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Book Notes, general.

The deleted books were stood up in alphabetical order on several improvised tables (horses and boards) in the receiving room. An informal sale of certain books to members of the Library Staff was the first order of business. (Mrs. Scheffer, for example, wanted to buy all the Saint-Amand mémoires!). Then, Mr. Dauber, of Dauber & Pine of New York, appeared and bought all that remained. When payment has been made from all, the total sum will be reported to Mr. and Mrs. Bliss. Dauber offers \$175 for the Curtis Indians and \$150 for the Boswell Malahide Papers. Shall this offer be accepted? The reason for the low offer on the Indians is that a number of "remainder" sets are still available at the Morgan Library - or were still available - and most of the institutions that were interested in this set have been able to get it at very low figures. At least, so Mr. Dauber said.

There is to be a Piccadilly sale of books for the British War Relief. Mrs. Charles Belknap Henderson, of the Committee, has asked the Keeper of the Rare Books at Dumbarton Oaks to assist in the accumulation of books to be sold and in the details and methods of the sale, which will be in April. Have Mr. and Mrs. Bliss any suggestions to make?

Mr. Sachs' book on drawings was selected as one of the "Fifty Books of the Year" and a copy is now on exhibition in New York and will travel round the country with the other 49. EBC saw the exhibition in New York and spent some hours examining the various type fonts, binding materials and general format of the books. In her opinion, the two books printed in the new Caledonia type (which will be used for the D.O. Papers) stood out definitely for evenness, legibility and quality.

Books notes, Research Library.

The Chronique d'Egypte (Brussels) for July, 1940, has arrived, addressed via Allemagne. Jean Malye sends a letter from the zone libre, saying that our Livre des Cérémonies, Vol. II, has actually been published, but that there is, at present, no possibility of sending books from Paris. He has had news of Mrs. Bliss through his aunt.

Princeton Index

The first set of pictures from the monument file has arrived. About five hundred in number, and others will soon be coming. In quality, they were about what one would expect - since they are photographs of photographs - but since we own a large number of the books from which the originals were taken, students will be able to look up the reference if they need a cleared version.

PHILIP AINSWORTH MEANS  
Pomfret, Connecticut

Tuesday, 11 February 1941

Mrs. Barbara Sessions,  
3101 R Street,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Sessions;

Many thanks for your letter of Feb 4th which reached me a few days ago. I am sorry that you have suffered from the "Flu" which is running wild, apparently, in some parts of the country.

The information which you give me regarding the bronze casting<sup>1</sup> is exactly what I require. Many thanks. I am particularly interested in the fact, related by you, that this specimen formerly belonged to Dr. Gaffron. His collections, as you probably know, were at least three in number; one is now in the Ethnological Museum in Berlin-Schlachtensee (I think it is called); a second collection is usually referred to as the Gaffron Privat-Sammlung; and the third collection was, as I understand it, sold or otherwise dispersed in Peru (to Museums, etc.). Your specimen probably comes from this section of Dr. Gaffron's collections. Dr. Gaffron, who was a dentist, I think, not an oculist, lived and flourished in Peru many enough years ago to have and enjoy still unspoiled opportunities for collecting the antiquities of the country. Being a clever and intelligent man he made the most of the opportunities when he was not engaged in his professional activities. Germans have a flair for thus combining business with money making hobbies. The latest example of this know to me is the late (?) Edmond Haenflein, who, while being an official of the German Overseas Bank in Lima, formed, in his leisure hours, a magnificent collection of Peruvian art which I tried to get one of our Museums to buy about 1921. My efforts were vain and the collection was eventually sold, for enormous prices, at the Hotel Drouot in Paris, about 1928.

Please forgive my running on like this, but I thought perhaps you might be interested. With renewed thanks for your letter I am

Sincerely yours,

PAM:md

Signed- Philip Ainsworth Means

1.0 Orangehead  
with silver  
Copper alloy  
P. S.

### Collection Notes

Miss Stehle: Miss Dorothy Stehle of the University of Pennsylvania (recommended by Prof. Ranke) came to D. O., Saturday, February 8, to study the inscription on the horse. She was able to read several more letters than had been legible in our photographs, and feels hopeful about deciphering part of the incised inscription on the shoulder. The inscription appears to contain a dedicatory formula, with the donor's name, and follows a type usual in S. Arabian votive inscriptions. The stamped cartouche seems to offer greater difficulties. Miss Stehle promised to send a preliminary report, which has not yet arrived. She will also send references to publications in which ornament similar to that on the harness may be seen in S. Arabic stone carvings.

She was greatly impressed by Pegasus, and obviously thrilled by her morning spent in his company! (The photographer from the Evening Star, who was looking for "action pictures" that day - cf. picture of our textile expert! - had to be restrained from snapping her as she leaned over Pegasus from a step-ladder, surrounded by flood-lights. It was an effective scene.)

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Mr. Gettens spent a day surveying the physical condition of the Collection, and gave an excellent report (which he is preparing to submit in writing.) No active bronze disease; (all objects which have been treated are standing up well); the ivories very healthy; wood and stone doing well! He looked carefully at the rest of the Egyptian bronze find, and seemed to think the patina uniformly consistent with the pieces he had previously examined. He has asked to have two more sent to Cambridge for special study of some curious patches of color which seem to have been painted on. He refuses to be drawn into a wholesale judgment of the entire group of objects.

### Delegations and Visitors

On Saturday, February 1, delegates to the annual meeting of the American Council of Learned Societies visited the Library and Collection. They were received and escorted on their tour by Mr. and Mrs. Forbes, Mr. and Mrs. Sachs and Mr. Thacher, assisted by Bellinger, Bland and Clark of the Library staff. Tea was served continuously. Alfred Bellinger came early, by arrangement, and spent some time studying the Howland Shaw Byzantine coins (of which Sherbowitz-Wetzor is preparing a catalogue similar to Prof. Bellinger's catalogue of his own collection). He also looked at some of the seals, and has recommended that while waiting for the Laurent catalogue which may be long in coming, we ask one of the junior fellows (Mr. Houck?) to prepare a card index giving the brief identification of each piece as at present noted on the wrappings.

At least one advantage to the Census resulted from the occasion, since Miss Bellinger made great friends with Professor Clark Hopkins of Ann Arbor, who feels confident that he can smooth the way for her at the U. of Mich. Museum, and has definitely fixed the month of May for her visit there.

Visitors continue to come at an average rate of ten or twelve a day. The Saturday opening is apparently much appreciated.

SOME NOTABLES FROM THE LAND OF THE EVENING SUN VISIT DUMBARTON OAKS.

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En tour in Washington, "Archie" and "Mehitable" stopped off at Dumbarton Oaks. Distressed at not being able to meet the Lord and Lady of the Manor, Archie, discovering a typewriter, seized upon the chance to dash off an ODE extolling in his inimitable manner the beauties of the place. Mehitable, left to her adventurous self, strayed into the Music Room where she discovered, in the person of PASHT, her ANCIENT and HONORABLE forebear. Sad to relate the superior attitude of the regal Egyptian was resented by the modernistic feline from the Metropolis who, at a loss to recall what Emily Post would do under such circumstances, forgot her MANNERS and flew into an UNHOLY RAGE. Needless to relate the EGYPTIAN retained her POISE and Mehitable MUTTERING (in language unfit to print) was led away to weep on Archie's shoulder.

F.M. (Miss Frances Morris)



C O P Y

HARVARD UNIVERSITY\*\*\*FOGG MUSEUM OF ART  
Cambridge, Massachusetts

February 10, 1941

Mrs. Ethel B. Clark  
Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection  
Georgetown  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Clark:

Thank you ever so much for your lines of the 6th inst. I had not heard that the Catalogue of Drawings is included in the exhibition at the New York Public Library of the "Fifty Best Books of the Year."

I am touched that you should tell me about this, and even more so that you approve of what I said at the opening of the 1941 Dumbarton Oaks Lectures. On the chance that you or Mrs. Sessions are keeping a record of that occasion I venture to enclose a transcript of the few words that I had to say.

My greetings to each and every one at Dumbarton Oaks. You were all very kind to me and to Mrs. Sachs and we both appreciated the spirit in which you met us both. I am homesick for Dumbarton Oaks and expect to return before long.

With renewed thanks and appreciation,

Sincerely yours,

Signed--Paul J. Sachs

## Introduction of M. Focillon. February 3, 1941

With incomparable generosity, Mr. and Mrs. Bliss have presented this beautiful home; these exquisite gardens; this significant Library; these Collections (which reflect their impeccable taste), to Harvard University, to be known henceforth as the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection.

They have done this in the hope that Harvard University may carry forward the serious and imaginative work initiated by them with such skill; developed by them with such love and with such singleness of purpose; and given direction by them with such astonishing vision.

The challenge is very great; the problems are manifold. Slowly, patiently, the University hopes to make of Dumbarton Oaks a research centre worthy of Mr. and Mrs. Bliss; worthy of the best traditions in the long history of Harvard University.

Indeed this princely gift can only be justified by the quality of the Research that we shall carry on here; by the quality of publication that we shall sponsor. We plan, therefore, to invite to Dumbarton Oaks each year a few senior Research Scholars of international reputation and to associate with them a small group of Junior investigators - all set free to devote themselves to things of the mind and of the spirit. Both groups will, we trust, extend the boundaries of knowledge - more particularly in the Early Christian, Byzantine and Mediaeval fields.

In order to assure a breadth of approach; in order to avoid anything like dry pedantry, we aim to cooperate with our distinguished sister institutions in Washington and elsewhere and also to be of service to an enlightened public such as this.

We shall, at regular intervals, offer a series of lectures of the kind that we initiate this afternoon.

Our distinguished speaker today has done Dumbarton Oaks and Harvard University the honor to be our first Research Fellow in Residence.

He is a scholar of international renown; he is a famous mediaevalist; he is a learned historian; he is a profound philosopher; he is a great humanist and a true French savant. He comes to us from the Sorbonne; from Yale University; from

the Collège de France. This dear friend is a prolific author. He is, to my way of thinking, the eloquent, the outstanding, the most inspiring teacher of his generation in France.

With wisdom and with characteristic insight he has chosen the most appropriate, the most timely of all subjects for his first series of lectures at Dumbar-ton Oaks.

"L'Histoire de l'Art et la Vie de l'Esprit:"

a subject which only he can treat as it should be treated.

In the name of his devoted and understanding admirers and friends, Mr. and Mrs. Bliss and in the name of Harvard University, I have the honor to introduce:-

Professor Henri Focillon.

## THE SUNDAY STAR, WASHINGTON, D. C.



**RESEARCH AT DUMBARTON OAKS**—Miss Louisa Bellinger, research assistant specializing in early textiles, analyzes weave and spinning with a 20-power, wide-field textile tube at the Dumbarton Oaks Research Laboratory. —Star Staff Photo.

## Five Art Scholars to Begin Research at Dumbarton Oaks

### Winners of Harvard Fellowships To Spend Two to Three Years Here

Five post-graduate students, winners of Harvard University fellowships, this week will realize their greatest ambition as fine arts scholars of the Byzantine period in history—two to three years' quiet research in the cultural and luxurious atmosphere of Dumbarton Oaks, former estate of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss at Thirty-second and R streets N.W.

The students, with two professors and a library and museum staff of seven, are the first participants in the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library where more than 15,000 volumes—1,200 of them pertaining to the early Christian empire period—and priceless art objects await study.

The Georgetown showplace became the property of the university when Mr. Bliss, a Harvard graduate of 1900, donated it last November.

#### Four Students Are Men.

All of the students are expected at Dumbarton by this week end. They will live in one of the buildings on the grounds. None of the five is a graduate of Harvard. They represent Oberlin College, University of Michigan and Princeton University. Four are men.

The scholars will be supervised by two prominent fine arts professors,

museum and library assignments or as teachers.

#### Museum Can Be Visited.

In addition to the prized collection of books, the Dumbarton Museum, which Mr. and Mrs. Bliss formally opened last November 3, contains Egyptian bronzes, Syrian metal crafts, wool tapestries and other art objects dating from the 4th century to the 14th.

The university also has possession of the book-binding shop at 3245 S street N.W., where Ott Zahn, who came to work for the Bliss family three years ago, continues to ply his trade of restoring and binding old volumes.

Visitors may obtain admittance to the museum from 2 to 4:30 p.m. on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays by writing the secretary of the collection or by telephoning the estate. John S. Thacher is executive director of the library and Mrs. Barbara Sessions, formerly in charge of Bowdoin College Museum, is librarian.

Mr. and Mrs. Bliss, prominent in Washington society for a number of years, are now in Santa Barbara, Calif.

Dr. Henri Focillon of Yale University and C. R. Morey of Princeton. Prof. Focillon will live at Dumbarton while the latter will divide his time between Washington and Princeton.

As fellows, all expenses of the students are paid. They are free to arrange their own hours of study and research.

Between two and three years will be required for their work, the eventual training as specialists in



HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
DUMBARTON OAKS RESEARCH LIBRARY AND COLLECTION  
GEORGETOWN, WASHINGTON, D. C.

MAIL ADDRESS: 3101 R STREET  
CABLE ADDRESS: HARDOAKS  
VISITORS' ENTRANCE: 1703 32ND STREET

Textile Research Office  
Sterling Memorial Library  
YALE UNIVERSITY

ADMINISTRATION, MICHIGAN 3101  
LIBRARY STAFF, MICHIGAN 3119  
RESEARCH LIBRARY, MICHIGAN 3149

Last Saturday morning something exciting was happening in the exhibition room. Of course a press photographer had to arrive at the same moment. He felt drawn to the exhibition room. The Library no longer interested him. It had been photographed already. So perforce the staff went into action with the strangest results. We expanded on the interest of the Bindery. But it was not the main establishment and he would only get lukewarm. Then we offered him a lady at a loom, and he wanted to know if we did much weaving here. We said "No, but we could if we wanted to". That didn't please him. Finally we said we did examine textiles - and that in a very superior manner. He was appeased. We opened the textile case and found a piece that would show up well in his picture, we put it in a drawer which would bring it to the proper height, and we bent above it, with a second magnifying glass along side in case of need, and assumed that learned cast of countenance which would best inspire confidence in our mature judgment - and we stayed so bent for unnumbered eons. When it was over we let the photographer look through our glass to see what we had seen, with the pleasing result that he listened when we told him what we had been doing, and marvel of marvels, wrote it down correctly.

Sunday morning, being a New Englander, we read a New York paper and the day passed peacefully.

Monday morning we came blithely to work and were greeted with beaming smiles by Sargent and Charles who had seen our picture and would bring their copies over if we hadn't seen it. Next the telephone rang and an old lady said she saw by the paper that we were interested in old textiles and would we like a hand hemmed black satin stock which had belonged to her Grandfather and was well over sixty years old, and an embroidered Christening Robe which had come down in her family but had never been used because her Grandfather - whose stock we might have unless she decided to give it to the National Museum - was a member of the clergy and so of course did not baptize his own children but had to wait until the Bishop came around. The Bishop rode a horse and was rather slow in making his rounds, consequently when he arrived the Robe was too small and was therefore in its original pristine state. At this point she took a breath and we slid in the information that we were awfully sorry but we stopped at the tenth cantury and unfortunately could not cover Americana. That word headed her back for the National Museum as we had hoped, and she decided that was the better place for her treasures.

Then we met Young and he said "Ah saw tha picture of tha case in tha paper - tha wife showed it to me. And Ah recognized you, too - immediately."

At this point the strain became too great and we decided to retire to the stacks at Yale and examine the rest of Dura and the Moore Collection.

Junior Fellows in Residence

Miss Day; Mr. Hauck. Both move in and out of the Underworld and the Research Library and Collection with evident satisfaction: finding the source material they want; asking if such and such a reference is to be found at D.O., or, perhaps, in the L. of C.; the Underworld enjoys them (in particular, one of your staff, has had exciting and stimulating talks with Mr. Hauck about the literature, qua literature, of the Byzantine period.); and they seem to be quietly and comfortably "at home".

<sup>99</sup> Comment from p. 1. "Mrs. Scheffer tells us that she is taking her mémoires home, 2 by 2. That she expects to be thus happily transporting them for some weeks! Looking into each pair as she shelves them.