

Dumbarton Oaks Newsletter

APRIL - MAY 1981

Vol. III, No. 1

News from the Director's Office:

Within a few days approval is expected for the low bidder, James Davis Construction Co., for renovations of the Fellows Building. A particular note of interest is that this is the same construction firm that worked for the Blissés in the 1920's and 1930's and they have a particular interest and fondness for Dumbarton Oaks. Work is expected to commence June 1st and they plan to finish by early September. In order to make room for the porch and fire escape, the wisteria has been removed from the front of the building. It is being stored and cared for, to be replanted after the work has been completed. The plants had to be taken out prior to blooming in order to assure their well being in future years.

Administration News:

The St. Patrick's Day party at Siggins' house a great success. Good food - over 50 staff members, fellows and their spouses attended.

Notification has been received about three forthcoming grants from NEH: two in the form of publishing subsidies, one to support translation and annotation of Russian essays of Alexander Kazhdan.

Pre-Columbian Studies

The 10-foot long Paracas textile that had been restored last summer was finally restretched on a smaller frame and placed within its new outer frame so that it could be put on display in the Pre-Columbian textile foyer. This very well preserved and exquisitely crafted textile dates from 600-150 B.C.; it had not previously been exhibited at D.O.

The extremely popular Huari mirror was recently restored by Carlos Aróstegui, who cleaned and reattached several of the mosaics that had become separated from the mirror's core.

Ronald Bishop, Brookhaven National Laboratory, was here in late February to take paste samples of the Jaina figurines and Maya polychrome vases in the Pre-Columbian Collection. The goal of Bishop's project, which is sponsored by Brookhaven and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, is to identify the paste characteristics of a vast quantity of Maya polychrome as a means of determining provenience and the process by which the vases were created. The 38 samples taken of the D.O. pieces will join Bishop's growing data base of some 20,000 samples.

Gordon Willey, Bowditch Professor of Anthropology at Harvard and Senior Consultant for the Pre-Columbian Program, visited D.O. on January 30-31, February 17-18, and April 7-8. He was joined here on January 30-31 by Robert Sharer (Univ. of Pennsylvania), Donald Robertson (Tulane), and George Kubler (Yale) to help Elizabeth Boone organize in detail the October 1981 Pre-Columbian Conference on "Painted Architecture and Polychromed Sculpture in Mesoamerica."

Plans for the 1982 Pre-Columbian Conference on "Early Ceremonial Architecture in the Andes" were refined in March when Christopher Donnan (UCLA) visited here to meet with Elizabeth Boone and Richard Burger.

The Pre-Columbian Program, with Glenn Ruby's assistance, has been developing a "fancy" brochure advertising the Pre-Columbian publications to be sent in early May to rented mailing lists of some 7,000 scholars and libraries. The brochure is seen as part of a major push to market the publications more widely and thus increase our publications revenue.

Landscape Architecture/Garden Library

An exhibition of selected volumes acquired from the N. Y. Horticultural Society has been on view since December. Later this spring there will be an exhibition of books on ferns, popular garden and house plants in the Victorian era. Many sumptuously illustrated books were published about them.

Major purchase of 84 titles (267 volumes) from the rare book collection of the Horticultural Society of New York, sold originally to a Belgian arboretum. Our purchase is made up of duplicates which appeared as a result of that sale and which greatly augment specific subject areas in our rare book collection. Project started to oil leather bindings in rare book room.

Byzantine Collection News:

The exhibition "Questions of Authenticity among the Arts of Byzantium" will run until May 11, 1981. It has attracted more than the usual interest and attention from public and fellows alike. A fully illustrated catalogue is available for \$3.50 (less 20% for fellows and staff). On March 2, Channel 4-TV broadcast a short feature on the exhibition as part of the 6 PM news. This 2-minute spot was condensed from a 4-hour taping and discussion session with Susan Boyd, who appeared in the feature. The Georgetown University *Voice* did an article on the exhibition and WETA radio-TV have publicized the exhibition on the air waves.

A new installation of our "Loca Sancta" arts will be prepared by Gary Vikan and his class, who are studying "The Pilgrimage Arts of Palestine" during the spring semester at Dumbarton Oaks. Entitled "Arts of the Holy Sites of Palestine," the exhibition will be mounted in one of the wall cases in the Collection proper, accompanied by a tear sheet prepared by the students. A booklet on the subject will be prepared by Gary Vikan and the Collection staff as the fourth in our series of Byzantine Collection publications.

Opening date: mid-May.

The long-awaited Byzantine Collection slide sets should soon be ready. Four sets of ten slides each of Collection objects are being prepared at a cost of \$7.50 per set plus \$1.50 postage. Check with Carol Moon in a few weeks time.

Our museum intern, Lisa Policano, from Mt. Vernon College, completed her work in the Byzantine Collection and has returned to full-time classes.

Byzantine Bibliographies:

J. S. Allen applied for an NEH grant for a microfiche edition of the Author Index of Byzantine Literature. She was invited by the Fleisher Art Memorial, an endowed department of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, to examine and advise them on their collection of Russian icons, which she did in February.

Byzantine Photo Collection News:

A 16mm film of the Red Sea Monastery of St. Anthony was loaned to the University of Birmingham where it was shown at the 15th spring symposium of Byzantine Studies. A small exhibition of photographs of the Monastery of St. Anthony accompanied the film.

House Collection

The repair, restoration and cleaning of the pair of Chinese cabinets (1573-1619) is now completed. According to the conservator from the Freer Art Gallery, they now reflect the splendour of their original Imperial red lacquer.

The two oil paintings in the same area, "Le lit vert" by Walter Gay and "Buste de Femme" by Daumier have been rehung in their restored and newly gilded frames.

MUSIC ROOM - Painted ceiling:

The retouching of the whole area will be completed by the end of this week, April 3. Mr. John Kernekin is the painter, a craftsman of eighty years of age. He was here before in February and March, 1962 doing similar work on the ceiling which had been attended to earlier in 1951 by his predecessor. This time the retouching has taken him five weeks and according to Mr. Kernekin, will not require attention for a very long time.

Photo Lab News:

Photography was done of:

1. Byzantine Collection: Exhibition in Hall
2. House Collection: El Greco painting Steinway piano
3. Pre-Columbian Collection: 20 pieces for 4 x 5 transparencies to be published in Japan. B & W and slides.
Two large, newly mounted textiles for 4 x 5 transparencies, B & W and slides.
Thirty-eight pots recorded in B & W before scientific investigation.
Two pieces requested by the National Geographic Society in 4 x 5 transparencies, B & W, and slides.
Ongoing recording in 4 x 5 transparencies, slides and B & W for the department of all objects in need of documentation.
4. Symposium: slides supplied for all speakers.
5. Dr. Jashemski's Seminar: slides for all participants.
6. Further nitrate negatives to be replaced by 8 x 10 safety films.

Gardens and Grounds:

The Rose Garden has been replanted and new varieties are being added in accordance with Mrs. Farrand's plans. There is also new boxwood and weeping cherry trees, as well as yews along some of the walks.

The gardens are truly a sight to behold during the spring season and it is hoped that everyone will find the opportunity to take a stroll through this unusual area of our Nation's capital.

The Swimming Pool was opened for the use of current staff and fellows on April 1. Pool regulations are posted on the various bulletin boards and in the dressing rooms. Please note that the pool area must be vacated before 2 P. M. daily when the gardens are opened to the public. In addition the last person to leave the pool is responsible for locking doors and gates and returning the keys to the greenhouse.

Publishing Manager:

The Dumbarton Oaks publications inventory is no longer crowding our halls but rests quite comfortably in a warehouse in Virginia. The Publications Distribution Center of the American Council on Education will be handling the storage and mailing of our titles. Book orders should be forwarded to Glenn Ruby.

Dumbarton Oaks Publications

Allen, J. S. and Ihor Ševčenko (eds.), Dumbarton Oaks Bibliographies based on Byzantinische Zeitschrift, Ser. II, vol. 1, Epigraphy. In press. To be released by Fall, 1981.

Ancient Roman Gardens, the publication of papers given at the 1979 Symposium in Landscape Architecture and Garden History, will appear in early June.

Benson, Elizabeth (ed.), Mesoamerican Sites and World View (proceedings of the 1976 Pre-Columbian Conference) is scheduled for release this spring.

The Olmec and Their Neighbors: Essays in Memory of Matthew W. Stirling, was issued by the Pre-Columbian Program in February.

Sharp, Rosemary, Chacs and Chiefs: The Iconography of Mosaic Stone Sculpture in Pre-Conquest Yucatan, Mexico (Studies in Pre-Columbian Art and Archaeology No. 24) will appear this spring.

Treadgold, Warren T., Dumbarton Oaks Studies XVIII, The Nature of the Bibliotheca of Photius. This was received at D. O. the last week of February 1981.

Special Events:

Public lecture at D.O. by Judith Colton, Prof. of Art History at Yale, "Politics, Poetry and Landscape Art: The Prologue at Stowe ca. 1730." March 11.

Byzantine Symposium, "Art in Norman Sicily" to be held May 1-3. Prof. Ernst Kitzinger, who arrived at D.O. on March 22, is organizer.

Welcome to our New People:

Danny Curčić, Byzantine Fellow, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, is working on Medieval Architecture in Serbia.

Jane Fisher, Byzantine Photo Collection. She joined the staff in January and is finishing her MA in Art History from American University. She hails from Washington state and worked for the Portland Art Museum for two years after graduating from Evergreen State in Olympia, Washington.

Claudia Freeman, Sandhill College, Gardens and Grounds. She is on a student-training program for 10 weeks this spring.

Charles Johnston, Garden Library, George Washington University student, hired on a part-time basis for oiling leather bindings of the Rare Book Collection.

Justin Mossay, Byzantine Fellow, University of Louvain, Belgium. He is working on Gregory Nazianzus.

Frances Nordbye, formerly with the Pre-Columbian Program, rejoined the D.O. staff on January 19 as Assistant in the Pre-Columbian Program, much to the delight of us all.

Susan Pepper, Byzantine Library, is completing her first year at Georgetown University, is a part-time Student Assistant.

Frank Sandoval, Building Security. He replaces Ron Begley as guard on the evening shift. He is the son of Rafael Sandoval.

Fellowship Awards

Leslie Brubaker is the recipient of an International Kress Fellowship at Bibl. Hertziana in Rome, 1981-82.

Stephen Reinert is recipient of the joint D.O./American School of Classical Studies at Athens fellowship for the 1981-82 year.

Activities of Fellows and Staff

Papers/Lectures given:

J. S. Allen, "An Unknown French Princess - Serbian Queen Jelena", Birmingham Symposium, March 1981.

She will give an informal talk on the same subject at D. O. in May.

Carlos Aróstegui, "The Recording of History in Ancient Mesoamerica", John Hopkins, January 23.

Elizabeth Boone, "Murals, Manuscripts, and Vases: Painting in Pre-Columbian Mesoamerica", Richmond Chapter, Archaeological Institute of America, January 29.

"The tradition of Mexican Manuscript Painting", D.O. public lecture, February 11.

Susan Boyd, Bryn Mawr College, March 25.

Susan Boyd and Gary Vikan, "The Splendor of Byzantium", Smithsonian National Associates Program, Seminar on Byzantine Art.

Danny Curčić, "The Flowering of Art and Architecture in 13th and 14th century Serbia", The Splendor of Byzantium, Selected Studies Seminar, Smithsonian National Associates Program, February 18.

"The Byzantine Element in the Architecture of Medieval Serbia", Byzantium and the Slavs, Fifteenth Spring Symposium of Byzantine Studies, Birmingham, England, March 23.

Hans Mayer, "Matrimonial problems of King Baldwin I of Jerusalem" at D.O.

"King Henry II of England the Holy Land" and "Demographic Factors in the Crusader States", University of Wisconsin, Madison.

He is scheduled to give various lectures in Seattle, Berkeley and Los Angeles in April.

Michael McCormick, "The Liturgy of War in the Early Middle Ages", Joint Session of the Catholic Historical Association of America and the American Historical Association, December 28, 1980.

Robert Ousterhout, College Art Association annual meeting, San Francisco, February.

An article he wrote will appear in *Gesta* this fall.

Judy Siggins, "Dumbarton Oaks", Washington Chapter, DAR, February 14.

Gary Vikan, western Canada, several lectures at universities when he attended the opening of the traveling exhibition, "Security in Byzantium", from the Menil Collection, University of British Columbia, Vancouver.

Four objects from the D.O. Collection were loaned to the exhibition.

Menil Foundation Collection, opening, in Houston, March 13.

Consultantships - New Jobs:

Richard L. Burger acted as Consultant for the U. S. Customs Investigation of Illegal Antiquities Importation from Peru.

John Baldovin has accepted a position in the Department of Theology, Fordham University, Bronx, N.Y. beginning in September 1981.

Elisabeth MacDougall is teaching a seminar at the University of Pennsylvania on Court Life in Renaissance Italy as reflected in art and architecture of the period.

Workshops/Meetings attended:

Seminar on Byzantine Art, "The Splendor of Byzantium" organized by the Smithsonian National Associates Program and coordinated by Gary Vikan. D.O. staff fellows and ex-fellows who participated were Michael McCormick, Danny Curčić, James Carder, and Ken Holm. Charlotte Burk was one of the lucky few to attend the Seminar.

American Anthropological Association, Washington, D.C. attended by Elizabeth Boone and Carlos Aróstegui, December 3-5, 1980.

Archaeological Studies of Pre-Hispanic Economic and Socio-political Organization in Northern Peru. 46th Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, San Diego, Calif. 1981. Richard L. Burger, Organizer and Chairman of Symposium.

Seminar on the Preservation of Color Transparencies, Austin, Texas, attended by Charlotte Burk March 27-28.

CAA meetings, San Francisco and Woman's Caucus for Art meetings, San Francisco were attended by Claudia Vess in February.

American Institute of Architects, 2-day Seminar on maintaining architectural records and archives was attended by Laura Byers, Feb. 12-13.

ARLIS, Md./D.C./Va. Chapter, February meeting, attended by Laura Byers.

Prof. Elizabeth MacDougall will attend a meeting of the International Committee of Architectural Museums in London in April.

Publications

Balam, Pablo C. and Richard N. Luxton, Opening the Steps: On Reading the Twenty Day Signs of Maya Hieroglyphic Literacy. Ibero-Amerikanisches Archiv No. 4, 1980. Berlin. (Article)

Burger, Richard L., Radiocarbon Evidence for the Temporal Priority of Chavin de Huantar. American Antiquity 48, No. 3 (in press), 1981.

Burger, Richard L. and Lucy Salazar Burger, Ritual and Religion at Huaricoto. Archaeology 33:26-32, 1980.

Luxton, Richard N. and Pablo Balam, Mayan Dream Walk: Literate Shamanism in the Yucatan. To be published April 27, 1981. Hutchinson, London. (Book)

Mayer, Hans, Die Stiftung Herzog Heinrichs des Löwen für das Hl. Grab, in: Heinrich der Löwe (Veröffentlichungen der Niedersächsischen Archivverwaltung 39, Göttingen 1980), pp. 307-330, 1 plate.

Ein Deperditum König Balduins III. von Jerusalem als Zeugnis seiner Pläne zur Eroberung Agyptens. Deutsches Archiv 36 (1980) 559-566.

America and the Crusades. Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society 125 (1981), pp. 38-45.

Jérusalem et Antioche sous Baudouin II de Jérusalem (Lecture given before the Académie des Inscriptions et Belles-Lettres in December 1980), to appear in April 1981 in Comptes-rendus des séances de l'Academy.

The Concordat of Nablus (article) will appear in the March 1981 issue of Journal of Ecclesiastical History.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - APRIL - MAY 1981

PUBLIC LECTURES:

April 1 - Doula Mouriki, Technical University, Athens
 "The Mosaics of Nea Moni of Chios"
 April 3 - Gary Vikan, illustrated lecture, "Locking, Weighing, and Sealing: Security in the Streets of Byzantium" (Archaeological Institute of America)
 May 6 - Karl Bosl, University of Munich
 "Greek Rome"
 May 19 - Miloš Velimirović, University of Virginia
 "The Relationship of Text and Melody in the Baroque Era"
 May 27 - John Harris (Mellon Professor, National Gallery), Royal Institute of British Architecture,
 "Britannia Illustrata - Birdseye View of English Formal Gardens"

INFORMAL TALKS:

April 2 - Judith Herrin, "An Early Medieval Guidebook to Constantinople? The Parastaseis syntomoi chronikai" - Fellows Building, 5:00 P. M.
 April 14 - Richard Luxton, "Mayan Christianity" - Fellows Building, 5:00 P. M.
 April 15 - Slobodan Curčić, "The Byzantine Element in the Architecture of Medieval Serbia" - Study, 5:00 P. M.

CONCERTS: 8 P. M. - Music Room

April 5 and 6 - Jörg Demus, Piano
 April 26 and 27 - Hopkinson Smith, Lutenist

SEMINARS:

Constable/Sevcenko - Mondays, 4:30 P. M. - Study
 Jashemski - Thursdays, 4:30 P. M. - Study
 Pre-Columbian - Tuesdays, 7:30 P. M. - Study
 Byzantine Collection - Tuesdays, 4:30 P. M. - Study

MEETINGS:

April 2 - DOSG - Study - 1 P. M.
 May 7 - DOSG - Study - 1 P. M.

SHERRY: (Wednesdays) - 5:00 P. M. - Study

April 8 and 22
 May 6 and 20

ARRIVALS:

Philip Grierson - April 8

Kurt Weitzmann and Josefa Weitzmann Fiedler - April 12

HOLIDAY

Memorial Day - Observed Monday, May 25, 1981

CHECK THE MAIN BULLETIN BOARD (in hallway outside Director's Office) FOR ANY FURTHER DETAILS,
 CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS WHICH MAY OCCUR.