

# Newsletter

VOLUME II, NO. 2

JUNE 1980

## REPAIR AND RENOVATION UPDATE:

The renovation of the Fellows Building has been postponed until next summer. Because of the change in the dates of the term, there was concern that the work might not be finished before the beginning of the fall term on September 15. The postponement will allow for detailed drawings of the work planned to be made and for the drawings to go out to bid. It is hoped that possible savings through competitive bidding will offset higher costs next year due to inflation. The Fellows Building work will include the renovation of the second floor, to allow for eight sleeping rooms including four double rooms and four single rooms, each with a private bathroom and provision for individual telephone lines. (The two large end rooms may be equipped with efficiency kitchens.) The heating system will be updated, air conditioning installed and additional insulation and other energy saving measures taken. The work on the first floor will involve expansion and modernization of the kitchen area, the addition of a small kitchen for residents which will double as a pantry, expanded dining space, relocation of the manager's office down-stairs and a larger coat closet. Under consideration is whether to use in this expansion all of the space now occupied by the East Cottage or to retain part of that space for an additional single room for guests. A guest bathroom will also be established along with laundry facilities inside the building proper rather than in the basement.

This summer the ceiling in the garden library stack room and the north and east walls of the Byzantine Collection will be repaired. During the next six months general maintenance and repair needs will be reviewed in order to establish a master plan with priorities for work to be done over the next several years. This will include, of course, the repair of the orangery, improvements in lighting, heating, cooling (including the cooling tower and second floor west-end units), antitheft and fire prevention systems and the Music Room ceiling.

\* \* \* \*

## BYZANTINE COLLECTION NEWS:

**EXHIBITION COMES DOWN:** On June 2 our manuscript exhibition, "Gifts from the Byzantine Court," was taken down. It had opened in early February as a vehicle for the introduction of two recently-acquired leaves from a famous de luxe lectionary associated with Catherine Comene, an eleventh century Empress. This small display reunited for the first time in fifty years all known fragments of that important book. Sadly, our leaves' handsome siblings must now return to their home in the Cleveland Museum of Art.

**EXHIBITION EXPANDS:** "Coins of the Justinianic Renaissance," one of the three small exhibitions installed last October in the Upper Corridor, was dismantled in late April. This was done in order to make room for an expanded version of "Security in Byzantium," which in two cases now includes objects, texts, and images devoted to Byzantine "Locking, Sealing, and Weighing." Along with "The Sion Silver Treasure," it will stay in place until September.

**DIIDACTICS:** During the late winter part of our sales area was remodeled to allow for the display and sale of half-a-dozen introductory books devoted to Byzantine history and culture. By latest count, Downey's Constantinople in the Age of Justinian seems to be the people's choice.

The Byzantine curatorial staff has initiated a new series of collection publications which will consist of booklets devoted to specific exhibitions, themes or media. The first, Gifts from the Byzantine Court, appeared in February and has already gone into a second printing. Security in Byzantium is the second, and it appeared in late May. Significantly more ambitious than its predecessor, it will be priced at \$2.50.

**PEDAGOGY:** Spring brings flowers and tourists to Dumbarton Oaks. During April and May the staff of the Byzantine Collection conducted more than twenty lectures and tours for groups ranging from high school latin classes to senators' wives and Gaithersburg septuagenarians. Leaders and followers alike approached the encounter with lively enthusiasm--we all like to assume that the "gospel" of Byzantium is spreading far and wide.

Gary Vikan's course on "Byzantine Art and Society: The Dumbarton Oaks Collection" ended in April with group trips to the Walters Art Gallery and the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond (worth a detour!). Vikan was reported pleased with the quality and enthusiasm of his sixteen participating students.

**TRAVELERS AND MOVERS:** Susan Boyd traveled to Cyprus, Greece, and Turkey during March and April doing field work at Kourion in Cyprus and studying related sculpture in the Archaeological Museum in Istanbul. In early June, Gary Vikan flew to Osaka, Japan, to participate in an international symposium devoted to ancient and medieval book illumination.

Sadly (for D.O.), Mary Kay Lyon has decided to marry and to begin a new life on the sunny west coast. She had a grand farewell party on June 6th. We all sincerely hope that the material culture of Byzantium will continue to have a place in her heart.

\* \* \* \*

#### BYZANTINE LIBRARY NEWS:

You will see two new cheerful faces around this summer: Susie Hurley and Mindy Herman are our student assistants. Susie just finished her first year at the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, and Mindy completed her sophomore year at the University of Vermont. They will be happy to help all of you.

\* \* \* \*

#### GARDEN LIBRARY NEWS:

The highlight of the academic year at the Center for Studies in Landscape Architecture was the Eighth Annual Symposium, "Beatrix Jones Farrand (1872-1959); Fifty Years of American Landscape Architecture," on Friday, May 2, and Saturday, May 3. The program included lectures on aspects of the professional practice of Beatrix Jones Farrand against the background of the early twentieth century, as well as a cocktail party, the traditional luncheon, and a concert in the Gardens. The Garden Library celebrated the event with a Special Exhibition of original drawings, planting plans, books, herbarium sheets, and personal mementos commemorating Beatrix Farrand's professional life as a landscape gardener. Part of this exhibition, including a portrait, was on loan from The Reef Point Collection at The University of California, Berkeley.

In conjunction with the Symposium and Exhibition was the publication of Beatrix Farrand's Plant Book for Dumbarton Oaks in which Beatrix Farrand explains the reasoning behind her plan for each of the gardens and stipulates how each should be cared for in order that its basic character remain intact. The Symposium papers for 1978, John Claudius Loudon and the Early Nineteenth Century in Great Britain, were also published this spring.

In late May, a poolside party was given by Laura Byers for her assistant Marcia Hudson. Marcia will be married on June 28th to Jeffrey Freyman. They will

move to Lexington, Kentucky, after spending the summer in Charlottesville. Jeffrey will teach Political Science at Transylvania University, and Marcia hopes to find work in her field of Art History.

Diane McGuire will also be leaving at the end of June, returning to her work at Harvard. We will be welcoming Betty MacDougall who will be returning from her sabbatical year in Italy and Bonnie Billman who will begin work as an assistant. Bonnie has a Masters degree in Art History from George Washington University.

Laura Byers will be going overseas the last part of July to participate in a Summer Program Seminar sponsored by the University of California at Berkeley. The University has rented Worcester College at Oxford and offers a series of seminars. Laura will participate in a course, "History of the English Landscape," which will be given by Mavis Batey, Secretary of The Garden History Society. The course includes visits to outstanding English gardens.

Lois Fern's editorial work continues at a rapid pace. The editing of the Roman Garden Symposium papers is nearing completion and will be ready to go to press after the return of Betty MacDougall in early summer. Lois will then commence with the Farrand Symposium papers.

Mary Shahid, who has done an outstanding job as secretary since the first of the year, will be leaving the Garden Library, but will be living nearby and working three afternoons a week at the Sales Desk. We are exceedingly grateful to her for her invaluable assistance this year.

\* \* \* \*

#### PRE-COLUMBIAN NEWS:

The long-awaited and badly-needed storage rack for mounted textiles was constructed by Astor Moore and Connie Reid in the sub-basement of the Pre-Columbian wing in May. This rack is being shared with the Byzantine Collection and the House Collection. The building of this rack necessitated the reorganization and cleaning of the entire storage room. In the process, two map cases, previously used by the Byzantine Collection for textile storage, were moved down to the room, making it possible for all the Pre-Columbian textiles and original art work to be stored together for the first time in a proper environment.

In conjunction with the general reorganization of the storage room, the ten-foot-wide mounted Paracas mantle, which has never been displayed at Dumbarton Oaks, was removed from the room for examination. After some minor conservation work is completed, it will be put on exhibit in the textile hallway leading into the Pre-Columbian galleries.

In the spring the Collection was promised a beautiful Nazca painted vessel by Mr. and Mrs. William C. Burdett of Gloucester, Massachusetts. On loan now, it will be given to Dumbarton Oaks officially upon their death as a memorial to Elizabeth Burke Burdett and William Carter Burdett, Sr. The pot is a double-spout-and-bridge globular bowl decorated with two mythical monsters, each attacking a small male figure.

Several publications came out in the spring: three Studies (Nos. 19, 22, and 23), the proceedings of the 1975 conference on Pre-Columbian South American metallurgy, and a catalog of the contents of the storeroom at Palenque, Mexico.

The new Associate Curator, Elizabeth Boone, arrived on May 5. Dr. Boone comes to Dumbarton Oaks from the Research Center for the Arts, University of Texas at San Antonio, where she was a Research Associate.

Anne-Louise Schaffer was awarded a fellowship from the Metropolitan Museum of Art (Andrew W. Mellon Fund) for the twelve months beginning September 2, 1980. During that time she will be a resident in New York in the Department of Primitive Art there, writing a monograph on the early Moche metalwork from the site of Loma Negra, Peru.

Blenda Ferenias completed her M.A. in Textiles and Clothing, with a concentration in Historic Costume, from Syracuse University. She received the degree on May 9, 1980.

The 4th Mesa Redonda de Palenque took place from June 8-14, 1980, at Palenque in Mexico. Both Elizabeth Boone and Mary Miller attended the meetings. Mary's trip was made possible by a Joseph Albers Traveling Fellowship, administered by the Department of Art History at Yale University.

Both fellows succeeded, despite a tight job market, in obtaining excellent teaching positions at universities beginning in the fall of 1980. Anne was appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of Art at the University of Georgia at Athens. Mary was appointed Lecturer in the Department of the History of Art at Yale University. We wish them both well in their new posts.

\* \* \* \*

#### FRIENDS OF MUSIC NEWS:

The 1979-80 season ended in May with a recital on three evenings of music for the harpsichord from Johann Sebastian Bach's Clavierübung. James Weaver of the Smithsonian Chamber Players was the harpsichordist. The Music Lecture planned for June 18 by Lavinia Snelling on the lute was canceled owing to the postponement of her tour to the USA from England. We expect to give this lecture during her next visit, which we hope will be next year. Many Friends of Music have expressed their pleasure with this year's program both in writing and verbally. Subscription requests have increased, and the waiting list is once more quite long. The new season will open on November 5/6 with a recital by Charles Bressler, tenor accompanied by Menachem Pressler of the Beaux Arts Trio.

\* \* \* \*

#### HOUSE COLLECTION NEWS:

The pair of Chinese cabinets in the main hall have now been restored and are standing on the black, lacquered bases designed and made for them by Astor Moore. The painting "Still Life" by Jan van Huysam (1682-1749), which hangs within the entrance to the Garden Library, was replaced with the borrowed portrait of Beatrice Farrand in connection with the Garden Library's Symposium this year. This portrait will be returned to its owners in mid-June and the Huysam "Still Life" rehung in its newly-restored and gilded wooden frame. This completes the repair of four frames budgeted for in 1979-80. Summer slip covers for the seats of the Geo. II dining room chairs in the main hall have been finished and placed on the chairs. A small roll of yellow cotton in a herring-bone design which had been stored in the cedar closet from Mrs. Bliss's time was used.

\* \* \* \*

#### PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION NEWS:

Charlotte Kroll Burk started on May 5 as the new Photoarchivist. She has previously worked as Assistant to the Curator of the Photographic Archives for the National Gallery of Art and has also been a consultant at OAS, lecturer on Pre-Columbian Art, and a Historic Preservation Advocate, to name a few.

Claudia Vess is presently showing her work in a show entitled "Round & Shiny," June 8 to August 8, at The Women's National Bank, 1627 K Street, N.W. See the bulletin board for times.

\* \* \* \*

#### PHOTO LAB NEWS:

Photographing in the main house of the unrecorded pieces of furniture and objects in the House Collection has begun. During the next few months, the furniture in the Director's house and in the Fellows Building will also be included. A detailed photographic record of the two Chinese cabinets in the main hall was made before and after restoration. All photographic illustrations needed for the exhibition "Security in Byzantium" have been supplied by the Photo Lab, along with the photographs used to illustrate the new catalogue for this exhibit. All the old nitrate-based negatives have been replaced with new ones, and 152 negatives were delivered to the Photo Collection.

Congratulations to Joe Mills on his recent marriage. He recently returned from his month-long honeymoon in Europe.

\* \* \* \*

#### SUMMER FELLOWS:

Welcome to the following summer fellows:

Xavier Barral I Altet, Université de Paris IV - - July 11 through August 31  
A. A. M. Bryer, Director, Centre for Byzantine Studies, The University of Birmingham - - August 10 through September 7  
Pascal Culerrier, Ecole Normale Supérieure (Saint-Cloud) - - July 8 through September 1  
C. W. J. Eliot, Professor and Head, Department of Classics, Mount Allison University, New Brunswick - - June 16 through August 1  
John Haldon, Centre for Byzantine Studies, The University of Birmingham - - August 1 through August 31  
Patricia Karlin-Hayter, Centre for Byzantine Studies, The University of Birmingham - - through September 1  
John Langdon, Post-doctoral Scholar, University of California at Los Angeles - - June 16 through August 25  
Rowena Lovrance, Centre for Byzantine Studies, The University of Birmingham - - July 15 through September 15  
Mary Ellen Miller, Yale University - - through September 1  
Anne Paul, University of Texas, Austin - - through September 1  
Werner Seibt, Institut für Byzantinistik, University of Vienna - - July 1 through July 30  
Christopher Walter, Institut Francais d'Etudes Byzantines - - June 16 through August 1

\* \* \* \*

#### ADDITIONAL NEWS OF INTEREST:

A friend of Dumbarton Oaks has offered to help obtain a foundation grant for the purpose of building a new swimming pool for the staff and fellows behind the Fellows Building. The reason for the grant is (a) to restore the old pool area to its original appearance by removing the wooden fence (and turning the existing pool into a decorative pool) and (b) to allow the gardens to be open to the public after 5:00. The present closing hour of 5:00 is in order to allow the staff and fellows to use the pool. The old pool would remain open until the new pool was finished. The new pool would then be open at all times in the swimming season. There is even a chance that it might be heated!

The following clarification concerning use of the lounges and the seminar rooms is issued at the request of the Dumbarton Oaks Staff Group: (1) The two lounges are for the use of those holding current appointments (staff and fellows). Between 12:00 and 2:00 they are reserved for staff members only. Guests who are accompanied by a fellow or staff member are welcome before 12:00 and after 2:00. The cooking facilities of the Garden Library workroom may be used by staff members between 12:30 and 1:30. (2) The Study and the Oval Room, when not otherwise in use, are available throughout the day for reading or quiet conversation but not for eating, drinking, or smoking.

Although Professor Grierson recently left for Cambridge, he will be returning on the first of August to stay through September. Heath Lowry arrived on June 7 and will be here for a year. Professor Oikonomides arrived on June 18 and will be staying through July.

While on a trip to England, Seka Allen attended a Byzantine Symposium at Birmingham from March 22-25 and gave a communication entitled "Author Index of Byzantine Literature--Microfiche Project."

The new Manager of the Financial Office, Kenneth Barney, started on April 1. He was formerly Financial Administrator at Central Maryland Health Systems Agency, Inc.

We would also like to welcome Kathleen Hambricht to the Garden Staff and Radishi Hata, Neil P. O'Bryan, and Ron Begley who have joined the Security Staff.

Jeff Schlosberg will be working through July of 1981 on the arrangement and classification of our field work archives.

Alice-Mary Talbot's last day at Dumbarton Oaks was June 11. She will be teaching next year at Hiram College near Cleveland, and we will see her on occasion since she will continue as a Senior Fellow.

Willard Kelly and Charles Craven of the Security Staff and Hector Aldana of the Garden Staff and Mike Khadar, Assistant Engineer, have left Dumbarton Oaks. We wish them well.

HAVE A BEAUTIFUL SUMMER!!

JUNE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Pritzker Award Dinner	3-Fellows Mtg. SHERRY	1-DOSG Mtg.		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	5-Callahan Informal Talk	5-McCormick Informal Talk 8-Slide Show				
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
END OF TERM	Eliot, Langdon Walter arrive SUMMER TERM BEGINS	End of Term Party				
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
		Radcliffe Club Reception	SHERRY			
29	30					

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
		Werner Seibt arrives	SHERRY		HOLIDAY	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		Pascal Culerrier arrives			Xavier Barral I Altet arrives	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		Rowena Loverance arrives				
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
			SHERRY			
27	28	29	30	31		
			SHERRY			

AUGUST

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
					John Haldon arrives	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
A. A. M. Bryer arrives			SHERRY			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
30			SHERRY			