Each month, three pre-recorded papers will be available for listening via the Dumbarton Oaks Vimeo channel. At the close of each month, we will host a facilitated discussion on the papers with invited discussants. We will distribute the symposium content over the summer months, offering more opportunities for a broader audience and deeper engagement in the shared scholarship. Check the [Garden and Landscape Studies](#) webpage for updates as they become available. The symposium papers will culminate in an edited volume to be published by Dumbarton Oaks with an estimated release date of 2023. This volume will further the efforts of Dumbarton Oaks' Mellon Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies over the past four years, including the symposia and publications *Food and the City*, *River Cities/City Rivers*, and *Landscapes of Pre-Industrial Urbanism*.

## **Publications**



ex horto

# The Dumbarton Oaks Anthology of Chinese Garden Literature



ALISON HARDIE AND  
DUNCAN M. CAMPBELL

We were delighted in the Fall to see the release of the Ex Horto translation, *Theory of Gardens* by Jean-Marie Morel (1728–1810) translated by Emily T. Cooperman with an introduction and commentary by Joseph Disponzio. Morel, a leading French landscape designer and theorist, was the author of this fundamental eighteenth-century text in the history of landscape architecture, the *Théorie des jardins* (1776; second edition, 1802).

Newly published in 2020 was *The Dumbarton Oaks Anthology of Chinese Garden Literature*, edited by Alison Hardie and Duncan Campbell. It is the first comprehensive collection in English of

over two millennia of Chinese writing about gardens and landscape. Its contents range from early poems using plant imagery to represent virtue and vice, through works from many dynasties on both private and imperial gardens, to twentieth-century prose descriptions of the reconstruction of a historic Suzhou garden. Alison Hardie, contributor Richard Kraus, and Thaisa Way were able to join a symposium at the Huntington Gardens on “Unscholarly Gardens” to announce the publication. It was received with much enthusiasm as a critical contribution to the field. Both volumes are part of the Ex Horto series, which publishes historical texts from numerous languages and reintroduces valuable works long out of print from classic works of philosophy, art and techniques of landscape.

We are also honored and grateful to Marsden McGuire for his generous donation of papers and books owned by Diane Kostial McGuire (1934–2019), Advisor of the Gardens at Dumbarton Oaks from 1975 to 1981 and Acting Director of Studies in the History of Landscape Architecture in 1979–80. The papers contribute to our understanding of the history and legacy of Dumbarton Oaks Garden and Landscape Studies Program.

## Rare Book Collection



*Caroline Maschek, Stanhopea Shuttleworthii, 1884–91, gouache on Bristol paper.*

We are delighted that during the summer of 2019, Taylor Johnson joined our community as full-time Rare Book Collection Assistant. Taylor, who came to us from the Folger Shakespeare Library,



holds a BA in Classics and Linguistics from the University of Virginia and a Master of Science in Library Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. With five years of experience of working with rare and archival collections, she brought with her a broad knowledge of collection management and experience of reference and bibliographic work, with close involvement in educational programing.

During this year, the Rare Book Library hosted class visits, study days, and was the principal resource for the Plant Humanities summer school in July. The highlights included “*So that the memory of this villa, an honor and ornament to our homeland, would not be lost*”: Francesco Ignazio Lazzari’s *Descrizione della Villa Pliniana*, a Rare Book Library Study Day with Pierre du Prey and Anatole Tchikine; a similar event involving botanist John Kress, botanical illustrator Alice Tangerini, and artist Amy Lamb in preparation for the exhibition **Margaret Mee: Portraits of Plants**; and a class visit from Georgetown University led by Dean Christopher Celenza.

With new rare book purchases, we continued to build our strengths, both in the traditional and less developed areas of the collection. Recent acquisitions included a sixteenth-century printed description of the amenities of the Villa Tuscolano outside Bologna; a rare sixteenth-century illustrated treatise on ideal city planning by Jacques Perret, a visionary French Huguenot architect and mathematician; a description and plan of the newly opened botanical garden of Königsberg, published in 1819; and an unusual nineteenth-century plan of Versailles produced by using the innovative multicolor relief process. Several other acquisitions have been driven by plant-related interests. A four-volume set of colored botanical illustrations by the nineteenth-century Japanese artist Keiga Kawahara produced in consultation with the Dutch physician Philipp Franz von Siebold further strengthens our growing scope of East Asian materials. The purchase of seventy-five exquisite watercolors of orchids painted between 1885 and 1889 by the Czech illustrator Caroline Maschek for Baron Theodor Karel Josef Hruby z Gelenj, a well-known nineteenth-century orchid collector and connoisseur, adds to our rich holdings of women botanical artists. Finally, the sixteenth-century treatise on the rose, a plant native to Europe, by Nicolás Monardes highlights a wide range of botanical interests of the Spanish physician mainly associated with promoting exotic varieties, such as tobacco, imported from the Americas.

## Mellon Initiative in Urban Landscape Studies



*Landscape architecture students from Phelps Architecture, Construction, and Engineering High*

*School during their visit at the U.S. National Arboretum, February 2020.*

In 2019, Garden and Landscape Studies received a second major award from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to expand the interdisciplinary program in urban landscape studies with a focus on “Democracy and the Urban Landscape: Race, Identity, and Difference.” In the fall a new Mellon Advisory Board was selected that reflects the initiative’s shift towards the inclusion of a broader range of disciplines and perspectives within Landscape Studies. The interdisciplinary board is chaired by N.D.B. Connolly, the Herbert Baxter Adams Associate Professor of History at Johns Hopkins University and other members include Eric Avila, Professor of Chicano Studies UCLA; Justin Garrett-Moore, an Urban Designer and Executive Director of the Public Design Commission in New York; Dell Upton, a Professor of Art History at UCLA; Michelle Wilkinson, a Curator at the National Museum of African American History and Culture and Harvard LOEB Fellow; Willow Lung Amam, an Associate Professor of Urban Studies and Planning Program at University of Maryland; and Alice Nash, an Associate Professor of History at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Following the leadership of the new advisory board, the Urban Landscape Initiative has made early strides in expanding and reframing the narratives around landscape history and policy in numerous ways. The Advisory Board compiled a list of the most significant books in their respective fields to create the “Democracy and the Urban Landscape Initiative Book List.” ; we are using this list to expand the Garden and Landscape Studies Library collection pertaining to racialized and indigenous landscapes. Along with our expanded collection in the history of botanical exploration, these additions complement and extend the scope of an exemplary collection that has traditionally been focused on garden history. Together with our scholarly activities, this effort contributes to assuring that Dumbarton Oaks can better steward scholars in the field of urban landscape studies. The Mellon Initiative continued our **Midday Dialogue Series** during the 2019-2020 academic year with nine dialogues shared with our scholarly community. The scholars reflected the interdisciplinary focus of the Mellon Initiative by offering a wide range of perspectives and academic and professional approaches; the dialogues featured geologists, urban historians, landscape architects, architectural historians, geographers, anthropologists, and indigenous historians. Amongst the presentations were Victoria W. Wolcott’s critical inspection of the complex histories of race and violence embedded within the nostalgic mid-twentieth century landscapes of recreation, as well as Robert Alexander González’s examination of racially motivated borderland assaults and how to construct memorials that effectively commemorate tragedies that occurred over a lengthy span of time and space. Andrea Roberts described her work revealing, mapping, and narrating Texas Freedom Colonies. The dialogues allow for the themes supported by the Mellon Initiative to reach not just the Mellon and GLS fellows, but also, the rest of the Dumbarton Oaks fellows and staff. While our final Midday Dialogue, “Water in the Lumbee World: Indigenous Rights, Environmental Justice, and the Reshaping of Home” by Ryan Emmanuel, had to be cancelled due to COVID-19, we look forward to rescheduling his presentation for our scholars next year.

The Mellon Initiative also continues to sponsor student engagement and programming throughout the greater Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia region. We continued our ongoing partnership with Phelps Architecture, Construction, and Engineering High School, and this year, collaborated with the U.S. National Arboretum. The Phelps landscape architecture class visited the



Arboretum for a site visit, tour, and lecture by the Director, Dr. Richard Olson, and Supervisory Research Horticulturist Scott Aker. The students proposed a new entrance for the Arboretum on Bladensburg Road, and considered the history of the site, access, connection to the surrounding neighborhood, materiality, and ways to welcome visitors. This was a wonderful opportunity for students to experience the power of design and learn about a remarkable local resource, the U.S. National Arboretum. We want to thank the Arboretum staff for hosting us so warmly. Working with our Humanities Fellow, Julia Fine, we facilitated a lunchtime seminar at Phelps focused on the intersection of food history, landscape history, and inequality. Three postdoctoral research fellows from the Mellon-funded “Before Farm to Table Project” at the Folger Shakespeare Library, Elisa Tersigni, Michael Walkden, and Jack Bouchard, each gave a 15-minute talk regarding different methods of food procurement and history as another avenue for the students exploring landscape use and history.

## 2020-2021

### Upcoming Symposium



*Garden River Bridge, Ketegaunseebe, Ontario, Canada. Image courtesy Stan Williams Photography, [www.stanwilliams.ca](http://www.stanwilliams.ca).*

We are pleased to announce the 2021 Symposium “Land Back: Indigenous Landscapes of Resurgence and Freedom” scheduled for April 30 to May 1, 2021. Relations to land are a fundamental component of indigenous worldviews, politics, and identity. “Land Back” has become a slogan for indigenous activists. In this symposium, we aim to highlight the many ways indigenous people understand and activate land relations for political resurgence and freedom across the Americas, by refusing colonial territorializations of indigenous land and life-making practices. We welcome submissions to the [Call for Papers](#); the deadline is **August 1, 2020**. We are particularly interested in papers working at the intersection of indigenous studies and the fields associated with landscape studies, including geography, political ecology, landscape architecture, planning, art history, and archaeology.

## 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, to scholars from around the world. In selecting fellows, the Garden and Landscape Studies program 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.

Dumbarton Oaks also offers a limited number of [project grants](#), intended to support primary research of a specific site. Project grants may be used for a broad array of initiatives, 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.

The deadline for Garden and Landscape Studies residential fellowships and project grants is **November 1, 2020**.

Mellon Fellowships are intended to expand significantly the opportunities offered by the institution to study the history and future of urban landscapes through the lenses of democracy, race, identity, and difference. To further this work Dumbarton Oaks is offering two categories of Fellowships: [Urban Landscape Fellowships](#) and [History Teaching Fellowships](#). For both categories we seek candidates with a demonstrated capacity for cross-disciplinary scholarship and/or teaching. Preference will be given to candidates with final degrees such as a PhD or MLA. For the History Teaching Fellowship, applicants must currently hold a faculty position in a university or other secondary educational institution.

The deadline for Mellon Fellowship applications is **December 15, 2020**.

In addition, Dumbarton Oaks offers [one-month non-residential awards](#) to researchers holding a



PhD or terminal degree such as an MLA, and [short-term predoctoral residencies](#) to advanced graduate students, the deadlines of which may be found on the website.

## Conference Travel Awards for Students

Garden and Landscape Studies sponsors two awards—the **Bliss Symposium Award** and the **Mellon Colloquium Award**—for currently enrolled graduate students and undergraduate juniors and seniors wishing to attend the annual spring symposium and the fall colloquium at Dumbarton Oaks, in Washington, D.C. Application deadlines are typically due two months prior to the event, so check the [Student Awards page](#) in September for the next deadline.

## Other Opportunities

The Oak Spring Garden Foundation is currently accepting applications for the [Reading the Landscape Short Course](#), to be held from October 25-30, 2020 in Upperville, Virginia. Oak Spring also offers **Fellowships** and **Residencies** for scholars in the humanities, ecologists and conservation practitioners.

We bring this newsletter to a close by again wishing each of you well. These times are indeed challenging and yet they also offer us the opportunity to face some of our greatest questions and aspirations together. As we are reminded once again the importance of public health, the extent of our economic disparities, of environmental injustices, and the crisis of climate change, we are also heartened by the breadth and depth of our scholarly communities in partnership with our civic and community leaders. Thank you to all, stay healthy, and be well.

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