

Newsletter

VOLUME I, No. 2

MAY 1979

REPAIR AND RENOVATION UPDATE:

Since the last issue of the Newsletter almost all of the work connected with the renovation of the building has been completed! The carpeting has been installed on both the basement and third floor, the administrative offices have been completed, and the outside scaffolding has been removed. The Director and the rest of the administrative staff have moved to their new locations and the space they formerly occupied has been made available for other uses. The Director's former office is now the Study, which will be used for informal talks and meetings of more than fifteen people; the oval office has become a small seminar and meeting room; the former business office is now the first-floor lounge. The Photo Collection has also moved into permanent quarters on the east side of the basement. The space vacated by the collection is to be taken over by the Byzantine and Pre-Columbian collections. Finally, an archive room has been established in the basement where the telephone equipment used to be located.

Other work that has been going on and should soon be completed includes the repair and replacement of most of the roof of the main building; a new lighting system for the Music Room; extensive cleaning and overhaul of the Garden Library and Pre-Columbian wing air-conditioning, heating, and humidity control system; sandblasting and painting the wrought iron work in the gardens.

Work which will be started soon includes sandblasting of the wrought iron on the house, painting of the basement west end, repair and painting of the Garden Library main corridor and other areas affected by the renovation, replacement of the floor in the Pre-Columbian area, and the installation of marble sills in the Founders' room.

BYZANTINE COLLECTION NEWS:

Four of our more important objects - the Riha Paten, the plate with Silenus, the dish with a hunting scene, and the Thodosian relief of Christ healing the Blind Man - were sent on loan to the Fogg Museum of Art for a small exhibition honoring Professor Ernst Kitzinger, who will be retiring from Harvard at the end of June. Professor Kitzinger was formerly Director of Studies at Dumbarton Oaks and is now Arthur Kingsley Porter Professor of Medieval Art at Harvard. The exhibition, which lasted from March 17 through April 22, was arranged primarily by Anna Gmoseva, presently a Junior Fellow at Dumbarton Oaks.

The marble revetment panel showing two deer grazing at the foot of a Cross, composed of the relief at Dumbarton Oaks which forms the right half of the panel and that on loan from the Baltimore Museum of Art (which forms the left half), are now on exhibition in a mount specially designed by Astor Moore.

As part of the larger research project on the Sion silver treasure, Cliff Crane of the Fogg Museum's Conservation Laboratory and Dr Pieter Myer, of the Brookhaven Laboratory and the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Conservation Lab, came to Dumbarton Oaks for two days to take samples of objects in the treasure as well as a number of other Byzantine silver objects at Dumbarton Oaks. The samples are to be analyzed by neutron activation analysis for trace elements, and will hopefully form the basis of a larger study on the metallurgical and technical analysis of Byzantine silver.

Work has been completed on the cleaning, technical analysis and restoration of the first object from the treasure undertaken by the Fogg's Conservation Lab - an elaborate openwork lamp put together from over 20 fragments.

PRE-COLUMBIAN COLLECTION NEWS:

The Collection has recently acquired five Peruvian gold objects from the Textile Museum. There is an 8½" X 4¼" hammered plaque from the earliest civilization in Peru, that called Chavin, depicting a deity with a fanged mouth and snake appendages on the body. Also of Chavin style is a hammered-and-cut pendant, showing a supernatural jaguar. Three small human figures from the Inca civilization, the last Pre-Columbian culture in Peru, complete the group. The objects will be put on exhibition in the near future!

GARDEN LIBRARY NEWS:

The Garden Library has just concluded a highly successful sale of natural history books at Christie's in London. This is the second Christie's auction the Library has participated in this year. The books sold were from Mrs Bliss' original collection and were not related to the research program of the Garden Library. Proceeds from these sales will continue to enable the Library to make special rare book purchases that would not be possible otherwise.

The Landscape Architecture public lecture program was introduced by Professor George Szabo of the Metropolitan Museum who spoke on March 13 on Medieval and Renaissance Foundation in the Royal Palaces and Gardens of Hungary. On April 17 Miss Agnes Mongan, former Director of the Fogg Museum, spoke on Maria Sibylla Merian, 1647-1717, Artist and Naturalist.

FRIENDS OF MUSIC NEWS:

On Sunday, June 24, to encourage us all through the hot summer, there will be a concert in the garden by the Washington Brass Quintet. Final details will be announced as they are known.

It was decided to expand the Dumbarton Oaks Public Lecture series by offering a Music Lecture. The first of these took place on Wednesday, April 11 at 5:30 p.m.

HOUSE COLLECTION NEWS:

Effective May 1, Joan Southcote-Aston took over the responsibilities for the House Collection.

New lights in the Music Room! Wires were snaked behind the elaborate painted beams of the ceiling, and a new lighting system on dimmers was installed in the Music Room so that the tapestries, paintings and important pieces of furniture can be illuminated. Plans are being made to partially open the Music Room to the public. Other changes in that room included removing the fresco copies of the Kariye Djami which hung at the west end of the room, and replacing them with two of the Hubert Robert paintings of architectural ruins in Rome. These paintings used to hang in the corridor of the main house.

JOINT FELLOWSHIPS AND APPOINTMENT:

Dumbarton Oaks and the University of Maryland have established a joint appointment effective July 1, 1979. Dr John Duffy will fill this position and will have joint responsibilities to the Classics Department of the University and D. O. In addition, the Senior Fellows have approved joint fellowships between Dumbarton Oaks and the American Academy in Rome, as well as the American School in Athens. Final details have not yet been completed.

GARDEN NEWS:

Don has assured us that the following is as accurate a schedule of blooming as we can reasonably expect:

Early May: tulips, flower borders, peonies, fringetree, iris, mockorange

Late May: first roses, flower borders, kousa dogwoods, clematis

June: roses, flower borders, grandiflora, magnolia, wood hyacinth

July: roses, flower borders

Have you noticed the hollies surrounding the Pre-Columbian Collection: This restores the original appearance to the building, which was planned to be closely surrounded by plants outside.

SWIMMING POOL IS OPEN!:

Clairone Delaney gets the Stout-Heart Award for officially opening the pool with a quick dip early in April!

If you haven't received a copy of the Pool Rules and Regulations, please see Melanie or Judy. These Rules and Regulations have been drawn up to assist you and your guests enjoy the pool safely.

PHOTO COLLECTION NEWS:

The Photo Collection has successfully endured a day and a half move from one end of Dumbarton Oaks to the other, with minimal disruption to the whole of D. O. It's the first time in nine years that all aspects of the archive (census, research archives, print and slide collections) have been housed in the same geographic area. Currently the equivalent of 64 file cabinets are located throughout the four Photo Collection rooms. Claudia Vess and Marcia Fisher share the former Xerox room and Judy O'Neill works at the far end.

Judy held an open house shortly after completing the move to acquaint everyone with the facilities.

PROFILE: Franco DeSimonii, Greenhouse Foreman

Franco has worked for Dumbarton Oaks as Greenhouse Foreman for the past eleven years. During that time one of his prime responsibilities has been maintaining proper humidity and temperature control of the greenhouses, taking care to avoid rapid changes. This presents an unusual challenge in the summer when temperatures can soar to 120°! For this reason, flowering plants are not kept in the summer, but some foliage plants thrive on the heat of the greenhouse. Franco groups plants by the type of climate they enjoy; each greenhouse has the capability of being kept at different temperature and humidity levels. During the summer, Franco said, he is constantly fighting "the battle of the bug" and sprays every week. Bugs, however, are not the only alien creatures to invade the greenhouses; Franco tells of D. O.'s own resident racoons that lived in the roof of the greenhouse and would enter the greenhouses early in the morning, overturn plants (and occasionally steal a gardener's lunch), then quietly disappear back into the roof! These antics proved adequate grounds for eviction.

Franco was raised in a small town in Italy, Santa Marinella, where he learned about gardening and greenhouses as a child in his family's business. His grandfather, in fact, was the first person to have a garden in their town, where he started his business by growing flowers. No wonder Franco's such an artist at preparing the centerpieces and bouquets which are seen around D. O. When asked what is the most difficult problem he has to face, Franco responded "Being a 19 year old Czechoslovakian who is frequently mistaken for Robert Redford!" (That 120° heat may have gotten to Franco. I would have said Marcello Mastroianni!)

NEH SUMMER SEMINAR:

Mr Constable will be giving a Summer Seminar sponsored by the NEH on "Religious Life in the Middle Ages". It will run for eight weeks from June 18 to August 8. The participants include: Michael Bassman, Associate Professor (Romance Languages), East Carolina University; James Brodman, Associate Professor (History - Medieval), University of Central Arkansas; Daniel Brown, Associate Professor (History of Religion), California State University; Ann Epstein, Assistant Professor (Art), Oberlin College; Patricia Giangrosso, Instructor (German), Northeast Louisiana University; Joseph Kyle, Associate Professor and Head (History - Medieval), Hastings College; Henry Lang, Associate Professor (History - Medieval), New York State University, Buffalo; Marian Masiuk, Assistant Professor (French), Lehigh University; Frances Underhill, Professor (History - Medieval), University of Richmond; Anthony Via, Associate Professor (History - Byzantine), Gonzaga University; Stephen Wessley, Assistant Professor (History - Medieval), York College; Brent Williams, Lecturer (History - Medieval), Webster College.

CHANGES IN THE D. O. COMMUNITY:

Welcome to the following newly arrived (and soon-to-arrive) members of the Dumbarton Oaks community:

John Beckwith, Fellow, Victoria and Albert Museum
Hans Belting, Fellow (long-term), University of Heidelberg
Raphael Bracke, Junior Fellow, Catholic University of Louvain
Annemarie Carr, Fellow, Southern Methodist University
Samuel Ludlow Duket, working on his Ph.D. (Piled High in Diapers!)
Richard Etlin, Fellow (Landscape Architecture), University of Kentucky
John Forsyth, Fellow, Tubingen Universitat
Simon Franklin, Junior Fellow, St Anthony's College
Peter Herde, Fellow, University of Wurzburg
Patricia Karlin-Hayter, Fellow (Project), Centre for Byzantine Studies, Birmingham
George Kennedy, Fellow, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Herbert Kessler, Fellow (Project), University of Maryland
John Lowden, Junior Fellow, Courtauld Institute of Art
Heath Lowry, Research Associate, American Research Institute, Istanbul
Diane McGuire, Fellow and Acting Director of Studies, Landscape Architecture, Harvard Univ.
Jenifer McKenna, Volunteer in the Photo Collection
Mary Ellen Miller, Fellow (Pre-Columbian), Yale University
Carl Nordenfalk, Fellow, National Humanities Center
S. Thomas Parker, Junior Fellow, UCLA
Urs Peschlow, Fellow, Deutsches Archaeologisches Institut, Istanbul
Anne Paul, Fellow, University of Texas
Patrice Robitaille, Student Library Assistant, Byzantine Library
Paul Speck, Fellow, University of Munich
Joseph Szóvérfy, Fellow (Project), Institute for Advanced Study
Frank Trombley, Junior Fellow, UCLA
Miloš Velimirović, Fellow, University of Virginia
Mame Vizet, Student Library Assistant, Byzantine Library
Speros Vryonís, Fellow (long-term), UCLA
Kurt Weitzmann, Fellow (Project), Princeton University
Robert Goldstick, Engineer
John O'Meara, Fellow (Project), University College, Dublin
Good luck to the following members who are leaving the Dumbarton Oaks Community:

Mirka Benes, going to Italy to continue research and dissertation, then back to D. O.
David Castriota, Wittkower Fellowship, Columbia University, N.Y.
Peter Charanis, returning to Rutgers University, N. J.
Flora Clancy, to a new position as Assistant Professor, University of New Mexico
Elaine DeBenedictis, returning to Bryn Mawr to continue research and dissertation
Pauline Donceel-Voute: to Belgium to continue research on dissertation
Tim Duket, to Boston College teaching position
Ann Epstein, Summer Seminar at D. O, then Assistant Professor at Duke University
Anna Gonosová, to Harvard University to continue research and dissertation
George Gorse, to a new position at the University of Pennsylvania (Visiting Lecturer)
Naomi Gorse, to work on her Master's thesis in Pennsylvania
Oystein Hjort, returning to University of Copenhagen, Associate Professor
Frances Kianka, Washington, D. C. to continue research and dissertation
Alan Kolata, Field Museum, Chicago
Dogan Kuban, ITU Mimarlik Fakultesi, Teknik Universite, Taksim, Istanbul
Melissa Miller, to Boston to continue research and dissertation
Betsy Rosasco, New York to continue research and dissertation
Janet Timbie, Mellon Fellowship, Catholic University
Dick Townsend, to Boston and New Mexico to continue research
Jim Trilling, undecided
Boyd Yates, Leaving Dumbarton Oaks on May 12

PROFESSOR MACDOUGALL TO TAKE SABBATICAL:

Professor MacDougall will be leaving Dumbarton Oaks for a one year sabbatical. She plans to spend the summer in Vermont, then go to Italy in October where she will be Visiting Professor at Villa I Tatti (the Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies). In addition she has won a Guggenheim Fellowship and will study Renaissance throne rooms and their decorations. While Professor MacDougall is on sabbatical, Diane McGuire will become the Acting Director of Studies for Landscape Architecture. Ms McGuire is presently the Landscape Architect in the Architectural Services Division at Harvard, and will hold a dual role as Acting Director and Fellow while she is here.

DUMBARTON OAKS COOKBOOK STILL SIMMERING:

The Dumbarton Oaks Cookbook has not been forgotten, but has been put on a "back burner" while the many recipes that have been submitted are tried. We're still hoping to get more recipes of a wider variety. Especially needed are recipes for vegetables, salads, soups, desserts. Please give your recipes to Meryl. We would also appreciate help testing and tasting the recipes. Please drop by, look through the recipes and, if you see one that interests you, take it home and give it a try. There's no identification on any recipe, so you won't know whose you're trying; in addition, the "tester" will also remain anonymous. Honest comments and suggestions are requested.

MEMORIAL DAY PICNIC SCHEDULED:

The Dumbarton Oaks Memorial Day picnic is scheduled for Monday, May 28 from 4:00 p.m. on. Everyone at D. O. is invited. Bring family and food, D. O. will provide the beverages. The swimming pool will be open. Entrance to the gardens is through the greenhouse entrance. No barbecues, please.

Volunteers are needed to arrange the entertainment - record player, records, etc. Please contact Judy Siggins if you'd like to help out.

JOB OPENING:

Security guard. Salary grade 2. Position for guard to work 40 hour week, 4:00 p.m. - midnight shift. If interested please contact Mike Dziedzic or Judy Siggins.

MAP IN D. O. GARDEN BOOK WINS PRIZE:

The map in Ursula Pariser's Dumbarton Oaks Gardens Book won second place in a competition sponsored by the American Society of Photogrametry. The Society said the map was a "fine example of black and white cartography with good use of line weights and screens to emphasize important and subordinate features. Formal type befits dignity of the organization."

D. O. PARKING LOT:

In order to make sure that there are enough parking spaces for everyone, we have made a list of cars, license plates and drivers so that we can make sure that only authorized vehicles park in the lot. (All members of the D. O. community are authorized to park in the lot.) If you change cars or license plates let Melanie have the current information.

FELLOWS BUILDING:

The Fellows Building will be open for lunch this summer! Hours are undecided, so please watch the bulletin boards.

CALENDAR:

Items marked with an asterisk are not open to D. O. community. They are listed so that you can be kept informed of what's going on in the building.

MAY 1979

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Mother's Day	14	15	16	17	18	19 Annul Ferry Day
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

5:30 Public Lecture
 5-C.R. talk Gorse
 5-C.R. talk Gorse
 D.O. PICNIC
 Prof. Curcitt here until 6/8
 5-C.R. talk Gorse
 Memorial Day
 Professor Kitzinger here until 6/8
 6: mtg, Harvard Business School*
 Professor Okonomides here until 5/28

JUNE 1979

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						Professor Karayannopoulos here until 6/5
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

2-5*NEA mtg (study)
 7: Award dinner*
 NEH Summer Sem. start
 6:30 mtg, Grounds Mgmt*
 5:30 mtg, ASLA*
 5-Harvard Club mtg*
 End of Term AHA mtg, * (Study)
 8:00-Brass Concert, garden

JULY 1979

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			HOLIDAY			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Independent Day
 SHERRY
 SHERRY