

# Dumbarton Oaks Newsletter

Dumbarton Oaks

APRIL, 1982

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## News from the Director's Office:

For those who missed the bulletin board notice Dumbarton Oaks's efforts to raise outside funds have recently been crowned with considerable success.

The Mellon Foundation gave \$120,000 to be spent over five years to support the program of joint junior appointments with local universities.

About \$90,000 has been received (or is promised) in publication subsidies.

The NEH has granted \$32,565 for the project on Byzantine Monastic Foundation Documents. Both John Callahan and Alexander Kazhdan are working on projects supported by the NEH. Several other applications to the NEH are pending.

## Pre-Columbian Studies

In January the Pre-Columbian Library received as a gift the scholarly library of the late Thelma Sullivan of Mexico City. Mrs. Sullivan was a specialist in Aztec manuscripts and iconography and a friend of the program here; her collection of some 1,500 titles is considered to be one of the finer personal libraries on Aztec culture and the Nahuatl language.

The long-needed cataloguing of the Pre-Columbian Library is underway, with the help of the OCLC computer and part-time student assistant, Magda Jabbour. Carlos Aróstegui, who is coordinating the project, reports that 1,100 titles have now been catalogued.

## Landscapes Architecture - Garden Library

Two recent exhibitions in the Garden Library have been "Plants in Myth and Legend" and "Hexandrian Plants." One is now being prepared on the history of tulip illustration.

The project of oiling all leather-bound volumes in the Rare Book Room has been completed.

The staff has accessioned, bound, and catalogued its slide collection. This has been organized primarily by Bonnie Billman. Approximately 4500 slides have been processed. It is expected that c. 1500 slides will be added yearly.

*Ancient Roman Gardens*, the 7th volume in the Dumbarton Oaks Colloquium on the History of Landscape Architecture series has been published. Volume 8, the papers of the 1980 Symposium, *Beatrice Jones Farrand (1872-1959)*:

*Fifty Years of American Landscape Architecture*" is in galley form and will go to press shortly.

## Byzantine Calligraphic News:

The loan exhibition of medieval Bulgarian jewelry which accompanied the colloquium honoring the 1300th anniversary of the foundation of the Bulgarian state, closed on January 6, 1982.

Shelly Sturman, a local conservator, is in the process of removing the modern layers of paint from a 6th century Palestinian relief of the Holy Sepulchre.

"Sacred Souvenirs: Byzantine Pilgrimage Art," an exhibition comprising about 30 small objects from seven collections, will open May 4 in the upper corridor. This exhibit, which will incorporate both familiar and new objects, is intended to reveal the practice of the pilgrim--his goals, needs, and his daily ritual. Gary Vikan will give a public lecture May 5 to mark this opening.

The fourth and fifth booklets in the museum's publication series are being prepared: *Byzantine Coinage* by Philip Grierson (G. Vikan and C. Moon, eds.) and *Sacred Souvenirs: Byzantine Pilgrimage Art* by Gary Vikan, to accompany the Sacred Souvenirs exhibition.

## Byzantine Manuscript Collection News:

Through the joint efforts of the Byzantine Photo Collection, the Byzantine Collection, and Astor Moore, a new system has been designed for displays in the hallway. The first display mounted is a photo essay: *Hagia Sophia through Byzantine Eyes* using photographs from the Collection of c. 2000 images of the H. Sophia which illustrate quotes of 6th century historian, Procopius, and 9th century poet, Paul Silentiarius. It will be on view until late April.

## Byzantine Publications

Westerink, L.G., *Nicholas I, Patriarch of Constantinople: Miscellaneous Writings*, Dumbarton Oaks Studies XX (1981).

A publications brochure similar to those of the Landscape Architecture and Pre-Columbian Programs is currently being prepared.

### Friends of Music

A recital by Mme Lili Kraus, piano, will mark the end of the 1981-82 season. Although program details have not yet arrived, it will most likely include the works of Mozart with whom she is always connected, he being her great study and favorite composer.

Dumbarton Oaks is cooperating with the Kennedy Center in their STRAVINSKY FESTIVAL to be held later this spring. A TV crew from WQED, Pittsburgh will be occupying the Music Room on Friday and Saturday, June 11 and 12, in order to prepare for the taping on the Saturday of Stravinsky's "Dumbarton Oaks Concerto" to be played by The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (who last played here in March 1980 under Colin Russell Davies). This time they will be directed and conducted by Pinchas Zucherman (who has not played here since 1967). This recording will go out later from WQED on PBS under the title, "Kennedy Center Tonight". Presently there are few details available except that Igor Stravinsky's younger son Soulima, by Stravinsky's second wife, is involved in the Festival and will be here. We understand that the producer is thinking of a small audience of some 30-50 people, perhaps in evening dress, to be present during the televising of the performance to suggest the idea of a concert being held here as it might have been when the Blissesses were in residence. When everything is finalized an up-dated notice will go on the bulletin board.

### Music Galleries

The Trustees granted permission to Dumbarton Oaks to loan the oil painting "The Visitation" by El Greco (1540-1614) to: EL GRECO OF TOLEDO: AN INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION, opening at the Prado Museum, Madrid, returning to the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC on July 3-September 6; The Toledo Museum of Art September 26-November 21 and, finally, to the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, December 12-February 6, 1983, after which it will come home.

This is the first retrospective loan show of paintings by Domenikos Theotokopoulos; it is organized around humanistic themes which have emerged recently from research on the relationship of El Greco's art to key ideas of his time.

In its place in the Music Room is hanging "The Rehearsal" by Edgar Degas (1834-1917), borrowed from the Garden Library Rare Book Room.

Also on loan, from January 1982 to February 1983, is "Gloucester Harbor", Childe Hassam (1895-1935) to SITES exhibition AMERICAN IMPRESSIONISM. It will travel to Paris, East Berlin, Vienna, Bucharest, and Sofia. This oil hangs outside Joan Aston's office and no other painting has been substituted in its absence.

### Main Lab News

New slides and transparencies of the Byzantine, Pre-Columbian Collections and House Collection including interior photography, for slide libraries, publications and sales purposes.

Byzantine Photo Collection: New prints for Photo Archive from field work negatives; new negatives from nitrate negatives.

### Gardens and Grounds:

The Swimming Pool is now filled. Please familiarize yourself with the Rules posted in the Dressing Rooms and observe them regarding pool use.

This is a reminder that there will be a Garden admission charge of \$1 in effect as of Thursday, April 1. Staff and Fellows are admitted free by showing their ID card at the ticket booth and are entitled to bring up to 4 guests with them at no charge. Any staff members who do not have a valid ID should see Melanie Mopsick.

Also remember that you should not enter or leave the gardens by the maintenance gate during public hours. You may continue to bring guests into the gardens during non-public hours but must accompany them at all times.

### Museum Shop

Slides of the Collections and Gardens are on display in a new light box.

### Maritime - New People

Roman Bukowinsky, working with Astor Moore as a part-time assistant to help expedite the backlog of work requests on hand.

Ann Fiester, in Graduate Studies at George Washington University for an MA, is an intern in Pre-Columbian Studies, summarizing the Bliss letters regarding the Collection.

Alain Minno, Gardens and Grounds, is one of the crew leaders since March.

Neal Roberts, Gardens and Grounds, another crew leader with Alain Minno and Donald Lear.

William Tronzo has accepted a joint appointment in Art History between American University and Dumbarton Oaks for next year.

Martha Warren, an American University student is a new Student Assistant in the Byzantine Library.

Eric Williams joined the Security Staff on March 8, working the 4-12 p.m. shift.

Robert Zelif from Sandhills Community College, Southern Pines, N.C. is an intern in the Gardens Mar 8-May 22. His wife, Gail, works part time in the Museum Shop.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: APRIL - MAY - 1982

Meetings

April 8 - DOSG - Study - 1 P. M.

April 20 The Administrative Committee of Dumbarton Oaks which includes President Bok, Dean Rosovsky, Professor Ford and Mr. Constable, will be meeting at Dumbarton Oaks.

April 30-May 1 In lieu of a Symposium for Landscape Architecture - Garden Library there will be a 10th Anniversary of the Study Center. All former fellows who have worked at the Garden Library since Betty MacDougall was made Director of Studies have been invited to participate in a series of round table discussions and to present papers on developments in the discipline of garden history.

May 14-16 Byzantine Symposium

"Continuity and Change in Late Byzantine and Early Ottoman Society". Registrations are being taken for this event. Staff, fellows, and spouses of staff and fellows may register at the reduced rate of \$20.

A number of outside events have been scheduled. Please consult the bulletin board for details.

Informal Talks - 5:00 p.m. - Study

April 6 - R. Nelson, "Artistic Interchange in Mediterranean Art, s.XIII-XV"

April 13 - F. Tinnefeld, "Four Prooimia by Demetrius Cydones for Charters of Emperor John V: Edition and Commentary"

April 14 - J. O'Meara, "The Eriugena Project"

April 28 - R.B. Hitchner, "The Causes of the First Mauri Revolt in Byzantine North Africa"

Seminars - 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. - Study

Mondays: MacDougall

Tuesdays: Vikan

Pre-Columbian -(7:30 p.m.)

Thursdays: Browning

Concerts

April 18 - 19 Mme Lili Kraus, Piano

Sherry: Wednesdays - 5 p.m. - Study

April 7 and 21

May 5 and 19

Public Lectures - Music Room - 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 1 Martin Feinstein, Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: *Operamania*

Wednesday, April 21 Joshua Praver, Hebrew University of Jerusalem: *Jerusalem in the Jewish-Christian Perspective of the Early Middle Ages*

Wednesday, May 5 Gary Vikan, Dumbarton Oaks: *Sacred Souvenirs: Byzantine Pilgrimage Art*

Wednesday, May 19 Esther Pasztor, Columbia University: *Art of the Aztec Empire*

HOLIDAY

Memorial Day - Observed Monday, May 31, 1982 (Museums and Gardens will be closed this day)

Check the Main Bulletin Board (in hallway outside Director's Office) for further details, corrections, and additions which may occur.