

Dumbarton Oaks

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



Dumbarton Oaks

Trustees for Harvard University

2022–2023







Dumbarton Oaks
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Annual Report
2022-2023

WASHINGTON, DC

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Cover: Dumbarton Oaks was honored to host an installation of *Brier Patch* by artist Hugh Hayden, October 2022–September 2023.
Photograph by Sandy Kavalier.

Pages ii-iii: The Orangery.

Frontispiece: Jar depicting the botanical frog, Moche,
Early Intermediate Period, 100–800 CE, ceramic (PC.B.596).

www.doaks.org/about/annual-reports

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THE
DUMBARTON OAKS
RESEARCH LIBRARY AND COLLECTION
HAS BEEN ASSEMBLED AND CONVEYED TO
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
BY MILDRED AND ROBERT WOODS BLISS
THAT THE CONTINUITY OF SCHOLARSHIP IN
THE BYZANTINE AND
MEDIAEVAL HUMANITIES
MAY REMAIN UNBROKEN
...RIFY AN EVER-CHANGING PR
...FORM THE F... WITH WISE



From the Director

Finally, finally, this year is the year that began like any other year except for the last two years. The restrictions imposed by the pandemic were lifted, and Dumbarton Oaks joyously returned to its former self. Beginning with our summer programs, we brought various groups of scholars (Byzantine, Pre-Columbian, and Garden and Landscape) to campus. Then in September more than fifty fellows and junior fellows from all parts of the world arrived to pursue their aims and to establish new friends. They constituted a wonderful cohort with overlapping interests among all three areas of study. They were all able to take advantage of a renovated refectory and open library and the gardens. All was meticulously prepared to receive them by their colleagues in facilities, the museum, the library, the refectory, the gardens, security, events, and the director's office. It felt like a spring had come to autumn as we fully awakened again and moved about freely.

The gardens overflowed with beauty this fall and spring, and we renewed our contemporary arts program in September with a yearlong instillation of Hugh Hayden's *Brier Patch*. Composed of one hundred elementary school desks fashioned from white cedar trees from New Jersey's Great Swamp, the sculptures were distributed in three areas of the gardens. Four of the pieces greeted visitors at the entrance as a harbinger of what was to come. Seventy-five desks were arranged as a kind of outdoor classroom on the North Vista and placed facing away from the Main House toward the forest. Branches sprang from the planks,

Jonathan Kavalier and Tom Cummins with Dean Claudine Gay during her visit to Dumbarton Oaks in October 2022. Photo by Charlotte Gutierrez.

and on close inspection, one would observe that they were not attached but were a part of the tree that had now been hewn into the desk's tablet. Another twenty-some chairs were arranged in the amphitheater. Our fellows and visitors flocked to see them. In fact, the gardens as well as the museum had record-breaking attendance as the world reopened, and spaces such as ours became a haven for gatherings after the near-solitary confinement of the past few years. We are committed to future installations that work with our garden spaces and collections, and therefore we invited Santiago Montoya, Rose Simpson, San Van Aken, and Kapwani Kiwanga to campus with the idea to discuss possible future projects.

The Pre-Columbian symposium returned to its normal date in early September to great success and attendance. One of the new events this fall was a symposium organized by the three areas of study to address a theme of common interest and importance: climate change as it is studied and understood by scholars from Pre-Columbian, Byzantine, and garden and landscape studies. The energy and intelligence of the participants produced a three-day dialogue across the fields. Entitled "Changing Climates, Changing Histories: Perspectives from the Humanities," participants and the public engaged in meaningful discussions about commonalities and differences across fields and disciplines. Historical knowledge and present scientific study may not always align, but neither can do without the other in the broader scheme of life. Just as important, as far as I am concerned as director, this was the occasion to bring the three committees of senior fellows together for a collective intellectual purpose. This is the first time, as far as I know, that an intellectual opportunity afforded the meeting of all senior fellows at Dumbarton Oaks. The silos of each area's interests are of course important—in fact, crucial—for maintaining intellectual rigor, but the common interests of the humanities that they share are what bind us together at Dumbarton Oaks and override any one focus.

We also collaborated with Miguel Albero of the Cultural Office of the Embassy of Spain to host a lecture in December by Daniela Bleichmar entitled "La Flora de Bogotá: The Art and Science of Botany ca. 1800." The lecture was in recognition of the embassy's gift to the library of the facsimiles of thousands of

spectacular drawings created in the workshop of José Celestino Mutis. We also cosponsored with the David Rockefeller Center of Latin American Studies a conference at the Victoria and Albert Museum entitled “Lacquer in the Americas” in April. At Harvard, we hosted a cocktail gathering with faculty and advisors in the Faculty Club to detail the programs available to Harvard undergraduate and graduate students. In the same month, we cosponsored with the Department of History of Art and Architecture a celebration of the distinguished career of the Dumbarton Oaks Professor of Byzantine Art History Ioli Kalavrezou entitled “Σεβαστή: A Symposium in Honor of Ioli Kalavrezou.”

We were honored with a working visit by Dan Weiss, a former Dumbarton Oaks fellow in Byzantine studies and now the CEO of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Then, in late October, Dean Claudine Gay paid Dumbarton Oaks a visit just before she was named the next president of Harvard. It was a wonderful opportunity for her to meet with the directors of studies and to walk around the campus with the Director of Gardens Jonathan Kavalier. Dean Gay’s background in political science gave us a renewed appreciation of the role Dumbarton Oaks and the Blisses played in the creation of the United Nations as we passed through the Music Room.

Our capital projects were in full fury as some came to completion and others began. The newly renovated Guest House came online in early February, and it is truly a much more inviting space not only to spend the night but to sit and enjoy the living room and dining room. Kyle and I moved into the beautifully renovated Director’s Residence at the end of May. It is much airier with a light-filled interior, and we look forward to hosting events there this coming fall. Cusi especially likes the beautifully tended garden. The Greenhouse renovation by Selldorf Architects is nearing completion, and it should be ready to be in service at the end of August. The planned Farrand House has been approved by the corporation, and we are now in the final stages of design with the intent to begin construction in January. This new three-story building is also designed by Selldorf Architects, and it will be built behind the Gardeners’ Court, overlooking the Dell and the Acorn Cottage to the east and Dumbarton Oaks Park to the north. Reed Hilderbrand is designing the landscaping, increasing the gardens. When the project is completed, it will serve as our

K–12 student center for students in DC schools. It will also have an artist’s studio and exhibition space on the bottom floor and a digital innovation lab on the top floor as well as a meeting room and office.

Our collection of architecture, like our library and museum collections, as well as the gardens is remarkable—in fact, it is unparalleled. But they are only things that are inert and meaningless without the people who use them and care for them. They are activated by our scholars who come from all over the world to take advantage of what these things and places provide. My colleagues at Dumbarton Oaks ensure that our visitors can maximize their all too brief time in what is so often called “paradise.” In May, there is the great gnashing of teeth as the gates of paradise are closed, and they leave. I am always saddened to see them depart, but renewal takes the form of the summer programs and the promise of the new fellows to arrive in September.



Academic Programs

The 2022–2023 academic year welcomed sixty-five residential fellows to the Dumbarton Oaks campus, including senior scholars, mid-career researchers, dissertation writers, and recent undergraduates. In addition, short-term programming throughout the year, including summer programs, class visits, and Winter-session courses, introduced seventy-five students and scholars to Dumbarton Oaks and its vast resources. A total of twenty-one grants and awards were given to scholars in support of their research around the world. Through these fellowships, awards, and programs, Dumbarton Oaks continues to demonstrate a commitment to the pursuit of the humanities and support for scholars and students across generations.

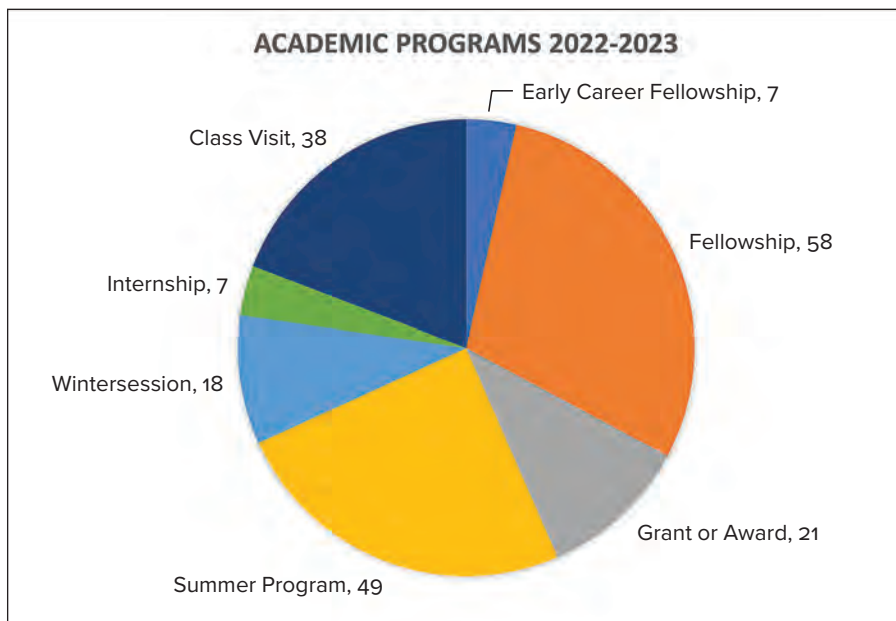
Byzantine Studies

Fellows

William Adler, North Carolina State University, “Critical Edition of Greek Text of the *Palaea Historica*”

Peter Milo, Masaryk University, “Byzantine Influences on the Urban Development of the Early Medieval Bulgarian Capitals Pliska and Preslav: A Comparative Study Based on Geophysical, Archaeological, and Historical Sources”

Andrea Nanetti, Nanyang Technological University, “News about the Byzantines in the Venetian Diaries: Extracts from the *Diarii* by Antonio Morosini, Giorgio and Piero Dolfín, and



Domenico Malipiero Dated between 1402 (Battle of Ankara) and 1461 (Fall of Trebizond)”

Daniel Reynolds, Centre for Byzantine, Ottoman, and Modern Greek Studies, University of Birmingham, “Edges of Empire: Byzantine Palaestina and Arabia”

Katherine Taronas, Kenyon College, “The Master of Animals in Late Antiquity: Art and the Exegesis of Nature”

Günder Varinlioğlu, Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, “Isaurian Stonecutters at Work: The Late Antique Quarry Industry on Dana Island (Turkey)”

Lev Weitz, Catholic University of America, “Egyptian Monasticism Under Islam: The Arabic Documents of Dayr al-Naqlun”

Junior Fellows

Peter Michael Boudreau, McGill University, “Keeping Time: Temporal Imagery and Thought in the Calendars of Later Byzantium”

Guilhem Dorandeu-Bureau, Panthéon-Sorbonne University, “Enhancing Imperial Authority in a Multicultural Context: The Acta of the Byzantine Catepans of Italy (999–1054)”

Elena Gittleman, Bryn Mawr College, “Legacies of Ancient Theater in Middle Byzantine Visual Culture (ca. 843–1204)”

Mustafa Yildiz, University of California, Berkeley, “Late Byzantine Medicine in the Face of Black Death: A Study of Intellectual History and Medical Practice”

William R. Tyler Fellows

Chance Everett Bonar, Harvard University, “Enslaved to God: Slavery and the Virtuous Life in the *Shepherd of Hermas*”

Rong Huang, Harvard University, “The Luminous Wind Fanned the East: A Comparative Study of the East Syriac Christian Documents in China (618–907)”

I Tatti-Dumbarton Oaks Joint Fellow for Eastern Mediterranean Studies

Ioannis Kyriakantonakis, University of Athens, “A Study on Seventeenth-Century Religious Dynamics: The Traces of Kigalas Family”

Postdoctoral Fellows

Justin Mann, University of Virginia, “Between Authority and Sanctity: The Monastic Landscape of Hosios Loukas”

Ivan Marić, Princeton University, “The Silver *Miliaresion* of Emperor Leo III in the Context of the Arab Siege of Constantinople, 717–718”

Summer Fellows

Ralf Bockmann, Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, “Protecting (Re)sources: The Fortification of Jougar and Water Supply in Byzantine North Africa”

Renate Burri, University of Bern, “Measuring the Heavens over Byzantium: An Anonymous Byzantine Treatise on the Astrolabe”

Prolet Decheva, University College Dublin, “Personifications of Abstract Ideas in Late Antique and Middle Byzantine Art”

René de Nicolay, Universität Zürich, “The Justinianic Dialogue ‘On Political Science’ (Περὶ πολιτικῆς ἐπιστήμης) in Its Legal Context”

- Mariusz Gwiżdza**, University of Warsaw, “Marea/Philoxenite or How a New Town Was Built in Sixth-Century Egypt”
- Markéta Kulhánková**, Masaryk University, “Narratological Commentary on the Byzantine Epic Poem *Digenis Akritis*”
- Louis-Patrick St-Pierre**, Queen’s University, “Being Roman after ‘Rome’: Understandings and Deployment of Roman Identity in Ninth- and Tenth-Century Byzantium”

Project Grants

- Georgios Deligiannakis**, Open University of Cyprus, “The Church Excavation Project in the Asklepieion Area of Ancient Messene”
- Alexander Fantalkin**, Tel Aviv University, “Geophysical Exploration at the Byzantine City of Ashdod-Yam”
- Jordan Pickett**, University of Georgia, “RC14 Dating of Byzantine Fortifications on the Acropolis at Sardis”
- Joseph Williams**, University of Maryland, College Park, “Byzantine Dome Construction in South Italy as Transcultural Knowledge”

Research Grants for Scholars at Risk

- Kostiantyn Bardola**, V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University, “The Byzantine-Bulgarian Relationship 9–10th: The Specifics of the Byzantine ‘Realpolitik’ Strategy”
- Maryna Domanovska**, V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University, “Political Instrumentalization of Byzantine History in the Russian Empire, the Soviet Union and the Post-Soviet Space (XIX–XXI Centuries)”
- Dmytro Hordiienko**, M. S. Hrushevs’ky Institute of Ukrainian Archaeography and Source Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, “The Florentine Union: Its Reception in Central and Eastern Europe”
- Cyril Hovorun**, University College Stockholm, “Critique of *Byzance après Byzance*”
- Nazar Kozak**, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, “(Post-) Byzantine Akathistos Cycles and the Natural World: An Ecocritical Interpretation”

Yuliia Matvieieva, O. M. Beketov National University of Urban Economy in Kharkiv, “Liturgical Textiles and Their Role in the Evolution of the Altar Space of a Christian Temple”

Serhii Shumylo, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, “The Monasteries of Xilurgu and Rusik on Mount Athos and Their Relations with the Kiev State of Rus in the Tenth–Thirteenth Centuries”

Myroslav Voloshchuk, Vasyl Stefanyk Precarpathian National University, “Kyivan Christianity in Galicia during the 11th–the Mid-13th Centuries”

Visiting Scholar

Paroma Chatterjee, University of Michigan, “The Pastoral Roots of Byzantine Sovereignty”

Bliss Symposium Awards

Vera Ivanović, University of Ioannina

Joseph Kester, Harvard University

Byzantine Greek Summer School

Chiara Fabrici, Central European University

Susan Francino, University of Notre Dame

Dragoljub Garic, KU Leuven

Guoda Gediminskaitė, University of the Republic of San Marino

Shinichi Kubo, University of Edinburgh

Jillian Marcantonio, Duke University

Merve Savas, The Ohio State University

Emily Silbergeld, McGill University

Jonas Tai, Stanford University

Piril Us MacLennan, Ghent University

Dumbarton Oaks/HMML Syriac and Armenian Summer School

Introductory Syriac

Faculty: **Jesse Siragan Arlen**, University of California, Los Angeles, **Abraham Terian**, St. Nerses Armenian Seminary, Armonk, New York, **Robert Kitchen**, Regina, Saskatchewan, and **Fr. Armando Elkhoury**, Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Seminary, Washington, DC

Blessen George Babu, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen
Nathan Betz, KU Leuven
Priscila Dantas de Moraes, Cornell University
Sijo George, Bossey Ecumenical Institute, University of Geneva
Matthieu Isbell, Durham University
Aljaž Krajnc, University of Ljubljana
Laura Mariotti, KU Leuven
Ivan Petrov, University of Giessen
Virginia Sommella, Bilkent University
Intermediate Armenian
 Faculty: **Jesse Siragan Arlen**, University of California, Los Angeles, **Abraham Terian**, St. Nerses Armenian Seminary, Armonk, New York, **Robert Kitchen**, Regina, Saskatchewan, and **Fr. Armando Elkhoury**, Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Seminary, Washington, DC
Pelin Kalafatoğlu İslamoğlu, Koç University
Lauren Onel, University of Chicago
Matteo Poiani, Université de Strasbourg
Christopher Sprecher, Universität Regensburg
Leonardo Squilloni, Università degli Studi di Firenze
Konstantinos Takirtakoglou, University of Ioannina
Maxime Yevadian, Catholic University of Lyon
Emanuele Zimbardi, Ca' Foscari University of Venice

Garden and Landscape Studies

Fellows

Luthfi Adam, Northwestern University, “Cultivating Power: Botanic Gardens and Empire-Building in the Netherlands East Indies, 1744–1942”
Brian Bockelman, Ripon College, “Palm Modernism (and Its Critics) in Urban Landscape Architecture: From Old World to New, 1820s–1920s”
David Karmon, College of the Holy Cross, “Renaissance Architecture and Natural History”
Manuel “Saga” Sánchez García, Politecnico di Torino and Universidad de Granada, “Uncovering Colonial Lawscape: A Comparative Study of Legal Documents and Landscape

Depictions in the Spanish Empire from the Sixteenth to the Eighteenth Centuries”

Anna Lise Seastrand, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities,
“Trees and the Ecologies of Sacred Art in Southern India”

Junior Fellow

Gwendolyn Lockman, University of Texas at Austin, “Greening a Copper City: Parks, Mining, and Community in Butte, Montana, 1876–2022”

William R. Tyler Fellow

Amy Chang, Harvard University, “Architecture at the Edges of Empire: Islam, Asia, and the Interpretation of Architectural Inheritance in the Global Spanish Empire, 16th–17th Centuries”

Project Grant

Jennifer Steverson, independent scholar, “African American Textiles as an Expression of Place”

Mellon Democracy and Landscape Initiative Fellows

Ashon T. Crawley, University of Virginia, “in search of our mothers’ gardens” (Fall)

Claire Dunning, University of Maryland, College Park, “Funding the Urban North: Policy, Philanthropy, and Racial Equity ‘After’ Civil Rights” (Spring)

Rabia Harmanşah, University of Cologne, “Mapping the Forgotten Landscape: People, Power and Belonging; The Case of the Island of Imbros”

Kathryn E. Holliday, University of Texas at Arlington, “Telephone City: Architecture, Urbanism, and the Rise and Fall of the Bell Monopoly”

Mellon Summer Fellows in Urban Humanities

Landscapes of Civil and Human Rights

Alissa Ujie Diamond, University of Virginia, “Entangled Histories for Indeterminate Futures: Racial Capitalisms, Resistances, and Space in Central Virginia”

Jennifer Hock, Maryland Institute College of Art, “Breaking Ground: Activists and Experts Build the New Boston, 1960–1975”

Delande Justinvil, American University, “Exhuming the Ex-Human: A Bioarchaeological Investigation of the Q Street Burial Project”

Amanda Martin-Hardin, Columbia University, “Greenlining: Segregation in the American Outdoors”

Visiting Scholar

Andrea Roberts, University of Virginia, “Never Sell the Land”

Bliss Symposium Awards

Keziah Anderson, Harvard University

Abiola Ibirogba, Columbia University

Anastasia Marie, University of Michigan

Omokolade Omigbule, University of Virginia

Zawdie Sandvliet, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Summer Graduate Workshop

Landscape History and Historiography

Sam Coren, Brown University

Sarah Daiker, University of Pittsburgh

Abiola Ibirogba, Pennsylvania State University

Molly McCahan, The Ohio State University

Alba Menéndez Pereda, University of California, Los Angeles

Robert Moeller, University of California, Berkeley

Luis Mota, University of Southern California

Sara Saad Alajmi, University of Pennsylvania

Antonia Weiss, Rutgers University

Alex Zivkovic, Columbia University

Harvard Graduate School of Design Wintersession Course

Gardens/Archives/Stories: Plants in Place

Roxanne Gardner

Benjamin Good

Meghan Gutknecht

Daye Kim
Ruijie Liu
Drummond Poole
Liwen Shi
Blaine Western
Ellena Wong
Ruijen Yang

Pre-Columbian Studies

Fellows

- Barbara Arroyo**, Museo Popol Vuh, Universidad Francisco Marroquín, “Beyond Clay, Stone, and Sand: Kaminaljuyu and Its Role in the Ancient History of Southeastern Mesoamerica”
- Timothy Beach**, University of Texas at Austin, “The Maya Wetlands Renaissance: Human-Wetland Interactions from Antiquity to the Anthropocene”
- Nicholas E. Brown**, Yale University, “Interactions, Innovations, and Influences of Chavin Arts through the Central Andes of Peru”
- Allison Caplan**, University of California, Santa Barbara, “Our Flickering Creations: Precious Art Theory under the Aztec Empire”
- Mallory A. Melton**, independent scholar, “Feeding the Urban Experiment: Preclassic Agroforestry Systems of Pacific Guatemala (900 BCE–100 CE)”

Junior Fellow

- Hayley B. Woodward**, Tulane University, “The Codex Xolotl: The Visual Discourse of Place and History in Early Colonial Mexico”

William R. Tyler Fellows

- Annick Benavides**, Harvard University, “Sacred Place and Possession in the Andes: Carabuco Cross and Copacabana Virgen”

Sarah Loomis, Harvard University, “A Monumental Blaze of Glory: An Osteological Analysis of Human Remains from Los Guachimontones, Jalisco, Mexico”

Flora Clancy Summer Fellow in Maya Studies for Researchers from Latin America

Adolfo Iván Batún-Alpuche, Universidad de Oriente, “Post-classic Maya Beekeeping Gardens and Landscape Management in Cozumel and the Eastern Coast of Yucatan”

Pre-Columbian Art and Archaeology Postdoctoral Fellow

Joanne Baron, Bard Early Colleges, “Kerr Maya Archive Cataloging Project”

Summer Fellows

Rebecca Mendoza Nunziato, Harvard Divinity School, “Consuming Copal: Tree Resin, Teotl, and Ancient Mesoamerican Relationality”

Victor Emmanuel Salazar Chávez, George Washington University, “Foodways and Ballcourts: Studies at Early Formative Etlatongo, Oaxaca”

Matthias Urban, University of Tübingen, “Tracing Linguistic and Material Indexes of Social Identity in the Ancient Central Andes”

Project Grant

Whittaker Schroder, University of Florida, “The Lower Lacantun River and the Lakamtuun Dynasty: Investigating an At-Risk Archaeological Landscape”

Visiting Scholar

Noreen Tuross, Harvard University, “The Blue and Yellow Feather Panels of the Wari: Dates, Animal Location, Husbandry, and Production”

Director's Office

Artist in Residence

Lungiswa Gqunta

Musicians in Residence

inti figgis-vizueta (Fall)

David Hertzberg (Spring)

Harvard Class Visits

HAA 197P: Introduction to Pre-Columbian America

Faculty: **Thomas B. F. Cummins**

Ebonie Pollock

Gabriella Wellons

Harvard Art Museums, Ho Family Student Guide Program

Faculty: **Camran Mani**, Harvard Art Museums

Emily Axelsen

Calla Bai

Brandon Calderón

Rose Collier

Eve Crompton

Ayrton Little

Laura Murphy

Genesis Nam

Sawyer Taylor-Arnold

Jacqueline Zoeller

HAA 240R: Topics in Byzantine Art

Faculty: **Ioli Kalavrezou**

Shani Agarwal

Andy Chen

Ryan Durando

John DeVoy

Sea Yun Joung

FRSEMR 44J: Clash of Titans, Seats of Empire: Ancient Empires of Mexico

Faculty: **William Fash**

Dillon Dale Browning

Rose Chen Giroux

Amber Citlaly Nolazco-Torres

Elisabeth Thanh An Ngo

MEDVLSTD 250: At Cross Purposes: The Crusades in Material Culture

Faculty: **Evridiki Georganteli**

Loren Brown

Asher Chamoy

Clara Guzman

Jordan Hallmark

Cecilia Hsu

Ani Kalousdian

Edward Landzberg

Justin Lopez

Catherine Mignone

Benjamin Miller

Jemma Paek

Zachary Tauscher

HAA 292: Colonial Art of Mexico and the Andes

Faculty: **Thomas B. F. Cummins**

Sitalin Acevedo

Jorge Arredondo

Brandon Calderón

Lucas Reccitelli

Johann Schweig

Humanities Fellows

Abner Aldarondo, Folger Shakespeare Library

Kelsey Bogdan, George Washington University Museum and
Textile Museum

Kyra March, National Gallery of Art

Idabelle Paterson, Smithsonian National Museum of Natural
History

Post-Baccalaureate Fellows

Ava Hampton, Public Programming and Outreach Fellow

Lizzie McCord, Curatorial Fellow

Lauren Toman, Cultural Philanthropy Fellow

Summer Interns

Laetitia Allache, Public Programming

Andrew Micah Budway, Byzantine Gallery

Grace Coolidge, Byzantine Institute of America Archives

McKenzie Lilygren, Byzantine Seals Collection

Hallie Pugh-Sellers, Plant Humanities

Elizabeth Quintero, Tree Survey of the Dumbarton Oaks
Historic Gardens

Adán Ramírez Figueroa, Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library

Wintersession: Cultural Philanthropy in the Museum Space

Hanna Carney

Sophia Downs

Julie Heng

Serena Jampel

Gloria Maldonado

Julia Tellides

Kari Traylor

Joyce Zhou

Plant Humanities

Postdoctoral Fellow

Lucas Mertehikian, Harvard University

Plant Humanities Summer Program

Ana Carmona-Ribeiro, University of São Paulo

Carol Chang, Montana State University

Nathan Cornish, University of Oxford

Heather Craddock, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew and the
University of Roehampton

Alejandro Garay Celeita, University of Southern California

Bethany Kidd, University College London
Phoebe Pohl, Harvard University Graduate School of Design
Sierra Roark, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Sheila Scoville, Florida State University

Plant Humanities Virtual Faculty Residencies

Anthony Baniaga, University of California, Los Angeles
Judy Bullington, Belmont University
Milton Fernando Gonzalez, KU Leuven
Timur Hammond, Syracuse University
Tom Hart, Franklin & Marshall College
Joela Jacobs, University of Arizona
Suryatapa Jha, Claremont McKenna College
Shana Klein, Kent State University
Rosalyn LaPier, University of Montana
Lisa McCarty, Southern Methodist University
Shalini Sengupta, University of Sussex
Yizhou Wang, Heidelberg University

Harvard Wintersession Intern

Sean Wang Zi-Ming



NEW ENGLAND BOTANICAL CLUB.

HERBARIUM OF M. L. FISCHER.
PROFESSOR NORWICH, 1904.



Bristol Co.

HERB. E. WILLIAMS HERVEY.
New Bedford, Mass.

Discorea villosa, L.

Plant Humanities Initiative

Now in its fifth year, the Plant Humanities Initiative (PHI) has taken root at Dumbarton Oaks and is flourishing in collaboration with the scholarly programs. We continue to find ways to integrate and showcase the library, museum, and gardens collections, often in partnership with other institutions such as the New York Botanical Garden, Arnold Arboretum, and Oak Spring Garden Foundation. As the foundational Mellon grant winds down in September 2023, key activities such as the dedicated postdoctoral fellowship, summer program, and virtual faculty residencies continue with Dumbarton Oaks' support (see pp. 27–28 for lists of participants).

The digital humanities aspect of the project remains the heart of our endeavor, and we continue to develop the digital platform—the Plant Humanities Lab—in ongoing dialogue with faculty and students. Over the past year, content has continued to flow into the site. Two graduates from the Harvard Graduate School of Design with a background in landscape architecture, Kira Bre Clingen and Edyth Jostol, coauthored “*Cryptomeria japonica*: Climate Change, Cultivation, and Culture,” which examines the cultural and ecological significance of the Japanese cedar. Clingen also wrote an article for the Lab entitled “Wild Yam: The Rhizome of the Pill,” which explores the history of wild-yam cultivation in Mexico and the invention of the birth-control pill in the twentieth century. This essay adds to narratives previously published in the Plant Humanities Lab on the medicinal uses of plants, particularly their role in birth control, such as dittany. Moreover, we have continued to work with our

Pressed herbarium specimen of *Dioscorea villosa* L. (wild yam),
collected by E. Williams Hervey in New Bedford, MA, on
August 20, 1903. Courtesy of the Harvard University Herbaria.

Plant Humanities summer program students to develop narratives on paperbark, opium, and eggplant, as well as with prior participants of our virtual faculty residencies, such as Dr. Ann Garascia, whose essay “Maidenhair Fern: A Feminine and Feminist Plant” will soon be available in the Lab.

A capstone event was the Plant Humanities conference organized by Principal Investigator Dr. Yota Batsaki and Co-Investigator Dr. Anatole Tchikine on September 15–17, 2022. The conference began with a roundtable discussion that brought together scientists and humanists who have made crucial contributions to our understanding of plant evolution and the historical contexts of plant-people relationships. Drs. Felix Driver (Royal Holloway, University of London), William (Ned) Friedman (Arnold Arboretum), Jessica B. Harris (Queens College), Robin Wall Kimmerer (SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry), and Londa Schiebinger (Stanford University) gave lightning talks and engaged in a discussion that set some of the key themes and approaches for the conference, from evolutionary biology and the history of science to foodways and Indigenous knowledge to the role of biocultural collections. Over the following two days, speakers from various disciplines and at different career stages gave presentations organized around four panel topics: Food and Medicine Cultures; Legacies of Colonialism and Resilience; Aesthetics, Ethics, and Spirituality; and Environment and Biodiversity. Closing remarks by Drs. Peter Crane (Oak Spring Garden Foundation) and Romita Ray (Syracuse University) wove together the central themes of the conference. The roundtable talks have been made available online, and the conference papers will be published in an edited volume by Dumbarton Oaks as an additional resource for faculty and students wishing to explore key methodologies in this exciting and growing field.

We continue to develop strong ties with institutions and scholars working in the plant humanities and to communicate the project’s contributions within the broader field of the environmental humanities. In September, Batsaki spoke about our work introducing the cultural histories of plants to a broad audience in the Director’s Series at Harvard’s Arnold Arboretum. In February, postdoctoral fellow Lucas Mertehikian was invited to speak at the Pratt Institute in New York to master’s students in landscape

architecture about the Plant Humanities Lab and the ways we can recenter the study of plant life within the humanities. In March, Batsaki gave a presentation at a graduate seminar on the environmental humanities at Harvard convened by Professors Diana Sorensen and Verena Conley. In April, Batsaki and Mertehikian spoke at the Plant Humanities Symposium organized by the Yale Environmental Humanities Program, where they presented on the initiative and their own research.

A major incentive for the project has been the desire to showcase and make available to scholars and the public our strong library holdings. We therefore continue to build our holdings and make new acquisitions related to the PHI. A highlight is the early 1587 edition of the *Le blason des fleurs*, a collection of eight-line poems written in the first person on behalf of twenty-five species of fruits and flowers. This exquisite publication, which closely relates to contemporary emblem books, attests to the multiplicity of cultural meanings that plants gained in the context of early modern court culture, adding a layer of symbolism to the traditional discussion of their medicinal properties. Other acquisitions include *The American Flora* by Asa Strong, a curious four-volume set with colored lithographs that lists medical properties of over six thousand plants, published in New York in the early 1850s, and a rare 1813 illustrated introduction to the Linnaean system of botanical classification addressed to children, attributed to English botanist and mycologist Benjamin Forster.

The ongoing research conducted by the project team and external collaborators focuses on themes at the intersection of public interest and scholarly inquiry in the sciences and humanities. This year, we are concentrating on plant extinctions, which have been neglected in the broader discourse of conservation. We are organizing a two-part workshop with the Arnold Arboretum that brings together scientists, curators of plant collections, historians, and artists and will result in a special issue of *Arnoldia* magazine, coedited by Batsaki and Crane. The first meeting took place in March 2022 at Dumbarton Oaks. The second workshop will take place in September 2023 and will be hosted by the Oak Spring Garden Foundation. Furthermore, next summer, the PHI will work with the New York Botanical Garden's (NYBG) Humanities Institute to provide digital humanities training

for the NYBG interns as a first step to developing further collaborations around plant and digital pedagogy in the near future.

Finally, during the 2022–2023 year, Dumbarton Oaks hosted several talks and events to promote the study of plants and their cultural significance. Among these were Tony Kirkham’s lecture “300 Years of Trees at Kew” on his work as the head of the arboretum, gardens, and horticultural services at Kew, organized in collaboration with the Oak Spring Garden Foundation and the National Arboretum, as well as a talk by artist Sam Van Aken on his experimental projects that draw on long histories and practices of pruning, hosted in collaboration with the contemporary art program at Dumbarton Oaks.



Fellowship Reports

Byzantine Studies

Fellows

William Adler, North Carolina State University,
“Critical Edition of Greek Text of the *Palaea Historica*”

I have spent the bulk of my fellowship year working on my edition of the Greek text of the *Palaea Historica*, to be published in Corpus Christianorum (Series Apocryphorum). The goals that I initially set for myself were ambitious, but I am pleased to say that I have realized most of them. I now have a preliminary Greek text, critical apparatus, stemma, and revised English translation for about three quarters of the entire work. Of course, there is still work to be done. After I complete the collation and analysis of the twenty-three manuscript witnesses for the remaining portion of the work (from Samuel to the reign of King David), I plan to review and correct the entire edition. I then plan to finish my introduction to the edition and translation.

In February of 2023, I delivered a lecture at the Catholic University of America on textual criticism. I especially enjoyed participating in Joshua Robinson’s weekly Greek reading group. I spent the remainder of my time finishing several articles, including an essay on Eusebius’s chronicle and a study of accusations of textual corruptions of the Old Testament in early Christian anti-Jewish polemic.

Teijsmann Garden at Buitenzorg Botanic Garden, via Wikimedia Commons.

I barely have the words to express my profound gratitude to Dumbarton Oaks and its outstanding staff for granting me this unique opportunity.

Peter Milo, Masaryk University, “Byzantine Influences on the Urban Development of the Early Medieval Bulgarian Capitals Pliska and Preslav: A Comparative Study Based on Geophysical, Archaeological, and Historical Sources”

The aim of my research project was two-fold: (1) to interpret and integrate archaeological, historical, and remote-sensing data—including fresh results from large-scale geophysical prospection—about Pliska and Preslav, two metropolises of early medieval Bulgaria; and (2) to situate both within the context of Middle Byzantine urbanism. Using statistics, spatial analysis, and comparative study, I was able to model the settlement structure of both sites within their broader Byzantine context. For the journal *Antiquity*, I finalized a study entitled “Into the Tsar’s Residence: Geophysical Survey of the Early Medieval Bulgarian Capital of Veliki Preslav.” I have also made significant progress toward writing an article about the results of a geophysical survey in Pliska. This would not have been possible without the use of historical and archaeological literature available at the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library. This includes the literary monuments of the Preslav Literary School (e.g., by John the Exarch) and especially the rich scholarship on cities and urban life across Byzantium. A fellowship at Dumbarton Oaks allowed me to share my findings and learn from the world’s leading experts on Byzantium in a supportive research community. Frequent discussions have helped me both to formulate new ideas and to expand my network of contacts for future collaborations.

Andrea Nanetti, Nanyang Technological University, “News about the Byzantines in the Venetian Diaries: Extracts from the *Diarii* by Antonio Morosini, Giorgio and Piero Dolfin, and Domenico Malipiero Dated between 1402 (Battle of Ankara) and 1461 (Fall of Trebizond)”

Thanks to a Byzantine studies fellowship, the Dumbarton Oaks multidisciplinary scholarly community was home for eight months. The people, the immersive natural spaces, and the research library for

Byzantine, Pre-Columbian, and garden and landscape studies, in conjunction with the Artist-in-Residence and Musician-in-Residence programs, have been the unique learning ecosystem informing and inspiring the interdisciplinary outcomes of my research. I planned to chart the historiographical genre known as the Venetian diaries, starting with Morosini's chronicle (1400–1433) and ending with Sanudo's diaries (1496–1533) because, since the nineteenth century, European national historiographies mined this documentation about the world as seen from Venice to create narratives primarily focused on Europe and the Mediterranean but also on Afro-Eurasia and the Atlantic. However, there is not yet a systematic method for exploring this large corpus of manuscript sources quantifiable in more than 31.5 million words, of which only about eighteen million are published and 1.5 million are translated into English. Dumbarton Oaks nurtured my ambition to define a computational method to facilitate knowledge discovery in the Venetian diaries by studying the news about the Byzantines, the closest foreigners, between 1402 and 1461 and the Aztecs, the New World, between 1521 and 1528 as edge showcases.

Daniel Reynolds, Centre for Byzantine, Ottoman, and Modern Greek Studies, University of Birmingham, "Edges of Empire: Byzantine Palaestina and Arabia"

During my fellowship at Dumbarton Oaks, I have focused on two key areas of my research project. First, I have made good use of the resources of the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and the Library of Congress to examine and transcribe a series of letters and documents from the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem and the archive of the former United States Secretary of State John Dulles. This material has formed the basis of a long article (approximately thirty thousand words) that examines the colonial context of Byzantine archaeology in British Mandate Palestine and its relationship to both American and British strategic concerns over the Suez Canal (ca. 1860–ca. 1956).

My time at Dumbarton Oaks has been spent drafting a version of this article, which I will finalize over the summer of 2023 and submit to *Dumbarton Oaks Papers* for peer review.

The second strand of my work has focused on the research for my monograph on Byzantine Palaestina and Arabia. With respect

to this aspect of the project, I have utilized the resources of the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library to begin a database of ceramic finds and distribution from excavations in Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinian territories that will form the basis of a chapter on the economy of Byzantine Palaestina and Arabia ca. 300–ca. 630.

Katherine Taronas, Kenyon College, “The Master of Animals in Late Antiquity: Art and the Exegesis of Nature”

I devoted my research stay at Dumbarton Oaks to preparing my first book project for publication. This investigation tracks how the proliferation of “Master of Animals” images in late antiquity heralded a significant shift in late ancient artmaking and viewing practices that corresponded with shifts in the role of the animal and nature in religion. This reading of the Late Antique approach to the animal and the environment as a multitude of interconnected symbols deepens our understanding of how this period conceived of the created and man-made worlds. I made significant progress in advancing this manuscript toward publication during the fellowship. Additionally, I developed and began research on a second book project and multiple new essays. I completed two peer-reviewed articles, one of which furthers my interest in sensory studies and will appear in the fall 2023 issue of *Gesta*. I also presented new work at the Byzantine Studies Association of North America’s Byzantine Studies Conference and a new project on color perception at the Sebastē Symposium in honor of Ioli Kalavrezou.

Günder Varinlioğlu, Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, “Isaurian Stonecutters at Work: The Late Antique Quarry Industry on Dana Island (Turkey)”

I devoted my fellowship to planning and writing the monograph that brings together the results of the Boğsak Archaeological Survey that I directed from 2010 to 2021. This book discusses the development and resilience of settlements on coastal islands in Rough Cilicia during the Roman and Late Antique periods. Dumbarton Oaks Publications accepted my proposal for the monograph provisionally entitled “Settlements on the Sea: The Boğsak Archaeological Survey Investigation of Islandscapes in Rough Cilicia.” In my research, in addition to the physical and

digital resources at Dumbarton Oaks, I made extensive use of Interlibrary Loan for material on island archaeology, quarry landscapes, and stone-cutting technology across geography and time, which would be difficult to find in Türkiye. I started to discuss possible collaborations with other fellows in the Byzantine and Pre-Columbian Studies programs. Perhaps most importantly, this fellowship allowed me to reconnect with old friends and establish new friendships. I believe that strong and genuine social ties make us better humanists. My archaeological project started in 2010 when I was employed by Dumbarton Oaks; it was subsequently supported by two Dumbarton Oaks project grants; and finally, it is coming full circle with the publication of this monograph.

Lev Weitz, Catholic University of America, “Egyptian Monasticism Under Islam: The Arabic Documents of Dayr al-Naqlun”

My time at Dumbarton Oaks was well spent wading in the minutiae of medieval Arabic documentary handwriting. By the end of the term, I had drafted editions of several dozen fiscal, administrative, legal, and epistolary documents excavated from the site of Dayr al-Naqlun, a monastery—ancient in origin and thriving again today—in Egypt’s Fayyum Oasis. The documents offer new insights into the day-to-day functioning of a Christian institution in the medieval Islamic countryside, which I’m excited to share in future publications. Through them, we see Dayr al-Naqlun as one node in a web of relationships to the Fatimid state, local Christian villagers, and the landscape in which the monastery was situated. Especially interesting are registers of agricultural produce that provide snapshots of the size of the monastery’s landholdings and thus its wealth, the size of the communities it could support, and local tenorial arrangements. Equally notable is a dossier of letters sent by an eleventh-century bishop to officials at the monastery and to notables in other locales in the Fayyum that illustrate the closely linked ecclesiastical, monastic, and lay networks that structured this rural society. In these respects, the Arabic documents of Dayr al-Naqlun shed light not only on the medieval history of this monastic community with Byzantine roots but also on the entire provincial world around it.

Junior Fellows

Peter Michael Boudreau, McGill University, “Keeping Time: Temporal Imagery and Thought in the Calendars of Later Byzantium”

During my time at Dumbarton Oaks, I completed two chapters of my dissertation on strategies for visualizing the liturgical calendar in later Byzantium. One chapter engages with illustrated manuscript traditions, based on the ways two imperial figures personalized the calendar through adding new hagiographic illustrations and reshaping the liturgical experience. Discussions surrounding a facsimile within the special collections proved particularly useful in considering the layers of narrative time and liturgical time within the manuscript. I also wrote a second chapter on the calendar icons from the monastery of Saint Catherine’s on Mount Sinai. This small corpus of icons has traditionally been discussed as a collective group, but the fellowship offered the time to dig into the collections of saints displayed on these icons to argue that not all these figures belonged to the Constantinopolitan calendar and instead reflect a greater synthesis of cultures and sites. Additionally, I was able to advance my second project on perceptions of Byzantine landscapes, of which I presented preliminary findings at the annual Byzantine Studies Conference and the International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo. All this work could not have advanced without the resources of the library, the help of the museum staff, and the rigorous discussions among the other fellows and staff.

Guilhem Dorandeu-Bureau, Panthéon-Sorbonne University, “Enhancing Imperial Authority in a Multicultural Context: The Acta of the Byzantine Catepans of Italy (999-1054)”

My year as a junior fellow was devoted to completing the writing of my dissertation on Norman rule in Southern Italy between the eleventh and twelfth centuries, based on the analysis of sealed charters. At Dumbarton Oaks, I investigated the Norman reappropriation of Byzantine diplomatic practices by the conquerors, with a particular interest in the reinterpretation of legitimation formulas used by the Catepans. This work allowed me to propose a new inventory of the documents sealed by these Byzantine officers and

to correct editions established in the nineteenth century. My dissertation, which was completed in February thanks to the library's resources and the museum's seals collection, was defended in April 2023. I also took advantage of this fellowship to speak at an international colloquium held in Cerisy, France ("Conquérir, soumettre, gouverner," October 5–9, 2022) and to finalize the writing of an article dealing with the use of precious metal seals in the Byzantine world and in the Latin West in the Middle Ages.

Elena Gittleman, Bryn Mawr College, "Legacies of Ancient Theater in Middle Byzantine Visual Culture (ca. 843-1204)"

During my fellowship, I completed drafts of two chapters of my dissertation, which examines the legacies and reverberations of ancient Greco-Roman theater in medieval Byzantine visual culture. Having completed the majority of my field research in the last academic year, I was thrilled to have the time to synthesize my research and take advantage of the incredible library resources here at Dumbarton Oaks. These chapters include sites and objects that span from Kyiv to Sicily and back to Constantinople and improved significantly with access to the library's many hard-to-find books. I also completed the secondary research for and began drafting my final chapter, the field research for which I will complete this summer with a fellowship from the American Research Institute in Türkiye. I also revised and submitted an article for contribution to an edited volume to be published by the University of Edinburgh Press. Finally, I had the pleasure of examining the small fourteenth-century ivory pyxis depicting an imperial procession (BZ.1936.24) that will be included in my dissertation.

Mustafa Yıldız, University of California, Berkeley, "Late Byzantine Medicine in the Face of Black Death: A Study of Intellectual History and Medical Practice"

As a junior fellow at Dumbarton Oaks, I was able to make considerable progress on my dissertation, which examines the medical responses to the Black Death in the late Byzantine period. I wrote two chapters on the place of Byzantium in historiography of the Black Death and the Greek medical terminology employed with reference to the plague in Byzantine sources. In a third chapter, I compiled medical remedies prescribed against the plague in

Byzantium. This was done by sifting through hundreds of Byzantine medical texts and gathering the relevant prescriptions and recommendations. Most of these texts are unedited material from fourteenth-, fifteenth-, and sixteenth-century Greek manuscripts that will be published for the first time. This chapter also aims to analyze and contextualize these remedies within late Byzantine medical practice. The Manuscripts-on-Microfilm Database at Dumbarton Oaks was valuable in allowing me to consult many manuscripts that were otherwise inaccessible. Finally, I found time to work on a subject other than my dissertation, namely the connections between metrical seal inscriptions and occasional poetry in twelfth-century Byzantium. It will be published in a volume of papers dedicated to the completion of the online catalogue of the Byzantine Seals Collection at Dumbarton Oaks.

I Tatti-Dumbarton Oaks Fellow

Ioannis Kyriakantonakis, University of Athens, “A Study on Seventeenth-Century Religious Dynamics: The Traces of Kigalas Family”

As part of a one-year fellowship divided between Villa I Tatti in Florence and Dumbarton Oaks, my research project explored the social, prosopographical, and intellectual material of the religious contacts between the “sibling” cultures of Byzantium and Italy. I worked in particular on the type, periodization, and examples of clerical scholars in order to explore and represent a number of controversial figures who peregrinated in the challenging and dangerous world of early modern religious dynamics. The travels of the members of the Kigalas family are representative of the trajectories and networks of Cypriot and Greek-speaking scholars in the insular societies of the Mediterranean, in the great centers of ecclesiastical power (such as Rome and Constantinople) and European academic life, as well as in the significant “peripheries” of Palestine or Wallachia at the time of European religious disputes and the wars between Venice and the Ottomans for control of Greece. Opportunistic and/or in some cases succumbing to necessity, the social action of these scholars can be understood in light of existing religious policies that aspired to unify

Catholic and Orthodox Christianity even within the framework of a latent tendency toward the “Latinization” of Greek high clergy. My research has been corroborated by the bibliography of the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library, whose importance I wish to praise, not only for researchers of Byzantine studies but also for the vast amount of post-1453/early modern historical insights it can offer on Mediterranean and Balkan societies.

Garden and Landscape Studies

Fellows

Luthfi Adam, Northwestern University, “Cultivating Power: Botanic Gardens and Empire-Building in the Netherlands East Indies, 1744-1942”

My fellowship at Dumbarton Oaks aimed at advancing my PhD dissertation into a book manuscript. Initially, my project focused on how botany became an economic driver of Dutch imperialism in the East Indies. I demonstrated how development in botanical research and theories at Buitenzorg Botanic Garden, successive plant geography, economic botany, laboratory botany, and Darwinian botany served the imperial agenda of crop introduction, plantation capitalism, agricultural improvement, and the colonial conservation movement. Various conversations at Dumbarton Oaks this year helped me discover new dimensions to my study: ecological and urban landscape histories. I advanced my book to also discuss the creation and distribution of gardens and other botanical research facilities in different climatic zones in Buitenzorg. The construction of these sites, in turn, transformed the Buitenzorg landscape from a former capital city of the Hindu kingdom of Sunda to the capital city of Dutch agricultural and economic affairs in the East Indies. Buitenzorg became a contact zone where Western botanists, colonial government officials, and private capitalists built what I call “colonial symbiosis” to expand colonial agricultural enterprise while appropriating and exploiting the native staff’s expertise and labor. An ecological history approach helped to investigate how the growth of science and power in the Buitenzorg gardens and city helped alter

the tropical forest ecology into plantations in large areas in Java, Sumatra, and other islands—which triggered various resistance from the native populations.

Brian Bockelman, Ripon College, “Palm Modernism (and Its Critics) in Urban Landscape Architecture: From Old World to New, 1820s-1920s”

My semester as a Garden and Landscape Studies fellow at Dumbarton Oaks has advanced my research on the use of palms as city trees in Buenos Aires and elsewhere in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. While in residence, I completed a thorough revision of two chapters of my book manuscript, “Down with the Palms of the Plaza! Replanting the Seeds of Discord in Modern Buenos Aires, c. 1883,” and started work on a third. Thanks in part to items donated or recommended by my colleague Sonia Berjman, a former senior fellow, the library at Dumbarton Oaks is strong in Argentine parks and plazas. But I was also fortunate to explore the collections more broadly, where I resolved lingering questions about the ancient uses of palm avenues and deepened my understanding of the long-term architectural uses of palm tree forms, including Byzantine examples I would not otherwise have considered. Finally, I discovered that criticism of palm plantings in urban spaces was far less common before 1930 than I had expected, though it did occur most often in places on the temperate/subtropical border where palms can thrive but do not occur naturally, such as Buenos Aires, Los Angeles, and the Côte d’Azur.

David Karmon, College of the Holy Cross, “Renaissance Architecture and Natural History”

My work began as an exploration of the intersection of natural history with architectural theory and practice during the early modern period. One of my key goals was to consult the botanical treatises and agriculture manuals in the Rare Book Collection to learn more about early modern approaches to plant cultivation and land use. Over the course of the year, I developed a new argument that draws upon the notion of the Anthropocene to decenter the role of humans in the creation of early modern buildings and urban environments and thereby rethinks the

conventional narrative of early modern architectural history. Not only did early modern builders develop an extensive knowledge of nature in all of its manifestations, but the very process by which this new architectural environment came into being also critically relied upon nonhuman or “more-than-human” entities, ranging from wind and rain to plants and animals. My book thus considers early modern buildings as more than just a humanist project, but an expression of the ongoing metamorphosis of nature. I conducted primary research for five new chapters and benefited from the feedback of my colleagues on a draft chapter on the architecture of soil.

Manuel “Saga” Sánchez García, Politecnico di Torino and Universidad de Granada, “Uncovering Colonial Lawscape: A Comparative Study of Legal Documents and Landscape Depictions in the Spanish Empire from the Sixteenth to the Eighteenth Centuries”

My fellowship at Dumbarton Oaks focused on the project “Uncovering Colonial Lawscape,” which continues the main argument on Spanish colonial law and landscape of my PhD dissertation “Siblings Overseas,” defended in July 2022, right after the fellowship started. At Dumbarton Oaks, I have been able to develop my work further, building a more cohesive and mature narrative. The Rare Book Collection at Dumbarton Oaks offered the opportunity to study new sources in a way that was impossible during the pandemic, fostering productive in-person discussions with librarians and fellows. Having unrestricted access to unpublished manuscripts and new acquisitions is a rare privilege I greatly appreciate. The conversation with other fellows and program directors has been productive as well. In them, I have found peers and mentors who helped me extend my research, advance in my writing, develop a book proposal, devise a strategy to navigate the scholarly world, and grow my future career. My early findings were tested during a research report and a writing workshop, both incredibly constructive activities where critical discussion happened in a context of faithful care, empathy, and inclusiveness. The quality of this mentorship, particularly crucial for first-generation PhD academics such as myself, is one of the many fronts where Dumbarton Oaks excels.

**Anna Lise Seastrand, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities,
“Trees and the Ecologies of Sacred Art in Southern India”**

My project on temple trees in southeastern India flourished during my year at Dumbarton Oaks, growing in unexpected directions that have already borne fruit. The fellowship, a gift of time and space to write, as well as a community of scholars to work alongside, gave me the freedom and inspiration to think broadly, read widely, and pursue interests that might have seemed tangential in the busyness and solitude of regular academic work. The project began as an exploration of the centrality of temple trees to the mythology and iconography of major temples from the early modern period to the present, with a particular interest in the ways in which communities respond to tree deaths and failures to thrive in the context of anthropogenic climate change. The project has broadened to include consideration of temple gardens, through which I also hope to pursue questions of labor and the identities of laborers more directly, as well as the relationship between medicine and mythology for temple plants. These new directions are reflected in papers I gave at the College Art Association conference and at the conference “Asia and the Anthropocene” at Rutgers University on the life of one particular variety of tree, *tillai*, and its symbolic resonances and ethnomedicinal uses.

Junior Fellow

**Gwendolyn Lockman, University of Texas at Austin,
“Greening a Copper City: Parks, Mining, and Community
in Butte, Montana, 1876-2022”**

The junior fellowship allowed me time to make significant progress on my dissertation. I worked on four chapters of my dissertation during my time at Dumbarton Oaks, with a great deal of help from the community of scholars here and the wide array of library resources in garden and landscape studies. The first chapter of my dissertation traces the early entrepreneurial nature of garden and outdoor entertainment spaces in Butte, Montana. The second chapter details concerns for health, environment,

and beauty as conceptualized and acted upon by men in territorial Montana and women in turn-of-the-century ladies' clubs. The third chapter takes into consideration the incursion of federal influence on park space through, first, the Works Progress Administration and the New Deal and, second, the Model Cities Program and the Great Society. Finally, chapter four examines the changes brought forth by environmental policy and the continuities of parks as a fix all for urban-planning issues. Dumbarton Oaks offered invaluable time, fellowship, and resources for completing a dissertation, including the remarkable contemplative space of the gardens.

Mellon Democracy and Landscape Initiative Fellows

Ashon T. Crawley, University of Virginia, "in search of our mothers' gardens"

Discovery through self-guidance. This is the phrase that I believe most precisely defines my time at Dumbarton Oaks as a Mellon fellow. What I most appreciated about my time at Dumbarton Oaks was the space and resources to commit to studying. I was able to read across a wide array of texts in various disciplines to assist my thinking regarding garden design, histories of race-based violations and exclusions regarding the built environment, and how Black people, particularly Black women and queer people, have responded to such violation and exclusion. I was able to engage everything from landscape architectural design—giving me a vocabulary with which to discuss land use and exploitation—to histories of Indigenous, Black, and queer practices of tending to the earth. And it was encouraging being able to discuss the drivers of my work, that which give my research meaning, with others who are equally committed, passionate, and driven but in disciplines far afield from my own. Their curiosities opened up ways for me to recognize where I needed to more fully flesh out and develop my thinking and also gave me a chance to express my concerns with a new audience. I am forever grateful to Dumbarton Oaks for the opportunity!

**Claire Dunning, University of Maryland, College Park,
“Funding the Urban North: Policy, Philanthropy, and Racial
Equity ‘After’ Civil Rights”**

As a spring 2023 Mellon fellow at Dumbarton Oaks, I was able to make significant early progress on a new book manuscript, “Funding the Urban North: Policy, Philanthropy, and Racial Equity ‘After’ Civil Rights.” This project explores how philanthropy shaped US cities in the decades after the civil rights movement. Specifically, it follows the efforts of the relatively small Taconic Foundation and its decades-long quest to desegregate housing and promote racial equality. With support from Dumbarton Oaks, I conducted research on the Taconic Foundation records at the Rockefeller Archive Center during January and then spent time this spring analyzing those materials and beginning to write a first chapter on the founding donors’ interest in cities and their relationships to place, landscape, and race. Conversations with other fellows helped me in particular to interpret the architecture and gardens of the country estates of the Taconic Foundation’s founders and connect those places spatially distant from cities to the philanthropic efforts to make urban areas more beautiful, equal, and democratic. This semester provided valuable time to focus on a new project and introduced me to new literatures and analytical lenses with which to frame it.

**Rabia Harmanşah, University of Cologne, “Mapping the
Forgotten Landscape: People, Power and Belonging;
The Case of the Island of Imbros”**

My project studies urban landscape and memory by reading the past holistically through multiple voices and subjective positions and by thinking about how the complexity and diversity of interactions between people, place, and environment are reflected in cartography. At Dumbarton Oaks, I initially processed the primary data I collected in 2022 (ethnographic data from Imbros and Athens, and archival data from Istanbul and Ankara) and made significant progress on refining the theoretical framework and methodological tools of the project. The Garden and Landscape Studies program enriched my perspective and analysis through stimulating communication and dialogue with fellow scholars.

This enabled me to conceptualize “landscape” in different ways than how cultural anthropologists study landscapes and pointed to new directions for my research. Furthermore, I continued developing my cartographic skills, attended a one-day workshop at Harvard University, and had the invaluable chance to benefit from the experiences of senior scholars who work on digital humanities and community-engaged projects. Dumbarton Oaks Research Library’s rich resources on landscape theory and history have substantially boosted my ability to ground my research. This research will be published as a monograph and an interactive digital-mapping project in 2024.

**Kathryn E. Holliday, University of Texas at Arlington,
“Telephone City: Architecture, Urbanism, and the Rise
and Fall of the Bell Monopoly”**

During my time at Dumbarton Oaks in 2022–2023 working on “Telephone City: Architecture, Urbanism, and the Rise and Fall of the Bell Monopoly,” I made significant progress on the book manuscript both conceptually and in very concrete ways. I used the Ayer Collection of the Archives Center at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, the telephone directories collection at the Library of Congress, and the Communication Workers of America archives at New York University to complete my final phase of archival research. Through the Dumbarton Oaks Research Library, I accessed numerous difficult-to-find AT&T-related publications and, through Harvard Library’s extensive database subscriptions, accessed newspapers and annual reports unavailable to me through my home institution. More conceptually, the scholars at Dumbarton Oaks—art historians, urban historians, landscape historians, archaeologists, and anthropologists—provided an incredible intellectual community that allowed this project to flourish. Through conversation and our writing group, this project became better, sharper, and more methodologically sophisticated. I reworked the book’s central argument, rewrote the introduction, and wove new arguments through the book’s seven chapters. It is a far better project now than when I arrived, and I thank my fellow fellows for their friendship and generosity as we shared this time and space together.

Mellon Summer Fellows in Urban Humanities Landscapes of Civil and Human Rights

Alissa Ujie Diamond, University of Virginia, “Entangled Histories for Indeterminate Futures: Racial Capitalisms, Resistances, and Space in Central Virginia”

This dissertation project aims to illuminate present conditions in Charlottesville through the lens of sedimented and spatialized racial histories. Foundational stories are central to society’s framing of the ongoing and everyday actions that pertain to our collective futures. This work seeks to destabilize and reorganize historical narratives through a *relational* approach to history: probing the gaps, unraveling constructed certainties, connecting across various historical, spatial, and social scales, and recovering purposely disconnected stories across time and space. During my fellowship term, I developed a chapter on the continuities of antebellum plantationary spatial logics in postbellum development in Charlottesville.

Jennifer Hock, Maryland Institute College of Art, “Breaking Ground: Activists and Experts Build the New Boston, 1960-1975”

At Dumbarton Oaks this summer, I made significant progress on my book project on the physical transformation of Boston’s Black neighborhoods in the 1960s under the dual forces of a modernizing urban renewal program and the burgeoning civil rights movement. Focusing on the largely unstudied buildings and spaces that were constructed under the renewal program, this project expands our understanding of these years, revealing the ways in which the expanded federal presence at the neighborhood level generated opportunities for civil rights activists even as unacknowledged white spatial norms and practices frustrated their efforts to transform a segregated and profoundly unequal city. Looking carefully at the spatial strategies of both the planning experts and the civil rights activists, I chart the contentious development of individual buildings and spaces that collectively index the period’s struggles over integration, community control, equity, and justice. Formal

and informal conversations with my interdisciplinary cohort and director this summer were transformative, directing my attention to authors and bodies of research I hadn't encountered, prompting me to reframe several chapters in ways that I hope will make them more accessible to scholars from other disciplines, and helping me strengthen and reformulate some of the claims of the book's introduction. Building on archival research conducted before the summer term and using historical newspaper databases here, I drafted one chapter and completed another.

Delande Justinvil, American University, "Exhuming the Ex-Human: A Bioarchaeological Investigation of the Q Street Burial Project"

At the time of application to Dumbarton Oaks' Mellon Summer Fellowship in Urban Humanities, my intention was to focus on building the historical-spatial analysis of "Exhuming the Ex-Human" around the concept of "necrogeographies," broadly understood as the study of the relationship between death and landscapes. Beginning with historical maps at the Library of Congress, I was able to track Georgetown's spatial development through "cadastral" maps that reflected property relations. Dumbarton Oaks' Georgetown location became especially fortuitous in its proximity to the Georgetown Neighborhood Library, whose Peabody Room houses archival materials on the neighborhood's history. Conversations with Jerry, the Peabody Room's archivist, helped to reveal crucial gaps between the written and cartographic record as it relates to the history of the 3300 block of Q Street. Research conversations held a particular significance in how fulfilling my time at Dumbarton Oaks felt. Beyond the archives, cohort conversations with Dr. Way about research progress often transformed into rich, generative discussions on critical intersections across our projects and how we might think differently about what landscape means and can do. By the conclusion of the fellowship, I amassed over fifty historical files, reformed my "necrogeographies" approach to include the immaterial landscape, and began training in necessary research software such as GIS and Tropy while scaffolding my historical analysis.

Amanda Martin-Hardin, Columbia University, “Greenlining: Segregation in the American Outdoors”

The Dumbarton Oaks Mellon Summer Fellowship in Urban Humanities gave me the unique opportunity to work alongside scholars also engaging with the histories of landscapes and civil rights. The Garden and Landscape fellows became an invaluable intellectual community for me this summer. Between weekly meetings where we shared and discussed one another’s work, to organic conversations about research we had at lunch or in the library, Dumbarton Oaks fostered new insights about my dissertation that would not be possible elsewhere. The facilities fellows have access to—including the library, personal offices, and housing within walking distance—allowed me to fully immerse myself in my scholarship for an extended period of time. Dumbarton Oaks also offers fellows crucial access to many of the cultural resources in Washington, DC. For example, I had the opportunity to conduct archival research at the Library of Congress in the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund collection. My fellowship at Dumbarton Oaks gave me the time and resources to make significant progress toward the completion of my dissertation.

Pre-Columbian Studies

Fellows

Barbara Arroyo, Museo Popol Vuh, Universidad Francisco Marroquín, “Beyond Clay, Stone, and Sand: Kaminaljuyu and Its Role in the Ancient History of Southeastern Mesoamerica”

My fellowship year at Dumbarton Oaks has been a productive one. The project I proposed—a book manuscript on the site of Kaminaljuyu, Guatemala, in the Maya highlands—is at an advanced stage. I expect to have a completed draft by the end of summer 2023. While at Dumbarton Oaks, I had access to primary sources that I had never read before. Archival consultation at the Library of Congress, the Peabody Museum at Harvard University, and the Pennsylvania State University Kaminaljuyu Project enlarged the information needed for the manuscript. These

consultations led to new findings and potential future projects. The exchange that occurred between the various fellows of our Pre-Columbian Studies department and the Byzantine and Garden and Landscape departments was useful and an integral part to producing my manuscript. The various academic events that occurred throughout the year at Dumbarton Oaks were a learning opportunity.

Timothy Beach, University of Texas at Austin, "The Maya Wetlands Renaissance: Human-Wetland Interactions from Antiquity to the Anthropocene"

This work seeks the consilience of archaeological and biophysical research on Maya wetland agroecosystems. The fellowship allowed me to dig deeply into multiple literatures, such as the earliest studies that arose from historical and contemporary wetland fields in the highlands of Mexico and the Andes. The first rediscoveries of ancient Maya fields in the 1960s ignited a surge of research on the role of wetlands fields in Maya subsistence and potential for development. Controversies caused this research to decline to a trickle through the 2000s, but LiDAR imagery with ground verification led to a renaissance over recent years. What is emerging is a synthesis through several conceptual models of processes and evidence for uses from the Archaic to Postclassic. So far, well-dated field studies constrain us to the lowland wetlands in Belize and the Gulf of Mexico, but evidence is reopening the idea of upland *bajo* drained field systems. The main goal is to consider all the biophysical aspects that influence the wetland fields—sea level, climate change, geology, geochemistry, and ecology—in their cultural contexts. This project also connects to other ancient wetland systems in the Americas and around the world to consider the universals of human-wetland interactions.

Nicholas E. Brown, Yale University, "Interactions, Innovations, and Influences of Chavin Arts through the Central Andes of Peru"

My archaeological research at Dumbarton Oaks focused on understanding ancient Chavin in terms of the material traces of interregional interactions among artists, pilgrims, and caravaners who journeyed around the Central Andes during the first

millennium BCE. As a junior fellow during the fall term, I completed my doctorate in anthropology at Yale University with a dissertation entitled “Ancient Andean Archipelagos: Human Interaction and Social Innovation at Chawin Punta and Kunturay in the East-Central Highlands of Pasco, Peru” (December 2022). I also presented at the IX International Pre-Columbian and Amerindian Textile Conference in Milan with a paper entitled “Towards a Holistic Approach to the Painted Textiles of Karwa, Peru” (October 2022). For the spring term, I was promoted to fellow and spent my time developing new research, including the Chavín Arts Initiative and the Central Andean-Amazonian Headwaters Project. I made extensive use of Dumbarton Oaks’ Image Collections and Fieldwork Archives, particularly the William and Barbara Conklin Papers on Precolumbian Textiles and the Anne Paul Paracas Textile Archive. My work as a fellow culminated with the invited lecture “The Expansive Lives of Chavín Artists and Their Creations across the Ancient Andes” given to the Pre-Columbian Society of Washington, DC (May 2023).

**Allison Caplan, University of California, Santa Barbara,
“Our Flickering Creations: Precious Art Theory under the
Aztec Empire”**

“Our Flickering Creations” uses Nahuatl-language sources to reconstruct the principles that structured Nahua artists’ work with precious stones, feathers, and gold, a genre that Nahuas referred to as *tlazohtli*, or “precious things.” Examining in turn turquoise mosaics, feather works, gold castings, and precious multimedia insignia, the project brings together language-based analysis and the material study of major artworks to understand how Nahua principles guided the creation and interpretation of works of precious art. During the fellowship year, I conducted research with colonial and modern Nahuatl linguistic sources in Dumbarton Oaks’ Rare Book Collection and library collections and with the exceptional holdings of gold jewelry at the Dumbarton Oaks Museum and nearby Cultural Resources Center, National Museum of the American Indian. Using these resources, I completed my research on regional Nahuatl color terms and on the use of cores in gold casting for my chapters on turquoise mosaics and gold. I also finished writing three of the book’s remaining chapters on

tlazohtli as a category, relational color in turquoise mosaics, and the concept of skin in lost wax gold casting. Additionally, I completed essays for two edited volumes and presented my research at the Museo del Templo Mayor, Columbia University, American Society for Ethnohistory, and Renaissance Society of America.

Mallory A. Melton, independent scholar, "Feeding the Urban Experiment: Preclassic Agroforestry Systems of Pacific Guatemala (900 BCE-100 CE)"

During my time at Dumbarton Oaks, I primarily focused on adapting my dissertation on the analysis of archaeobotanical remains from the Middle Preclassic site of La Blanca (located on the Pacific coast of Guatemala) into an academic book manuscript. This research examines the implications of plant foodways for understanding inter-household social relations at one of the earliest urban centers in Mesoamerica. The incomparable library holdings at Dumbarton Oaks opened my eyes to ethnographic accounts of pre-Civil War markets that enriched my understanding of how various plant resources have been grown and used historically. I also forged new connections with the Harvard University Herbaria, who provided me with a sample of plant tissue from one of their accessions. I made substantial progress on several chapters of the book manuscript, but most notably I completed full drafts of two chapters along with a prospectus submitted to an academic press. Further activities included seeing an article and a book chapter through to publication, writing a technical report, reviewing an article for an academic journal, presenting an invited lecture at Dickinson College, and organizing a symposium for an upcoming conference.

Junior Fellow

Hayley B. Woodward, Tulane University, "The Codex Xolotl: The Visual Discourse of Place and History in Early Colonial Mexico"

At Dumbarton Oaks, I completed the final stages of writing and editing my dissertation on a sixteenth-century Indigenous pictorial manuscript: the Codex Xolotl. In it, I shed light on Nahua practices of making and remaking Pre-Columbian history in the

colonial era. I wrote three chapters, edited the manuscript, and successfully defended the project. Even while finishing this project, my engagement with the collections' resources and the feedback from the scholarly community at Dumbarton Oaks have laid the groundwork for developing my dissertation into my first book project. Consultation of area collections (including those from the National Museum of the American Indian and the Library of Congress) has also inspired future threads of scholarship, including a second book project on Aztec art in the peripheries of empire and further investigations into the practices of creating Indigenous historical manuscripts. During my fellowship year, I also worked on a coauthored article and cochaired two panels at the annual conferences for the College Art Association and the Renaissance Society of America.

Summer Fellows

Rebecca Mendoza Nunziato, Harvard Divinity School, "Consuming Copal: Tree Resin, Teotl, and Ancient Mesoamerican Relationality"

During my summer fellowship at Dumbarton Oaks, I began my Harvard Divinity School thesis (spring 2023). "Consuming Copal: Tree Resin, Teotl, and Ancient Mesoamerican Relationality" is an interdisciplinary exploration of copal incense that seeks to interpret Postclassic archaeological materials from Chichén Itzá and the Templo Mayor alongside sixteenth-century codices. My project draws on hemispheric Indigenous philosophies and practices that engage the more-than-human world—including plants, animals, ancestors, rain, rocks, earth, and sky. Copal is one such "animate" entity, generally understood as the blood of trees and a powerful presence prominent in ceremonies across Mesoamerica. My focus at Dumbarton Oaks was to collect and analyze the necessary bibliographic material on the topics of animism, materiality, and religious rituals of Mesoamerica. Specifically, I spent time with the Codex Borbonicus facsimile, which depicts a wide variety of copal offerings, as well as sections of the Florentine Codex and Primeros Memoriales from Spanish friar Bernardino de Sahagún and Nahua *tlamatinimeh* and *tlacuiloqueh* (intellectuals and scribes). Likewise, the Popol Vuh and Diego de Landa's writings

offered key insights. Finally, I was able to visit incense-burner fragments at the museum and the Thelma Sullivan Nahua Research Papers in special collections. I am deeply grateful for the scholarly community and support I received during this fellowship.

Victor Emmanuel Salazar Chávez, George Washington University, “Foodways and Ballcourts: Studies at Early Formative Etlatongo, Oaxaca”

My research at large focuses on the study of food and culture during the Early Formative period of Mesoamerica, the epoch when increasing social complex organization in village life coincided with changes in the diet and subsistence of diverse societies, suggesting novel forms of interactions mediated through foods. Centered on the study of the earliest examples of highland ballcourts found in Etlatongo, Oaxaca, and the largest faunal and macro-botanical assemblages analyzed for this period, I investigate how cuisines were articulated in the formation of social identities and structures of political practice. Considering the strong emphasis observed at the site on the consumption of different maize varieties, along other important cultigens such as amaranth, as part of public meals served at the town’s ballcourt, my work at Dumbarton Oaks had the objective of reviewing Pre-Columbian and colonial sources that offered information on how these foods of major cultural significance for later Mesoamericans performed in social, political, and ritual life. The Dumbarton Oaks Research Library provided me with a rich literature from which I was able to mine descriptions and language terminologies concerned with foods, illuminating the fundamental roles of these domesticates in the historical and cultural development of nascent Mesoamerican societies.

Matthias Urban, University of Tübingen, “Tracing Linguistic and Material Indexes of Social Identity in the Ancient Central Andes”

My research seeks to develop holistic perspectives on the language history of the ancient Central Andes that take into account the entire linguistic diversity that once existed in this culturally precocious region and that is informed by what is known of the unique socioeconomic and cultural adaptations that people of

the ancient Central Andes developed. One recent focus of this work is to develop a model for a key aspect of the region's language dynamics: the relationship between its major linguistic lineages, Quechuan and Aymaran. In this context, I investigate correlations that may exist between the distribution of the families, body-modification practices, and economic specialization as they relate to distinct identities within traditionally organized societies. Since body modification, prominently cranial modification, is archaeologically visible, there is a material correlate that can be traced in space and time to inform the model and delimit its scope.



Byzantine Studies

The 2022–2023 academic year saw a full resumption of pre-COVID activities within the department of Byzantine Studies. Summer and academic year fellows were able to take advantage of Dumbarton Oaks' unique resources, to share their work with colleagues in Pre-Columbian and Garden and Landscape Studies, and to meet and learn with Byzantinists from across the DC area. Summer 2022 saw the successful completion of summer schools at both Dumbarton Oaks and the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library (HMML) (see pp. 19–20 for lists of participants). In addition to the regular scientific activities of the annual colloquium and symposium, a full slate of other activities—formal and informal lectures, an undergraduate teaching day, a museum graduate study day, and several threads of professional-development programming—enriched the community across boundaries of discipline, subfield, and specific research interest. Dumbarton Oaks promoted new research topics, supported new and established scholars, and reaffirmed the Byzantine presence in the wider academic community at a number of conferences: the 24th International Congress of Byzantine Studies (Venice), the 48th Annual Byzantine Studies Conference (Los Angeles), the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America (New Orleans), and the 98th Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America (Washington, DC). Finally, Dumbarton Oaks continued to take a clear stand in the face of distorting propaganda and the violent destruction of cultural heritage with a series of initiatives designed to support scholars at risk due to the conflict in Ukraine. The year in total saw a dynamic rebound in the energy and enthusiasm

For the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Byzantine Studies spring symposium returns to the Music Room.

of Dumbarton Oaks' Byzantine community and hints at an ever-richer experience for the coming year.

Summer Activities

Summer activities began with the Byzantine Greek Summer School, held from July 5 to July 29. Professors Alexandros Alexakis (University of Ioannina) and Stratis Papaioannou (University of Crete) instructed a cosmopolitan cohort of students, who gathered in person and fully explored Dumbarton Oaks' resources. Participants came from various universities both in Europe and the United States.

Additionally, Dumbarton Oaks continued building on last year's Dumbarton Oaks/HMML program. This year the program oversaw two in-person language schools, one in Introductory Syriac and one in Intermediate Armenian, held from July 11 to August 5. With exceptional scholars leading the readings, Jesse Siragan Arlen (University of California, Los Angeles), Abraham Terian (St. Nerses Armenian Seminary, Armonk, New York), Robert Kitchen (Regina, Saskatchewan) and Fr. Armando Elkhoury (Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Seminary, Washington, DC), the international cohort of students was able to immerse themselves in the rich cultural heritage of the Eastern Mediterranean.

Eight summer fellows joined us in person. This year's cohort included scholars at all stages of their careers and from a variety of countries and institutions. Ralf Bockmann and Mariusz Gwiazda worked on the results of archaeological projects conducted in North Africa and Egypt, respectively. Renate Burri and Markéta Kulhánková dove into the complexities of textual sources on scientific instruments and the most famous of Byzantium's epic heroes, Digenis Akritas, respectively. Rene de Nicolay and Louis-Patrick St-Pierre both examined sociopolitical issues, such as the discourse on political thought (Rene) and the perception of Roman identity (Louis-Patrick). Finally, Prolet Decheva studied the role of personifications in early Byzantine mosaics.

Additionally, we hosted an intern, Grace Coolidge, who worked on the Image Collections and Fieldwork Archives of the Byzantine Institute. In addition to her work on the archives, Grace also produced a short documentary on the Hagia Sophia, which

was later shown at the 2023 annual meeting of the American Institute of Architects.

The Academic Year

The Byzantine cohort was particularly active and diverse this academic year. In the fall term, we all profited immensely from the presence of Paroma Chatterjee as a visiting scholar. Paroma worked on her project on pastoralism as a thread of Byzantine sovereignty and also developed ideas for future collaborative projects. Among the regular fellows, two of them were particularly active in literature and editorial efforts. William Adler continued his Herculean work on the critical edition of the *Palaea Historica*, and he has kindly shared his experience and deep knowledge of the sources not only with the Dumbarton Oaks community but also with the DC scholarly community. Lev Weitz studied a highly



The 2022-2023 academic year Byzantine cohort, including visiting scholars, fellows, junior fellows, post-docs, and staff.

interesting set of papyri with Christian-Arabic text coming from the monastery of Dayr al-Naqlun in the Fayyum Oasis. Questions of sacred/monastic landscape were also of interest to Justin Mann, who presented his research on the monastic communities of Central Greece.

On the urban and archaeological side, we all profited immensely from discussions with Peter Milo, who is gradually working through an astonishing volume of data from the geophysical prospections in the cities of Pliska and Preslav. This publication will ultimately change our concept of these sites. Günder Varinlioğlu, on the other hand, presented her research on the Late Antique islandic settlements on the south shores of Asia Minor. Katherine Taronas, working on the same period, drew our attention to the development of the important motif of the “Master of Animals” that acquired particular significance all around the Mediterranean. Ivan Marić pointed out the significance of symbolic iconography, especially of the Cross, in shaping memory, politics, and imperial authority, and Daniel Reynolds questioned our perception of the Late Antique world through the lens of modern Western excavations in the area of Byzantine Palaestina and Arabia. Andrea Nanetti raised another timely and important topic: that of digital technology and its ability to help decipher massive amounts of data, such as the Venetian Diaries. Finally, through the fascinating tale of the Kigalas family, Ioannis Kyriakantonakis traced the intellectual history of East Christian communities in the centuries after the fall of the Roman Empire.

Our four junior fellows worked diligently toward the completion of their doctoral dissertations. After successful analysis of the diplomatic and sigillographic evidence of Middle Byzantine Italy, Guilhem Dorandeu-Bureau successfully defended his dissertation at the very end of his Dumbarton Oaks tenure. Mustafa Yıldız investigated a large corpus of late Byzantine medical manuscripts, digging up and reconstructing recipes against the Black Death. Peter Michael Boudreau and Elena Gittleman conducted their own research (on images of time and on legacies of ancient theater, respectively), demonstrating how even familiar sources (such as the Menologion of Basil II) can yield fresh, diverse insights under new eyes.

Lectures and Discussions

The Byzantine community was also pleased to host a number of scholars who kindly shared their research over the course of the year. Some of these lectures were broadcast online, expanding their reach and accessibility to a wider audience, while others were more informal; they all led to fruitful discussions. John Cotsonis (Hellenic College Holy Cross) discussed the image of the Virgin Mary on Byzantine lead seals, a lecture that coincided with the special museum exhibition *Lasting Impressions: People, Power, Piety*. Cecily Hilsdale (McGill University) presented a number of fascinating Late Antique precious jewels and explored issues of aesthetics, gender, authority, and dynastic continuity. Roland Betancourt (University of California, Irvine) explored the process of writing *Byzantine Intersectionality*, one of the most influential books the field has seen in recent years. Michael Jones (Koç University) dove into the fascinating story of Byzantine-period shipwrecks in the Eastern Mediterranean. Paroma Chatterjee (University of Michigan) discussed her research connecting bucolic iconography with imperial sovereignty during the Macedonian dynasty. Joel Kalvesmaki (Catholic University of America), former Byzantine editor for Dumbarton Oaks, returned and gave a fascinating account of his work with and development of the Text Alignment Network, a protocol for managing and editing large, complex corpora, even those spanning multiple languages, collaborators, and cross-references. Continuing the important theme of the digital humanities, Victoria Valdes (University of Virginia) organized a mini workshop on the potential of 3D scanning and printing, which she demonstrated on some new acquisitions from the Dumbarton Oaks Coins and Seals Collection.

At the same time, Byzantine Studies continued its collaboration with the North of Byzantium and Connected Central European Worlds, 1500–1700 initiative, concluding the series of online lectures entitled “From Kyivan Rus’ to Modern Ukraine: Virtual Conversations on History, Art, and Cultural Heritage.” The series consisted of twelve lectures and workshops held from April to December 2022 with the aim of offering experts in the fields of history, art history, religion, archaeology, cultural heritage, and

sociology, as well as museum and conservation studies, the opportunity to elaborate on this region's rich history and culture. Spanning Byzantine, medieval, and early modern periods, Greek, Latin, and Slavic languages, this series offered critical context and corrections against modern misrepresentations of Ukraine's historical and cultural heritage.

Special Activities

For the first time since COVID-19, Byzantine Studies organized a highly successful series of in-person events for graduate and undergraduate students interested in the field. In September, we supported a museum graduate study day, led by Jonathan Shea, Elizabeth Dospěl Williams and John Cotsonis. Graduate students from various universities spent the day exploring Byzantine seals in conversation with other forms of religious and secular art, taking advantage of the special exhibition *Lasting Impressions: People, Power, Piety*. In March, we organized a teaching day entitled "Friend, Foe, or Something in Between: Byzantium and Egypt." Undergraduate and graduate students from universities in the DC area spent the morning exploring the museum collections, both those objects on public display and those in storage, while the afternoon was dedicated to papers delivered by experts on Egypt and its shifting, multifaceted role in the Byzantine world—from integral component to antagonistic power.

For the second year, Joshua Robinson led weekly meetings of the Byzantine Greek reading group. This year's dedicated group of scholars (both fellows and members of local institutions) fearlessly engaged with and interpreted difficult texts, including works by Michael Psellos and Michael Glykas.

Finally, in response to the continuing war in Ukraine, Dumbarton Oaks launched a series of initiatives to spread awareness among the American academic community and to support Ukrainian scholars at risk, especially in the promotion of scholarly excellence, intellectual tenacity, and democratic thinking. After considerable interest from a large number of online viewers, recordings of the 2022 special lecture series have been made available on our website. At the same time, Dumbarton Oaks offered a second round of research grants to scholars directly

affected by the war. Finally, we continued our development of online resources on Ukraine (and related topics) for use by multiple audiences, scholarly and otherwise, around the world.

Scholarly Activities

Annual Colloquium

Hypapante or the Presentation of Christ in the Temple:
Liturgical Celebration and Iconography in East and West
October 28, 2022

Organized by **Mary B. Cunningham**, University of Nottingham, **Francesca Dell'Acqua**, Università di Salerno, and **Fr. Damaskinos Olkinuora**, University of Eastern Finland

Fr. Stefanos Alexopoulos, Catholic University of America, "The Feast of the *Hypapante* in the Byzantine Tradition: History and Evolution of Liturgical Celebration"

Roland Betancourt, University of California, Irvine, "The *Hypapante* in the Gospel Lectionary: Text, Image, and Recitation"

Mary B. Cunningham, University of Nottingham, "A Place of Encounter: Homiletic Treatment of the *Hypapante* in East and West"

Francesca Dell'Acqua, Università di Salerno, "Christ-Lamb on the Altar: Imagining the *Hypapante* in the Early Medieval West"

Erik Z. D. Ellis, Hillsdale College, "The Celebration of *Hypapante* at the Palace of Blachernae"

Fr. Damaskinos Olkinuora, University of Eastern Finland, "Published and Unpublished Byzantine Hymnography for the *Hypapante*: Theology in Its Popular Form"

Natalia Teteriatnikov, independent scholar, "Constructing the Presentation of Christ in the Temple in Byzantine Art (From Late Antiquity through the Ninth Century)"

Warren T. Woodfin, Queens College, CUNY, "The *Hypapante* in Cross-Cultural Encounter: Byzantium and the Crusader Kingdom of Jerusalem"

Museum Graduate Study Day

In conjunction with the special exhibition *Lasting Impressions: People, Power, Piety*

September 23, 2022

Participants

Nikolaos Churik, Angela Costello, Madison Gilmore-Duffey, Allison Grenda, Isabella Grunberger-Kirsh, Sarah Mathiesen, Madeline Newquist, Laura Wilson

Teaching Day

Friend, Foe, or Something in Between: Byzantium and Egypt

March 4, 2023

Antonietta Catanzariti, National Museum of Asian Art,
“Collecting Ancient Egyptian and Late Antique Art:
Antiquities Dealers in Egypt as Documented by Charles
Lang Freer’s Papers (1906–1909)”



Participants in the 2023 teaching day, “Friend, Foe, or Something in Between: Byzantium and Egypt,” March 4, 2023.



Eric McGeer and Byzantine Studies senior fellow John Duffy speaking at the spring symposium's memorial for John Nesbitt.

Marek Dospěl, Catholic University of America, “The Language Landscapes of Post-Pharaonic Egypt”

Eric McGeer, University of Toronto, “The Ruler of the East’: Basil II and the Fatimids of Cairo”

Agnieszka E. Szymańska, University of Richmond, “A Tale of Two Churches: Monastic Painting in Late Antique and Medieval Egypt”

Annual Symposium

Ancient Histories and History Writing in New Rome: Traditions, Innovations, and Uses

May 5–6, 2023

Organized by **Jeffrey Beneker** and **Leonora Neville**,
University of Wisconsin–Madison

Emily Baragwanath, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, “Mirroring Herodotus: Sources, Truth, and Truth Effects in Laonikos Chalkokondyles”

Sarah Bassett, Indiana University, “The Romanitas of ‘Hellenism’ in Byzantine Art”

Jeffrey Beneker, University of Wisconsin–Madison, “John Zonaras and the Fall of the Roman Republic”

Noreen Humble, University of Calgary, “Symeon Metaphrastes and Plutarch’s *Lives*”

Anthony Kaldellis, University of Chicago, “A Preoccupation with Decline and Other Roman Aspects of Byzantine Historiography”

Scott Kennedy, Bilkent University, “The Clash of East and West: The Subversive Classicism of Kritoboulos, the Biographer of the Turkish Sultan Mehmet II (1451–1481)”

Christopher Mallan, University of Western Australia, “Rewriting the Republic in Byzantium: Republican History and Political Memory in 10th Century Byzantium”

Leonora Neville, University of Wisconsin–Madison, “Getting from Adam to Alexios: Roman History Looks Back”

Stratis Papaioannou, University of Crete, “The Synaxarion of Constantinople as Historiography”

Aglæ Pizzone, University of Southern Denmark, “Historiography, Novel, Schedography: The Many Lives of Xenophon’s *Cyropaedia* in the 12th Century”

Jesse Torgerson, Wesleyan University, “Changing Continuities: Eighth and Ninth Century Reckonings with the Eusebian Revolution”

Special Lecture Series: From Kyivan Rus’ to Modern Ukraine

April 22, 2022

Olenka Z. Pevny, University of Cambridge, “Lacunae of Art History and Kyiv’s Visual Culture” (inaugural lecture)

May 19, 2022

Mariana Levytska, University of Kent, “The Holy Rus’: Concept and Religious Art with Political Connotations”

June 8, 2022

Thomas Dale, University of Wisconsin–Madison, **Ioli Kalavrezou**, Harvard University, and **Sofia Korol**, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, “The Cathedral of St. Sophia, Kyiv” (roundtable)

June 16, 2022

Christian Raffensperger, Wittenberg University, “Medieval Origins and Modern Constructs, Rus—Ukraine—Russia”

July 7, 2022

Liudmyla Sharipova, University of Nottingham, “Mazepa’s Women Before and After Poltava”

July 28, 2022

Alina Kondratiuk, Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra, and **Özlem Eren**, University of Wisconsin–Madison, “Endangered Monuments,” with response from **Robert G. Ousterhout**, University of Pennsylvania

September 8, 2022

Maria Grazia Bartolini, University of Milan, “Reading the Image of Prince Volodymyr Sviatoslavych in Seventeenth-Century Kyiv”

September 29, 2022

Anna E. Kijas, Tufts University, and **Waldemar Deluga**, University of Ostrava, “Displaced Cultural Heritage,” with response from **Elizabeth Bolman**, Case Western Reserve University

October 13, 2022

Nazar Kozak, National Academy of Sciences, “The Sovereign’s Image and Its Site-Specificity in Kyivan Rus”

November 16, 2022

Svitlana Olianina, National Technical University of Ukraine, and **Danylo Sudyn**, Ukrainian Catholic University, “Historical Memory,” with response from **Alexandra Vukovich**, King’s College London



Victoria Valdes demonstrates her 3D-scanning process as fellows Günder Varinlioğlu and Andrea Nanetti, post-doctoral fellow Justin Mann, Director of Byzantine Studies Nikos Kontogiannis, and Executive Director Yota Batsaki look on.

December 1, 2022

Talia Zajac, University of Manchester, “Anna Yaroslavna, Queen of France, in History and in Ukrainian Imagination”

December 15, 2022

Halyna Kohut, Ivan Franko National University, “Taste, Social Class, and Oriental Carpet Design in the Eighteenth-Century Cossack Hetmanate”

Public Lectures

September 23, 2022

John Cotsonis, Hellenic College Holy Cross, “The Image of the Mother of God on Byzantine Lead Seals: Ubiquitous Presence/Rare Selection”

November 10, 2022

Cecily J. Hilsdale, McGill University, “Dynastic Jewels: A Late Antique Rhetoric of Treasure and Adornment”

Informal Talks and Presentations

October 25, 2022

Roland Betancourt, University of California, Irvine, “Writing
Byzantine Intersectionality: Ethics and Disciplinarity”

December 1, 2022

Paroma Chatterjee, University of Michigan, “The Bucolic
Mode and Imperial Voice in Byzantium”

February 9, 2023

Michael Jones, Koç University, “Byzantine-Period Shipwrecks
in Turkey and the Eastern Mediterranean”

April 6, 2023

Joel Kalvesmaki, Catholic University of America, “Managing
and Studying Large, Complex Corpora: An Introduction to
the Text Alignment Network”

April 13, 2023

Victoria Valdes, University of Virginia, “3D Design as a
Resource in the Arts and Education”



Garden and Landscape Studies

Taking a moment to reflect on the past year allows the Garden and Landscape Studies (GLS) program to recognize the remarkable work that we have undertaken as we made our way out of COVID-19 and back to in-person gatherings and discussions. The scholarship that is emerging from our community at Dumbarton Oaks is exciting. Our scholars are asking new questions and formulating counternarratives that help us to more fully understand how we have come to where we are and the places in which we work and live. It is a thrilling moment to be a historian as we uncover, reveal, and share histories of communities and places that have so often been neglected or just plain ignored but remain traced in our landscapes. Thank you to all who contribute to this collective work.

Our graduate workshop was offered in May with the support of the Mellon Democracy and Landscape Initiative. The workshop is intended to develop the field of garden and landscape studies across disciplines, and the 2022 session sought to ground histories of place, land, and landscape in the complexities of contested counternarratives and sources. Ten PhD and MLA candidates joined us from across the country, working on topics ranging from the European meadow in fifteenth-century landscape painting to gardens of peace and trauma in Nigeria to the construction of whiteness in the National Cathedral Garden in Washington, DC (see p. 22 for a list of participants).

In fall 2022, we were delighted to welcome our fellows in residence, which included seven academic year Garden and

Landscape fellows and four Mellon fellows. Topics ranged from botanic gardens in the Dutch East Indies from the eighteenth to twentieth centuries to parks and mining in Butte, Montana, and the architecture of the telephone city. We were honored to host Dr. Andrea Roberts (University of Virginia) as a visiting scholar who revised her book manuscript *Never Sell the Land*.

Scholarly events included the symposium “Changing Climates, Changing Histories: Perspectives from the Humanities” in collaboration with the Byzantine and Pre-Columbian Studies programs, which brought together scholars to discuss human-induced climate change from the perspective of the humanities. GLS hosted the first Harvard Graduate School of Design Wintersession that welcomed ten students, including MLA, M.Arch, and MDes candidates, for the course Gardens/Archives/Stories: Plants in Place (see pp. 22–23 for a list of participants). The colloquium “The Enchantment of the Living World,” organized by Luke Morgan (Monash University) and D. Fairchild Ruggles (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign), considered the “animacy” of the natural environment and the agency of its nonhuman things. Invited speakers discussed ancient plants of the prairies, Indigenous places, and the culture-nature binary in Jacques Boyceau’s 1638 treaty. Victoria W. Wolcott (University at Buffalo, SUNY) presented a public lecture titled “Radical Nonviolence, Interracial Utopias, and the Long Civil Rights Movement.” In collaboration with the Byzantine Studies department, GLS cosponsored a session at the annual conference for the Medieval Academy of America entitled “Environmental Histories of Medieval Landscapes.”

The annual symposium “Environmental Histories of the Black Atlantic World: Landscape Histories of the African Diaspora” was organized by N. D. B. Connolly (Johns Hopkins University) and Oscar de la Torre (University of North Carolina at Charlotte). Papers included “Maroon Geographies and Ecologies in the Danish West Indies” and “Temples and Trees: The Ceibas of Havana as Icons of Black Spirituality, Cultural Politics, and Visual Experience in the Atlantic World, 1828–1928.” Five Bliss awardees received travel funding to attend the symposium, including PhD and MLA candidates from Vrije Universiteit, Harvard University, Columbia University, the University of Virginia, and the University of Michigan (see p. 22 for a list of awardees).

Middle East Garden Traditions—a web-based research tool with selected catalogs, glossaries, and bibliographies on Umayyad, Abbasid, Andalusian, Ottoman, Mughal, North African, and Safavid gardens from the eighth century to the present—was shared with the Aga Khan Trust for Culture’s ArchNet, which now hosts the site. Created in 2004 by Dumbarton Oaks and the Freer and Sackler Galleries, the tool was developed by an international roster of garden and landscape historians who culled inventories from temporally and regionally diverse primary-source materials.

We thanked senior fellow Beth Meyer for her service of a six-year term from 2017 to 2023. Beth is the Merrill D. Peterson Professor of Landscape Architecture at the University of Virginia and leads the University of Virginia Center for Cultural Landscapes. In 2022 we welcomed two new senior fellows, Vera Candiani (Princeton University), a historian of colonial Latin America, and Philip DeLoria (Harvard University), a historian of American Indian peoples.

Segregation and Resistance in the Landscapes of the Americas, edited by Eric Avila and Thaïsa Way, was released in 2023. Part of the Dumbarton Oaks Colloquia on the History of Landscape Architecture series, the volume published selected essays from the 2020 symposium in which contributors explore landscapes and their hidden struggles between segregation and resistance and consider how cultural and spatial practices of separation, identity, response, and revolt are shaped by place and, in turn, inform practices of placemaking.

Additions to the Garden Library include a rare print from around 1700 by the Dutch engraver Daniel Stoopendaal representing Zeist House near Utrecht and the first edition of etchings of Roman antiquities by Luigi Rossini, published in 1819–1823. This year’s collecting priority was horticultural literature, marking increased attention to the relationship between landscape design and gardening practice. These acquisitions include a set of nine small-format garden manuals in identical parchment bindings, issued by the Parisian publisher Charles de Sercy between 1676 and 1697, and the mid-eighteenth-century *Treatise on the Culture of the Cucumber* by James MacPhail, gardener to Lord Hawkesbury in Surrey.



Scholars from around the world, along with GLS and Mellon fellows, convene in the Oak Room for our 2023 colloquium titled “The Enchantment of the Living World,” February 2023.

Our Mellon Democracy and Landscape Initiative was generative this past year as we continue to expand, challenge, and explore. Our academic year fellows contributed to scholarship in democracy and landscape histories as well as those of philanthropy and city planning, gardening in relation to artistic practice, historic corporate monopolies and architecture, and the Greek Island of Imbros’s political history. Beyond our residential fellows, we hosted a series of talks, discussions, and workshops seeking to expand our community and to support critical scholarship and teaching across institutions.

We were honored to partner with the University of Pennsylvania’s Center for the Preservation of Civil Rights Sites for the summer 2022 fellowship that focused on landscapes of civil and human rights. This fellowship brought scholars to Dumbarton Oaks who engaged in narratives and counternarratives of remembering, studying, and stewarding the legacy of civil-rights histories and their place-narratives in the United States.

In June 2022 we were excited to host Dumbarton Oaks’ first National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for



Speakers for the GLS symposium “Environmental Histories of the Black Atlantic World: Landscape Histories of the African Diaspora,” May 2023.

Higher Education entitled “Toward a People’s History of Landscape: Black and Indigenous Histories of the Nation’s Capital.” Twenty-three faculty members and graduate students convened at Dumbarton Oaks from June 12 through July 1. Participants worked collaboratively to develop online, open-source curriculum modules that teach landscape-oriented social histories, centering Black and Indigenous historical narratives in the founding of the United States and the District of Columbia. These modules as well as shared syllabi are now available on a new website (www.apeopleslandscapehistory.org) as we identify ways to build our community of place-based historians and scholars. The institute responds to a broad call in the humanities for reexamining how we research and teach history through the lens of people in place with a focus on expanding critical spatial literacy.

This past fall we welcomed three new members to the Mellon Democracy and Landscape Initiative advisory board: Sarah Lopez (University of Pennsylvania), Andrea Roberts (University of Virginia), and Gabrielle Tayac (George Mason University). The board also saw the departure of the following two members, and we thank them for their years of service: Dell Upton (University of California, Los Angeles) and Michelle Wilkinson (National Museum of African American History and Culture).



Bliss awardees (from left to right): Abiola Ibirogbra, Anastasia Marie, Omokolade Omigbule, and Zawdie Sandvliet, May 2023.

We were thrilled to resume in-person Mellon Midday Dialogues for the 2022–2023 academic year. We invited five scholars working at the intersection of democracy and landscape to share their current scholarship with our fellows. Speakers included Drs. J. T. Roane (Rutgers University), Carlyn Ferrari (Seattle University), Maia Butler (University of North Carolina Wilmington), Gabrielle Tayac (George Mason University), and Andrea Roberts (University of Virginia).

Through our Deans’ Equity and Inclusion Initiative, we continued to grow our network of deans and directors of design and built-environment schools committed to reimagining our communities in support of a more equitable, just, and healthy future for all. The role of history, as well as the related scholarship and research, has been an important topic of discussion with the deans, associate deans, and the fellows as we consider how to steward our educational institutions toward more fully engaging with the challenges of the twenty-first century.

Our collaborations with the National Park Service (NPS) to identify and interpret sites of civil rights have suggested new research questions as well as alternative frameworks for histories of land and landscape. Expanding that work, we have hosted monthly discussions with historians who partner with the NPS to consider ways to expand the community and access to the project, as well as how we share our work with the public.

Scholarly Activities

Public Lecture

January 27, 2023

Victoria W. Wolcott, University at Buffalo, SUNY, “Radical Nonviolence, Interracial Utopias, and the Long Civil Rights Movement”

Annual Colloquium

The Enchantment of the Living World

February 9–11, 2023

Organized by **Luke Morgan**, Monash University, and **D. Fairchild Ruggles**, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Georges Farhat, University of Toronto, “Rethinking the Culture-Nature Binary in Boyceau’s 1638 *Traité*”

Rosalyn LaPier, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, “Ancient Plants of the Prairies: Kipitáaakii’s ‘Lost Crops’”

Mihnea Mircan, freelance contemporary art curator, “Landscapes of Transformation”

J. T. Roane, Rutgers University, “Plot”

Vanessa Watts, McMaster University, “Indigenous Places: Scapes of Understanding”

Rebecca Zorach, Northwestern University, “Totally Insensible to Its Beauties: On Kant, Garden Aesthetics, and the Music of Birds”



Senior fellows (from left to right): Stephen Daniels, Philip Deloria, Beth Meyer, Dianne Harris, Vera Candiani, and Beth Hyde, May 2023.

Annual Symposium

Environmental Histories of the Black Atlantic World: Landscape Histories of the African Diaspora

May 12–13, 2023

Organized by **N. D. B. Connolly**, Johns Hopkins University, and
Oscar de la Torre, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Andrew Apter, University of California, Los Angeles, “Homo Sacer and Atlantic Slavery: Landscape Histories of Sacrifice and Commodification in a Sacred Grove near Fort Amsterdam, Ghana”

Jacques Aymeric-Nsangou, University of Manitoba, “Behind the Atlantic Coast, Fighting Not to Enter the Atlantic World as a Commodity”

Victoria R. Broadus, Georgetown University, “Vissungo: African-Descended Culture and the Environment in Brazil’s Diamond-Mining Region”

Justin Dunnivant, University of California, Los Angeles,
“Maroon Geographies and Ecologies in the Danish West Indies”

Mikayla Janee Harden, University of Delaware, “Knowingly and Naively: Enslaved Black Children’s Relationship with the Black Atlantic Landscape”

Joseph R. Hartman, University of Missouri–Kansas City,
“Temples and Trees: The Ceibas of Havana as Icons of Black Spirituality, Cultural Politics, and Visual Experience in the Atlantic World, 1828–1928”

Emily Holloway, Clark University, “The Spatial Fix in the Black Atlantic: The Structuring Contradiction of the Haitian Revolution and Brooklyn’s Industrial Landscape”

C. C. McKee, Bryn Mawr College and the University of Copenhagen, “Victuals from the Plantationocene: Slave Gardens and Black Personhood in an Eighteenth-Century Martinican Painting”



Dinner in the Orangery for our spring symposium “Environmental Histories of the Black Atlantic,” May 2023.

Elise A. Mitchell, Princeton University, “‘The Land Will Not Expose Their Designs’: African Atlantic Ecologies, Geopolitics, and Responses to Epidemic Disease in the Sixteenth-Century Atlantic World”

Matthew Francis Rarey, Oberlin College, “Fugitive Landscapes and the Challenge of Black Atlantic Cartographies: Brazil, 1763”

Neil Safier, Brown University, “Translating the Eighteenth-Century Plantationocene: Epistemologies, Landscapes, and the Place of the Enslaved African Cultivator in Brazilian Histories of Enlightenment Science”

Collaborations

Changing Climates, Changing Histories: Perspectives from the Humanities (Dumbarton Oaks symposium)

October 21–22, 2022

Organized by **Thaïsa Way**, Director of Garden and Landscape Studies; **Frauke Sachse**, Director of Pre-Columbian Studies; **Nikos D. Kontogiannis**, Director of Byzantine Studies; and **Anna Stavrakopoulou**, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
Keynote: **Valerie Trouet**, University of Arizona, “Tree Story: What We Can Learn About Climate History from the Rings in Trees”

Joyce E. Chaplin, Harvard University, “The Franklin Stove and Colonial Resource Conservation”

Dagomar Degroot, Georgetown University, discussant
Harriet Mercer, University of Cambridge, “Expanding Empire and Knowing Climate in the Southern Hemisphere”

Medieval Academy of America Annual Conference

February 25, 2023

Session 5: “Environmental Histories of Medieval Landscapes”

Session Chair: **Thaïsa Way**, Director of Garden and Landscape Studies

Organized by **Abigail Dowling**, Mercer University, and
Thaïsa Way, Director of Garden and Landscape Studies

Abigail Dowling, Mercer University, “Visualizations from
Medieval Databases: A Case Study from Mahaut d’Artois’
(1302–29) Archive”

Vicky McAlister, Towson University, “Colonizing and Colonized
Animals in the Landscapes of Medieval Ireland”

Alice Wolff, Cornell University, “The Beauty of the Field:
Weeds in the Medieval Imagination and Landscape”

Mellon Democracy and Landscape Initiative

Mellon Midday Dialogues

September 23, 2022

J. T. Roane, Rutgers University, “Black Ecologies and the Jim
Crow Enclosure of the Tidewater”

December 5, 2022

Carlyn Ferrari, Seattle University, “If People Were Like
Flowers’: Anne Spencer’s Environmental Imagination”

February 3, 2023

Maia Butler, University of North Carolina Wilmington,
“Teaching in Place: Southern Black Women’s Literary
Geographies”

February 13, 2023

Gabrielle Tayac, George Mason University, “Sovereign Curation:
Placing Indigenous Knowledge Carriers at Center”

April 24, 2023

Andrea Roberts, University of Virginia, “The Parti: Understand-
ing African American Placemaking History and Design
through Place Naming Practices”

Deans' Equity and Inclusion Initiative (DEII)

Led by a community of built-environment school deans, this initiative seeks to build communities of early-career faculty from a diverse range of backgrounds and experiences, with attention to BIPOC and other underrepresented faculty, in order to challenge, expand, and enrich the planning, design, construction, and stewardship of the built environment.

Second DEII Fellows Cohort

Narjes Abbasabadi, University of Washington

Fallon S. Aidoo, Tulane University

Sean Canty, Harvard University

Kevin Bernard Moultrie Daye, University of Michigan

Matt Miller Kenyatta, University of Pennsylvania

Kenneth Kokroko, University of Arizona

Michelle Magalong, University of Maryland

Zakhary Mallett, Cornell University

Isaac Alejandro Mangual-Martínez, Virginia Tech

Georgeanne Matthews, University of Maryland

Sydney Maubert, Cornell University

Dahlia Nduom, Howard University

Ariadna Reyes-Sanchez, University of Texas at Arlington

Torri Smith, University of Michigan

Mackenzie Waller, University of Arizona

Lingzi Wu, University of Washington

Zihao Zhang, City College of New York

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for Higher Education

Toward a People's History of Landscape: Black and Indigenous Histories of the Nation's Capital

June 12–July 1, 2022

Codirected by **Thaïsa Way**, Director of Garden and Landscape Studies, and **Andrea Roberts**, University of Virginia

Krista Benson, Grand Valley State University

Libby Bischof, University of Southern Maine

Maia Butler, University of North Carolina Wilmington



National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for
Higher Education.

- Colleen Carpenter**, St. Catherine University
Benjamin Carter, Muhlenberg College
Charity Clay, Xavier University of Louisiana
José Cotto, Tulane School of Architecture
Alexandra P. Gelbard, Florida International University
Brian Goldstein, Swarthmore College
LaToya Gray-Sparks, Virginia Commonwealth University
Melanee Harvey, Howard University
Dominique Hazzard, Johns Hopkins University
Kathryn Howell, Virginia Commonwealth University
Alyssa Hunziker, Oklahoma State University
Alaine Hutson, Huston-Tillotson University
Nkem Ike, University of Tulsa
Angelika Joseph, Princeton University
J. T. Roane, Rutgers University
Samantha Rodriguez, Houston Community College
Rebecca Summer, Portland State University
L. Ann Thompson-Kendall, Heritage University
La Barbara James Wigfall, Kansas State University
Matthew Wilson, Ball State University

Guest Speakers

Chadwick Allen, University of Washington

Niya Bates, Princeton University

Angela Pulley Hudson, Texas A&M University

Brandi T. Summers, University of California, Berkeley

Amber Wiley, Rutgers University

Michelle Joan Wilkinson, Smithsonian Institution National
Museum of African American History and Culture

Rebecca Hankins, Texas A&M University

Paul Chaat Smith, Smithsonian National Museum of the
American Indian

Ashley Robertson Preston, Howard University

Lopez D. Matthews, Jr., Maryland Commission on African
American History and Culture

Felicia A. Bell Smithsonian National Museum of American
History

Clarence Lusane, Howard University

Elizabeth Rule, American University



Pre-Columbian Studies

The Pre-Columbian Studies department rejoiced at the normalcy of the 2022–2023 academic year in a post-pandemic world, enjoying our fellowship cohort while engaging in newfound programming and annual events. Experiencing Dumbarton Oaks without restrictions allowed our department to gather in fellowship, camaraderie, and scholarship, which we certainly took advantage of.

We began the summer 2022 term with a complete team, as Noa Corcoran-Tadd joined Dumbarton Oaks as the new Pre-Columbian studies librarian. Noa hit the ground running and was an immediate support to the program, our fellows, the library, and Dumbarton Oaks as a whole. Trained as a historical archaeologist with a research focus on the late preconquest and colonial Andes, he has a strong research background in the field, with fieldwork experience in Peru, Chile, the United States, and the Dominican Republic. His own research has earned him a PhD in anthropology from Harvard University, for which he studied archival and landscape histories of mobility, mining, and empire. Noa has been a tremendous addition to the team, collaborating with the program and the museum and creating outreach.

Three fellows joined us in Pre-Columbian Studies in the summer 2022 term. Rebecca Mendoza Nunziato, Victor Emmanuel Salazar Chávez, and Matthias Urban formed a very active

Pre-Columbian fellows Hayley Woodward and Allison Caplan visiting the Image Collections and Fieldwork Archives (ICFA), observing rollout photos from the William and Barbara Conklin Papers on Pre-Columbian Textiles and the Justin Kerr Maya Archive with Pre-Columbian librarian Noa Corcoran-Tadd and manager of ICFA Bettina Smith, October 2022.



Blue and yellow panel, Wari, Middle Horizon, 810-970 CE, feathers and cotton (PC.B.522).

cohort across disciplines and programs, finding inspiration in each other's research and engaging in captivating conversations over lunch. Interests converged, in particular ways, on the origin and distribution of plants in the Americas, stimulating new research and discussions from archaeological, historical, and linguistic perspectives. These conversations were greatly enriched by archaeobotanist and former fellow of the 2021–2022 cohort David Lentz (University of Cincinnati), who returned to Dumbarton Oaks for a two-week research stay in collaboration with the Plant Humanities Initiative directed by Yota Batsaki.

On September 1, Joanne Baron was appointed postdoctoral fellow in Pre-Columbian art and archaeology in the Image Collections and Fieldwork Archives of the library, to continue the work of cataloguing the Kerr photographic archive of Maya ceramics, focusing especially on including the Maya hieroglyphic texts into the catalogue entries.

With the start of the academic year on September 12, a new cohort arrived at Dumbarton Oaks. We initially welcomed four fellows (Barbara Arroyo, Timothy Beach, Allison Caplan, and Mallory Melton), two junior fellows (Nicholas Brown and Hayley Woodward), and one Tyler fellow (Sarah Loomis). We were also overjoyed about the inaugural recipient of the Flora Clancy Summer Fellowship in Maya Studies for Researchers from Latin America, Adolfo Iván Batún-Alpuche, who joined the fall cohort due to scheduling difficulties. The group was complemented in the spring by visiting

scholar Noreen Tuross and Tyler fellow Annick Benavides, both from Harvard University.

Having so many fellows in residence throughout the duration of the academic year created a strong cohort that discussed each other's projects and shared their amazing research not only during research reports but also over lunch, during walks in the gardens, and over a few spirited gatherings we held throughout the year. Our fellows also made use of the resources Dumbarton Oaks has to offer, providing us with valuable insights into our own collections. It was a tremendously successful cohort who used their time well and felt positive about what they had accomplished when the year ended. Both of our junior fellows completed their PhDs, and Nicholas Brown was promoted to fellow for the spring term. Pre-Columbian Studies organized two fellows' outings this year. In the fall we visited the vault of the Jay I. Kislak Collection at the Library of Congress and in spring the Cultural Research Center of the National Museum of the American Indian in Suitland, Maryland.

Our program is also looking back to a busy event year. We were delighted to welcome the public back to Dumbarton Oaks on October 7–8, 2022, for the annual Pre-Columbian symposium "Beyond Representation: Ancient Indigenous Visual Culture" organized by Tamara Bray (Wayne State University) and Carolyn Dean (University of California, Santa Cruz). The symposium explored non-iconographic approaches to the study of images from the Ancient Americas. A great lineup of scholars discussed how Western approaches to studying imagery and art may have obscured the cultural meaning of Pre-Columbian objects and how Indigenous ontologies and knowledge systems might have informed the creation of materiality. The symposium was held in a hybrid format with four papers being presented virtually. We live-streamed both days via Zoom, reaching a large online audience in the United States, Latin America, and Europe, while enjoying the return to fruitful in-person conversations in the Oak Room. It was a thought-provoking symposium that created a unique opportunity to explore new ways of thinking about material culture and art in the Ancient Americas by focusing attention on the process of creation and ontological parameters. Participants and attendees engaged in stimulating conversations over lunch and coffee

breaks, and we were thankful for a lovely speakers' dinner in the Orangery. We would like to thank everybody—organizers, participants, audience members, DO staff, and Focal Point Productions—for contributing to this unique symposium.

Only two weeks after the Pre-Columbian symposium, the program cohosted a joint symposium, organized by the director's office together with the Garden and Landscape and Byzantine Studies programs. "Changing Climates, Changing Histories: Perspectives from the Humanities" brought together scholars from different disciplines to discuss human-induced climate change in the past from the perspective of the humanities. The Pre-Columbian program had invited fellow Timothy Beach, José Iriarte (University of Exeter), Bradley Skopyk (Binghamton University), and Matthew Liebmann (Harvard University) to examine the historical and cultural conditions that furthered the human exploitation of the environment in the Ancient Americas. Participants shared insights about the ability of societies to respond and adapt to changing climatological conditions. The goal of the meeting was to explore these questions from a humanities perspective, to understand the human activities that lead to changes in environment and climate and how people gave meaning to these activities and their effects. The symposium was open to the public via Zoom.

In addition to the symposium, we held the first in-person roundtable (formerly colloquium) since the pandemic. "Opening up the Eastern Andes: New Perspectives on Regional Identities and Inter-Cultural Engagements" was organized by Anna Guengerich (Eckerd College) and Tamara Bray (Wayne State University), who brought together a group of renowned scholars and specialists to reassess the role the Eastern Andes played in South American prehistory. Participants discussed evidence for intercultural interaction and identity to explore whether the eastern slopes of the Andes might constitute a zone of broader cultural significance between the macro-regions of the Andean highlands and Amazonian lowlands. The discussions were lively and stimulating, bringing into conversation multidisciplinary perspectives from archaeological, historical, and ethnographic records. At the request of the organizers, the roundtable was held as a closed event, which allowed for open scholarly exchange of ideas. We would like to thank all who contributed to this successful event.



PCS fellows with the director of Pre-Columbian Studies (from left to right): Nicholas Brown, Barbara Arroyo, Allison Caplan, Mallory Melton, Frauke Sachse, Hayley Woodward, Joanne Baron, Timothy Beach, Sarah Loomis, and Adolfo Iván Batún-Alpuche.

The department held two public lectures this year. David Stuart (University of Texas at Austin) visited us in the fall to speak on the topic of a forthcoming volume he is contributing to the Dumbarton Oaks publication series *Studies in Pre-Columbian Art and Archaeology*. In his talk “Rulers from the West: Teotihuacan in Maya History and Politics,” Stuart revisited his earlier work on the Teotihuacan *entrada* in early Classic Tikal, reassessing the evidence in image and text and offering new interpretations about the complex relationship between the Classic period center in Central Mexico and sites in the Maya region. The lecture was held in person at Dumbarton Oaks and live streamed via Zoom with impressive attendance numbers. The spring lecture was given by Frank Salomon (University of Wisconsin–Madison and University of Iowa). Professor Salomon offered a direct glimpse into his ethnographic fieldwork showing how knowledge and practices recorded in the seventeenth-century Huarochirí manuscript live on in descendant Andean communities of our day. “Letters from



The director of Pre-Columbian Studies, fellows, and staff visit the Rare Book Reading Room and observe the 1880 photolithographic reproduction made by Ernst Förstemann of the Maya book known as the Dresden Codex, the second-oldest surviving book from the Americas, December 2022.

the Ancients of Water (Huarochirí, Peru)” was more than a lecture—it was a poetic piece of scholarship that tied together religion, identity, and landscape in a new and thought-provoking way. The lecture was held in person at Dumbarton Oaks and followed by a large crowd via Zoom. We would like to thank both speakers for their time and for sharing their wonderful and inspiring research with us.

We continued with our Pre-Columbian Midday Dialogue series to give our fellows the opportunity to learn from invited scholars about recent or current research in progress. On February 2, Jarosław Żrałka (Jagiellonian University) gave a talk to the Pre-Columbian fellows entitled “The Maya Wall Paintings from Chajul (Guatemala): Results of Recent Investigations.” Joining us on Zoom from Cracow, Poland, he shared results from

the latest fieldwork conducted by a team of Polish, Guatemalan, and Spanish scholars in the Ixil town. We learned about the discovery of murals, the documentation and conservation work that has been undertaken, and the interpretation and contextualization of these important examples of Indigenous art from the colonial period.

We have been keeping the publications department busy with several volumes under contract and in production in both of our traditional publication series. In addition to that, we have taken several projects under contract for the new publication series *Texts from the Early Americas*. At the end of the year, a total of six projects were under contract. The advisory editorial board of the new series met for their first in-person meeting at Dumbarton Oaks in April.

Pre-Columbian Studies is delighted that Dumbarton Oaks permits us to expand our summer programming. We have conceptualized and prepared a new summer workshop “Missionary Manuscripts in Mesoamerican Languages” in collaboration with the Princeton University Library and the Library of Congress that is directed primarily at graduate students and highlights items and recent acquisitions from the Dumbarton Oaks Rare Book Collection. The first workshop is planned for the summer of 2023.

We thank all who supported the Pre-Columbian program this year and would like to stress how much we appreciate the support of our colleagues at Dumbarton Oaks that allowed us to have such a successful and fulfilling academic year.

Scholarly Activities

Public Lectures

December 1, 2022

David Stuart, University of Texas at Austin, “Rulers from the West: Teotihuacan in Maya History and Politics”

March 16, 2023

Frank Salomon, University of Wisconsin-Madison and
University of Iowa, “Letters from the Ancients of Water
(Huarochirí, Peru)”

Midday Dialogues

February 2, 2023

Jarosław Żrątko, Jagiellonian University, “The Maya Wall
Paintings from Chajul (Guatemala): Results of Recent
Investigations”

Annual Symposium

Beyond Representation: Ancient Indigenous Visual Culture

October 7–8, 2022

Organized by **Tamara L. Bray**, Wayne State University, and
Carolyn Dean, University of California, Santa Cruz

Benjamin Alberti, Framingham State University, “‘Is It a
Peccary?’ or ‘What Is a Peccary?’ Species Identity and
Representation in First Millennium Northwest Argentina”

Molly H. Bassett, Georgia State University, “(Re)collecting the
Gods”

Claudia Brittenham, University of Chicago, “Beyond
Iconography: The Polyvalence of the La Venta Massive
Offerings”

Yve Chavez, University of Oklahoma, “Beyond the Limits of
Visual Analysis: Re-Imagining Tongva Architecture in Los
Angeles”

Carolyn Dean, University of California Santa Cruz, “Material
Witnesses: The Matter of Memory in Inka Visual Culture”

Carlos Fausto, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro,
discussant

Andrew Hamilton, Art Institute of Chicago, “The Tyranny of
Sight in the Visual Arts: Toward an Inca Art History”

Els Lagrou, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, “Abstract
Chimeras and Relational Ontologies in the Amazon”

George Lau, University of East Anglia, “On Pins and Powders at Pashash: A Ritual Offering and the Matter of Subjects in Prehispanic Peru”

Federico Navarrete, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, “Images, Representation and the Construction of Complex Beings in Colonial Mesoamerican Codices”

Diana Rose, independent scholar, “The Performance of K’atuns: Stelae as Participants in Maya Renewal Ceremonies”

Lisa Trever, Columbia University, “Moche Iconogenesis: Where Do Images Come From?”

Roundtable

Opening Up the Eastern Andes: New Perspectives on Regional Identities and Inter-cultural Engagements

April 28, 2023

Organized by **Tamara L. Bray**, Wayne State University, and **Anna Guengerich**, Eckerd College

Tamara L. Bray, Wayne State University, “De-Naturalizing Difference: Reflections on Othering and the Oriente”

Anna Guengerich, Eckerd College, “Imperial Narratives or Empirical Realities? Representation and Environment in Inka Chachapoyas”

Sonia Alconini, University of Virginia, “Chunchos, Kallawayas and Puquina-Arawaks in the Lower Antisuyu”

Cristiana Bertazoni, University of Zurich, “Mapping the Sacred Landscape of the Ashaninka”

Carla Jaimes Betancourt, University of Bonn, “The Llanos de Moxos: Cultural Dynamics East of the Andes”

Catherine Alejandra Lara Illescas, French Institute of Andean Studies, “Between Technical Polarization and Hybridization: The Encounter between Aént Chicham and Andean Pottery (Eastern Ecuadorian montaña, XIIIth–XVIIIth Centuries AD)”

Augusto Oyuela-Caycedo, University of Florida, “A View of the Ahistorical Society of Quistococha (Iquitos) at the Lower Edge of the Upper Amazon River”

Francisco Valdez, Institut de minéralogie, de physique des matériaux et de cosmochimie, Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle, “The Ideological Roots of the Early Interaction in the Andean World”

Darryl Wilkinson, Dartmouth College, “The Late Intermediate Period Colonization of the Eastern Andes: Identity, Specialization and Exchange”

Ο Ναός τῷ ἁγίῳ Τάφῳ .



Ο ΤΑΦΟΣ ΤΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ

ΕΠΑΝΩ ΕΙΣ ΤΟΥΤΟΝ ΤΟΝ ΛΙΘΟΝ ΕΠΕΣΕΝ
Ο ΧΕ ΒΑΣΤΩΝΤΑΣ ΤΟΝ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΝ

Library

In 2022–2023 the library navigated several significant transitions. Foremost, the resumption of full on-site activity surrounding the fellowship program and the increase in the library staff presence on-site was a welcomed return to many of the routines familiar from before the pandemic. The addition of Dominique Manuel as library assistant, Noa Corcoran-Tadd as Pre-Columbian studies librarian, Anna Taylor as visual materials cataloger, Joanne Baron as postdoctoral fellow in Pre-Columbian art and archaeology, and Justin Mann as postdoctoral fellow in Byzantine art and archaeology has propelled numerous projects forward. Meanwhile, the departure of Alyson Williams for a position at the Library of Congress represented the loss of a valued staff member at Dumbarton Oaks but a great career opportunity for Alyson.

The library staff began the year promoting the use of the collections among the large number of summer program participants and fully reopened the library to readers. Use of the library is approaching pre-pandemic levels and will likely exceed previous usage levels as institutional programs continue to thrive and the number of unaffiliated researchers increases. Over six thousand items from the general collection were consulted. Fellows and staff received over one thousand items through Interlibrary Loan. Sixty different researchers made over 130 visits and consulted over 750 items in the Image Collections

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Woodcut illustration in
*Arsenius Kaloudēs' 1679 Proskynētaron tōn hierōn topōn hopou
heuriskontai eis tēn hagian polin Hierousalēm (Pilgrim's Guide to
the Holy Places That Are Found in the Holy City Jerusalem).*

and Fieldwork Archives (ICFA) and Rare Book Collection. Over 2,300 images of items in the ICFA and Rare Book Collection were provided for free to researchers.

The growth of the library collection also continues on numerous fronts. Acquisitions for the general collection included nearly three thousand new books alongside over one thousand journal titles received through purchase and exchange. Strategic additions to the Rare Book Collection have been made in all three programs of study, while several photographic and archival collections have been acquired for ICFA. Cataloging staff continue to improve access to and information about our collections with significant reductions in the processing backlog and extensive improvements to bibliographic records in the HOLLIS catalog.

Noteworthy Acquisitions

In support of Byzantine studies, the library acquired two extremely rare albums of photographs of Armenian monuments from the late nineteenth century, as well as an early-twentieth-century Georgian album of photographs, *Views of Kutaisi*. The photographs provide valuable documentation of medieval buildings that in many cases have been significantly altered or damaged in the intervening years. We also acquired a seventeenth-century illustrated Greek pilgrim's guide to Jerusalem and other sites in the Holy Land. Such pilgrim's guides, or *proskynetaria*, told pilgrims what to look for and venerate and could also function as quasi-relics and even as proxies for actual pilgrimage. The library also acquired several facsimiles, including a newly published facsimile of the illustrated Trebizond Alexander Romance. The original, held by the Istituto Ellenico in Venice, was produced in the late fourteenth century, probably at the behest of the emperor of Trebizond; containing 250 miniatures, it is the most richly illustrated manuscript of this text.

Several new titles were added to the Pre-Columbian studies Rare Book Collection, including three nineteenth-century Nahuatl catechisms: two catechisms published in Puebla (the first published just prior to Mexican independence [1819] and the second an orthographically distinct edition [1835]) and Miguel Trinidad Palma's Nahuatl translation of the Ripalda catechism (1886).



A photograph of a pair of Mixtec effigy incensarios taken by Justin Kerr in 1990 (K4584) and digitized in 2023.

We also acquired *Gacetas de literatura de Mexico* (1831; first published 1788–1795) by the Mexican priest and polymath José Antonio Alzate y Ramírez, which includes the first published illustrations of the archaeological site of Xochicalco.

Andean archaeology was represented by the purchase of the 1889–1890 catalog of archaeological and ethnographic materials made for the Museum für Völkerkunde zu Leipzig by the pioneers of archaeological illustration Alphons Stübel and Wilhelm Reiss, with text by Max Uhle. The library has also continued to develop holdings of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century scientific accounts of the geography, biodiversity, and ethnology of the Americas. One such acquisition was the *Voyages dans l'Amérique Méridionale* (1809) by Félix de Azara, a Spanish military official and naturalist who spent the 1780s and 1790s documenting the peoples and fauna of the Río de la Plata basin (modern-day Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay).



Baldassare Cattani, Yellow buckeye (*Aesculus flava*) from *Collection de botanique*, ca. 1770-1810.

The ICFA also gratefully received the papers documenting Juliette Gerhardt's work at the Preclassic site of Cuello (Belize) and Jeffrey Quilter's 1976 project at the Preceramic site of Paloma (coastal Peru). In addition, the archival legacies of several other scholars who have shaped the modern fields of Pre-Columbian archaeology and epigraphy are in the process of being donated



New acquisition in the Rare Book Collection: Daniel Stoopendaal, *Veue de la maison de Zeyst avec ses jardins et plantages appartenans à Monsieur Le Comte de Nassau ...* (Amsterdam: Nicolaus Visscher, ca. 1700).

to Dumbarton Oaks, further enhancing the research opportunities afforded by the institution.

Notable among the additions to the Garden Library is a rare print from around 1700 by the Dutch engraver Daniel Stoopendaal representing Zeist House near Utrecht. No less significant both as an artistic work and a historical source is the acquisition of a first edition of etchings of Roman antiquities by Luigi Rossini, published in 1819–1823. Characterized by topographic accuracy and close attention to contemporary scenery, this plate book was the last in the series of monumental tributes to the Eternal City produced beginning in the seventeenth century by such artists as Giovanni Battista Falda, Giuseppe Vasi, and Giovanni Battista Piranesi.

Botanical and horticultural literature remain important collecting areas. These acquisitions include a set of nine

small-format garden manuals issued by the Parisian publisher Charles de Sercy between 1676 and 1697. Equally curious is the mid-eighteenth-century *Treatise on the Culture of the Cucumber* by James MacPhail, gardener to Lord Hawkesbury in Surrey. A special place among these materials is occupied by the first Spanish edition (1625) of Miguel Agustín's influential *Libro de los secretos de agricultura*, which combines the tradition of early modern horticultural treatises derived from ancient husbandry texts with that of Renaissance "books of secrets." Another highlight is the early 1587 edition of the *Le blason des fleurs*, a collection of eight-line poems written in the first person on behalf of twenty-five species of fruits and flowers attesting to the multiplicity of cultural meanings that plants gained in the context of early modern court culture, adding a layer of symbolism to the traditional discussion of their medicinal properties. Other acquisitions include *The American Flora* by Asa Strong, a four-volume set with colored lithographs that lists medical properties of over six thousand plants, published in New York in the early 1850s.

New additions to East Asian holdings include a manuscript translation into Japanese of an early seventeenth-century Chinese treatise on ornamental rocks, intended as a guide to their collecting and appreciation, and a nineteenth-century scroll with six painted scenes illustrating a tea ceremony building and its landscape setting.

Digitization

The library continues to expand access to our collections through digitization of distinctive holdings. A major focus of our efforts in the past year was the digitization of over sixty thousand photographs created by Justin Kerr, a large portion of which document ceramic objects produced by the ancient Maya, and over twelve thousand photographs created by Donald Proulx documenting the painted ceramics of the Nasca. These photographs will become available online as cataloging progresses. In further support of scholarship in Pre-Columbian studies, we digitized José de Ortega's 1732 *Confessionario manual, que en la lengua cora*, further expanding the historical documentation of Indigenous languages of the Americas available online. We also digitized



Byzantine Institute photograph of the gallery of Hagia Eirēnē, Istanbul, Türkiye.

historical documentation of ancient Mesoamerican sites, including a collection of nineteenth-century drawings of Maya ruins, photographs from a 1909 expedition to Palenque, and early twentieth-century photographs of the restoration of the ruins of Xochicalco.

In support of scholarship in Byzantine studies, we have digitized our recently acquired eighteenth-century Italian manuscript recounting the Jesuit Sertorio de Mattei's voyage from Naples to Constantinople and back again. De Mattei's unique account provides valuable contemporary descriptions of Constantinople. We have also digitized our holdings (nine volumes) of the extremely rare typewritten periodical *Byzantina* (1925–1930), which is devoted to the “antiquities of Constantinople,” as well as the pilgrim's guide mentioned above. The library also

continues to catalog and make freely available online images created in the course of projects conducted by the Byzantine Institute of America.

In support of scholarship in garden and landscape studies, this year's digitization efforts primarily focused on important cartographic materials in the collection, including three volumes of Joan Blaeu's seventeenth-century *Theatrum civitatum et admirandorum Italiae* and John Rocque's 1760 manuscript survey of Rathangan in Ireland, the property of the earls of Kildare. We also digitized a bound series of plates pertaining to the early history of Versailles produced between 1664 and 1689 and that were among the original Garden Library's holdings. Added to the mix were two volumes of botanical illustrations by late seventeenth-century Italian artist Baldassare Cattani from a larger set owned by Dumbarton Oaks, reflecting our growing emphasis on plant humanities.

During the past year, Dumbarton Oaks also joined two international library collaborations promoting access to distinctive research materials, the Biodiversity Heritage Library (www.biodiversitylibrary.org) and Pharos, a consortium of photo archives (<http://pharosartresearch.org/>). Previously digitized materials aligning with the relevant research foci of each of these projects will soon be available on both platforms.

A black and white photograph of a woman with short dark hair, wearing a white sleeveless top and white shorts, sitting on a large sign. She is viewed from the back and side, looking towards the right. The sign is rectangular with a black border and contains the text 'NO WHITE PEOPLE ALLOWED IN ZOO TODAY' in large, bold, black capital letters. Below this, in a smaller, italicized font, it says 'Memphis Park Commission'. The woman is sitting on a wooden stool or bench. In the background, there is a chain-link fence, trees, and a sign that partially reads 'TIM HEEDS'. The scene is outdoors, likely at a zoo.

Memphis Park Commission

Publications

This year brought us back to conferences—going out to meet scholars who use our books and meeting potential authors. Most of the scholarly conferences were back to full in-person status, and it seemed everyone was enthusiastic to get out and participate as much as possible. Our managing editors were busy traveling and networking, attending nine scholarly conferences and two virtual conferences.

Some highlights from this year's conference season: Colin Whiting, our Byzantine managing editor, kicked off the season in August by representing us at the International Congress of Byzantine Studies in Venice. This event happens only once every five years, and we were very happy to support the conference. Nicole Eddy, managing editor for *Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library*, did an outstanding job this year managing booths and booking social events at the conferences, and she was joined by general editor Dan Donoghue at the *Medieval Academy of America* conference in Washington, DC, and the *International Congress on Medieval Studies* in Kalamazoo. Sara Taylor, managing editor for art and archaeology, hosted the booth for our return to the *College Art Association* conference in New York City, where *Dumbarton Oaks* made a strong showing with many staff in attendance and a very well-attended reception for *Dumbarton Oaks* alumni.

From *Segregation and Resistance: Overton Park Zoo. One day a week was designated for Blacks only (all other days were for whites only)*, 1950s. JoAnn Mayo Osborne relaxes on the sign.
© Dr. Ernest C. Withers Sr., courtesy of the Withers Family Trust.



Sara Taylor, art and archaeology managing editor, and Tom Cummins at the publications booth at the 2023 College Art Association conference in NYC.

Colin and Nicole worked together closely this year to promote Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library and Byzantine publications collaboratively, introducing the titles to new audiences and promoting networking between these closely related areas of study. One example was the promotion of both at the Online Byzantine Book Festival, sponsored by the University of Edinburgh.

We also completed two digital publications projects: a Spanish version of the online exhibit *Colonial Epidemics and Mesoamerican Medicine in Sixteenth-Century Mexico* (<https://www.doaks.org/>

Olmec Art at Dumbarton Oaks

EXPLORE



Portal for the online catalogue *Olmec Art at Dumbarton Oaks*,
<https://www.doaks.org/resources/olmec-art>.

resources/online-exhibits/epidemics) and the catalogue *Olmec Art at Dumbarton Oaks* (<https://www.doaks.org/resources/olmec-art>).

And, of course, we did publish books, including two with our new copublishing partner, the Peabody Museum Press. This natural collaboration has been very successful, and we look forward to working with the Peabody staff on many more volumes.

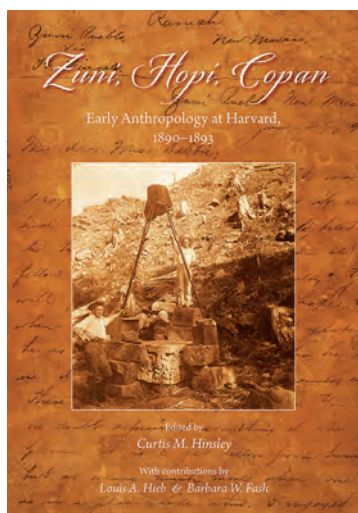
Dumbarton Oaks Books, Dumbarton Oaks Papers, and Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library

IN COLLABORATION WITH PEABODY MUSEUM PRESS

Zuni, Hopi, Copan: Early Anthropology at Harvard, 1890-1893

Edited by Curtis M. Hinsley

Zuni, Hopi, Copan: Early Anthropology at Harvard, 1890-1893 publishes one hundred letters from John Gundy Owens to Deborah Harker Stratton, currently held in the Peabody Museum of



Archaeology and Ethnology at Harvard University. Owens was one of the first graduate students in anthropology at Harvard; his poignant letters to “Miss Debbie” trace a budding relationship of affection in late Victorian America and offer vivid, highly entertaining accounts of his fieldwork at Zuni pueblo in New Mexico, Hopi mesa villages in Arizona, and the Maya site of Copan in Honduras.

Tragically, Owens died at age twenty-seven in Copan; Stratton never married and kept the letters until her own death, nearly fifty years later. Introductory essays by Curtis M. Hinsley, Louis A. Hieb, and Barbara W. Fash contextualize the annotated letters and shed new light on early anthropological training in the United States.



Corpus of Maya Hieroglyphic Inscriptions, Volume 3: Part 4: Yaxchilan

Barbara W. Fash, Alexandre Tokovinine, Ian Graham

The goal of the *Corpus of Maya Hieroglyphic Inscriptions* is to document in photographs and detailed line drawings all known Maya inscriptions and their associated figurative art. As monuments continue to be discovered, the CMHI series is ongoing and far from complete. It has been instrumental in

the remarkable success of the ongoing process of deciphering Maya writing, making available hundreds of texts to epigraphers working around the world, in addition to assisting studies among Maya communities and scholars.

This folio-sized volume documents thirty stelae at Yaxchilan, a Classic Maya city located on the Usumacinta River in the state

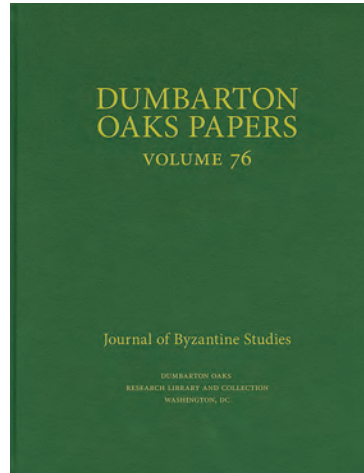
of Chiapas, Mexico. Precisely rendered line drawings and three-dimensional scans bring out details of the monuments that would otherwise be invisible to the naked eye. These illustrations are accompanied by descriptions of the stelae in English and Spanish.

Dumbarton Oaks Papers, volume 76

Edited by Colin M. Whiting

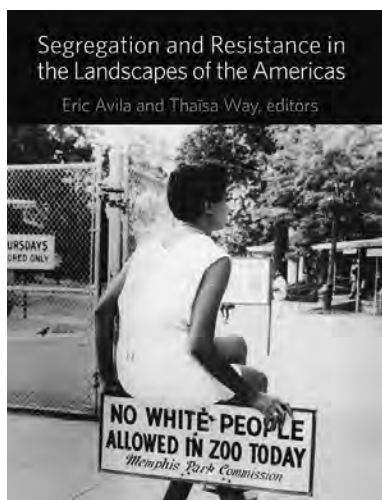
Published annually, the journal *Dumbarton Oaks Papers* was founded in 1941 for the publication of articles relating to Byzantine civilization.

In this issue: Michael McCormick, “Giles Constable (1929–2021)”; Ravinder S. Binning, “The Memory Prison: Carceral and Sacred Space in an Ekphrasis by John Climacus”; Grzegorz Ochala, “The Cathedral of Faras as a Monument of Medieval Nubian Memory”; Jakub Kabala, “‘Trampling the Old Laws’: Traces of Papal Latinity in the Old Slavonic *Vita Methodii*”; Daniel Oltean, “From the Monastery of the *Theotokos tou Roidiou* to Simanaklay? Greek and Armenian Cilician Monks in a Changing World”; Alexandre M. Roberts, “Heretics, Dissidents, and Society: Narrating the Trial of John bar ‘Abdun”; James Morton, “Law and Orthodoxy under the Komnenoi: The Appendix to Alexios Aristenos’s Canonical Commentary”; Tristan Schmidt, “Performing Military Leadership in Komnenian Byzantium: Emperor Manuel I, His Generals, and the Hungarian Campaign of 1167”; Foteini Spingou, “Classicizing Visions of Constantinople after 1204: Niketas Choniates’ *De signis* Reconsidered”; Krystina Kubina, “Poetry of Turmoil: Stephanos Sgouropoulos to Alexios III Megas Komnenos”; Salvatore Cosentino, “Pillars of Empire: The Economic Role of the Large Islands of the Mediterranean from Late Antiquity to the Early Middle Ages”; Luca Zavagno, “A Lost World That Never Died: Early Medieval Urbanism in the Byzantine Islands of the Western Mediterranean”; and Zaza Skhirtladze and Darejan Kldiashvili, “Georgian Manuscripts Produced in Eleventh-Century Constantinople.”



Segregation and Resistance in the Landscapes of the Americas

Edited by Eric Avila and Thaisa Way



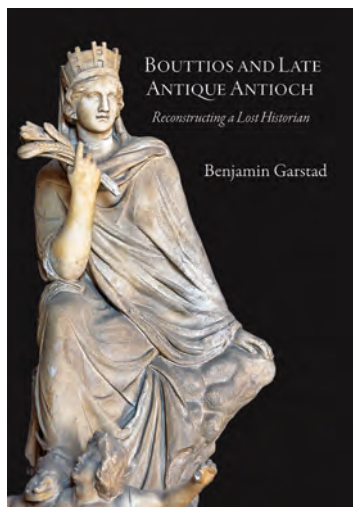
Histories of racial segregation and its impacts have been the focus of urban research for over a century, and yet the role of space, place, and land in these narratives has been largely overlooked. How have land-use policies and land access shaped the experience of place? What markings have made evident the lived experience of segregation and its impacts? And how have individuals and communities resisted segregation in their own efforts to make place?

With a focus on the Americas, the essays in this volume move across time and space to ask questions about place-making and community building. They explore landscapes and their hidden struggles between segregation and resistance. Drawing upon the collective work of the “Segregation and Resistance in America’s Urban Landscapes” symposium organized by Dumbarton Oaks in 2020, these histories consider how cultural and spatial practices of separation, identity, response, and revolt are shaped by place and, in turn, inform practices of place-making.

Bouttios and Late Antique Antioch: Reconstructing a Lost Historian Benjamin Garstad

Bouttios and Late Antique Antioch undertakes the exciting, if laborious, task of assembling clues and piecing back together a book that had disappeared from our library of Greek and Roman works. But it does not merely add another author to the bibliography of antiquity and place him in fourth-century Antioch. It shows how the gods could be reduced to historical characters, the powerful goddess of luck turned into a pitiful victim of virgin sacrifice, and

respected emperors defamed as despots—and, in sum, how the writing of history could be exploited for partisan purposes. We see how people in what we consider the distant past thought about their own history, and how they discussed momentous political and social issues across a seemingly insurmountable divide in a period of existential crisis.



Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library

Since 2010, the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library (DOML) has been making available the written achievements of medieval and Byzantine culture to English-speaking scholars and general readers. Under general editor Daniel Donoghue and managing editor Nicole Eddy, the series has now reached eighty-one volumes, including six new titles this year, and has added a new entry in our Supplements to the Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library series. Also on the team in 2022–2023 was summer intern Adán Ramírez Figueroa, who assisted with the translations.

DUMBARTON OAKS MEDIEVAL LIBRARY 75

Miracles of the Virgin; Tract on Abuses

By Nigel of Canterbury, edited and translated by
Jan M. Ziolkowski and Ronald E. Pepin

Nigel (ca. 1135–1198), a Benedictine monk at Christ Church in Canterbury, has an oeuvre ranging from satire to hagiography. The *Miracles of the Virgin* is the oldest Latin poem about miracles performed by Mary: seventeen lively tales in which the Virgin rescues a disappointed administrator from a pact with the devil, saves a Jewish boy from being burned alive, and shields an



abess from the shame of pregnancy. In the *Tract on Abuses*, Nigel rails against ecclesiastical corruption and worldly entanglements. Alongside authoritative editions of the Latin texts, this volume offers the first translations of both works into English.

A Commentary on Nigel of Canterbury's Miracles of the Virgin

Jan M. Ziolkowski

Nigel of Canterbury, also known as Longchamp and Whiteacre, wrote toward the end of the so-called Twelfth-Century Renaissance. The Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library volume features, alongside the Latin, the first-ever English translation of Nigel's second-longest poem, *Miracles of the Virgin*. The seventeen narratives gave scope for Nigel to display skills as a storyteller and stylist, while recounting the miraculous mercy of the Virgin. This supplement offers an extensive commentary to facilitate appreciation of the *Miracles* as poetry by a medieval writer deeply imbued in the long tradition of Latin literature.

DUMBARTON OAKS MEDIEVAL LIBRARY 76

Augustine's Soliloquies in Old English and in Latin Edited and translated by Leslie Lockett

Around the turn of the tenth century, an anonymous scholar crafted an Old English version of Saint Augustine of Hippo's *Soliloquia*, a dialogue exploring the nature of truth and the immortality of the soul. This volume presents the first English translation of the complete *Old English Soliloquies* to appear in more than a century. It is accompanied by a unique edition of Augustine's Latin *Soliloquia*, based on a tenth-century English manuscript similar to the one used by the translator, that provides insight into the adaptation process. Both the Latin and Old English texts are newly edited.

DUMBARTON OAKS MEDIEVAL LIBRARY 77

Life of the Virgin Mary

By John Geometres, edited and translated by Maximos
Constas and Christos Simelidis

John Geometres (ca. 935–ca. 1000) was one of the most highly esteemed poets and authors in Byzantium; yet his most important text, the *Life of the Virgin Mary*, remains largely unknown today.

Geometres's distinctive and idiosyncratic narrative offers a comprehensive biography, from Mary's ancestry to her death and beyond, with special emphasis on her direction of Christ's female disciples, her active participation in the passion and resurrection, and her leadership of the nascent Church. Based on a completely new edition of the Byzantine Greek text, this is the first complete translation of the *Life* into a modern language.

DUMBARTON OAKS MEDIEVAL LIBRARY 78

Saints at the Limits: Seven Byzantine Popular Legends

Edited and translated by Stratis Papaioannou

The legends collected in *Saints at the Limits*, despite sometimes being viewed with suspicion by the Church, fascinated Christians during the Middle Ages—as related cults, retellings, and contemporary translations attest. Their protagonists travel to exotic lands, perform outlandish miracles, suffer extraordinary violence, destroy absolute rulers, and discover the divine. Some saints, like Markos the Athenian, are forgotten nowadays; others, like Saint George the Great Martyr, still command wide appeal. These stories, edited in Greek and translated into English here for the first time, continue to resonate with readers seeking to understand universal fears and desires in their Byzantine guise.

DUMBARTON OAKS MEDIEVAL LIBRARY 79 AND 80

Jewel of the Soul, Volumes 1 and 2

By Honorius Augustodunensis, edited and translated by Zachary Thomas and Gerhard Eger

Honorius Augustodunensis's *Jewel of the Soul* (the *Gemma animae*) gleams as one of the most attractive liturgical commentaries from the twelfth century. His flowing and comprehensive commentary gained widespread influence in Western Christendom and was an important source for later liturgical treatises. For the modern scholar this work remains key to understanding the medieval allegorical approach to worship and provides valuable

documentation about how these offices were celebrated in the twelfth century. These volumes offer the first complete translation into a modern language of this foundational Latin text on Christian liturgy.

DUMBARTON OAKS MEDIEVAL LIBRARY 81

*Medical Writings from Early Medieval England,
Volume 1: The Old English Herbal, Lacnunga,
and Other Texts*

Edited and translated by John D. Niles and Maria A.
D'Aronco

Vernacular writings on healing had a major place in early medieval England. These texts—unique local remedies and translations of Late Antique Latin treatises—offer insights into the history of science and medicine, social history, scribal practices, and culture. Alongside recipes for everyday ailments are unparalleled procedures for preventing infant mortality, restoring lost cattle, or remedying the effects of flying venom. *Medical Writings from Early Medieval England* presents the first comprehensive edition and translation of these works in over 150 years. Volume 1 includes *The Old English Herbal*, *Remedies from Animals*, *Lacnunga*, the *Peri Didaxeon*, and a compendium of miscellaneous texts.

Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library Editorial Boards
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Hannos tres conquis lanchel • Hercules hiet de aous
Et sus de philtres adoubé • Jax moy honn valiant dame
Jeu sou pure fame • Et de cirques valenture
Et enfens vsti • Pla ne conguetta que d'atol



Genie
MUSEUM

DANGER

Museum

An exciting year, in which the number of visitors to the museum went up to around twenty-eight thousand, had a hectic start with the coordination and installation of the outdoor art piece *Brier Patch*, a collaborative project led by the director's office. Backstage, the busy museum schedule continues. Efforts in collection photography (2,800 coins were documented), object conservation, preservation of the Main House (drapery-cleaning project), loans management, storage expansion, exhibition design and installations, outreach efforts, and others kept the museum staff engaged.

A group of talented people added their expertise to the museum team. Ivan Marić joined as postdoctoral fellow attached to the Coins and Seals Collection. Ivan has been leading Dumbarton Oaks' contribution to a collaborative project with Numismatic Collection at Princeton University, the American Numismatic Society, and the Ashmolean Museum to create standards and vocabulary for the online cataloguing of Byzantine coins.

In collaboration with other institutions like the Institut national du patrimoine of France and Yale Divinity School, the museum continued its strong tradition of mentoring young professionals by hosting two trainees, Fiona Lüddecke (February–March 2023) and J. R. Hane (June–July 2023), who—alongside postgraduate curatorial fellow Lizzie McCord and humanities fellow Idabelle Paterson—assisted different museum projects.

Conservator with Caring for Textiles surface cleans the fifteenth-century tapestry *Woman in Court Dress* (HC.T.1912.03.[T]) on display in the Music Room as part of our preventative conservation program. Photograph courtesy of Caring for Textiles.

This year the museum established a collaboration with two institutions from the DC area. An interest in the museum's Pre-Columbian Khipu collection from scientists of the National Institute of Standards and Technology resulted in an exhibition project to be installed at their museum, while a long-standing professional relationship with colleagues from the Smithsonian's Museum Conservation Institute resurfaced, providing the material analysis and data necessary for the first workshop and colloquium organized by the museum, "Piece by Piece."

In May 2023, the museum hosted "Piece by Piece: Mosaic Artifacts in Byzantium and the Ancient Americas," which drew together art historians, archaeologists, anthropologists, curators, conservators, and scientists to consider the production, use, and meaning of mosaic artifacts across the fields so well represented at Dumbarton Oaks. The event combined object sessions with Byzantine and Pre-Columbian artworks with two mornings of presentations by emerging and leading scholars in these fields.

2023 also marked the formal creation of a fourth part of the museum, the Coins and Seals Collection, to more accurately reflect the museum's structure and holdings.

Exhibitions at Dumbarton Oaks

Lasting Impressions: People, Power, Piety

November 23, 2021–December 4, 2022

Curated by **Jonathan Shea**, Curator of Coins and Seals

Throughout Byzantium's long history, its people used lead seals to guard and authenticate documents and objects. The designs and inscriptions pressed into seals were personalized by their owners to present information about their status, position, piety, and family. They are decorated with a great variety of religious and secular imagery and intricate inscriptions, all chosen by the individuals who owned them for very personal reasons. Each seal is a testament to someone living in the Byzantine Empire, and no other single source provides so much information about such a broad range of individual



Coins and Seals photography project.

Byzantines. This exhibition explores individual stories and family histories, the concept of status, developments in popular piety, and the inner workings of the state as shown through the intricate impressions on seals.

A Beautiful Dichotomy: Contrasting Pre-Columbian Peruvian Ceramics

April 2, 2022–March 12, 2023

Curated by **Juan Antonio Murro**, Chief Curator

“I have practically no Peruvian ceramics, an expression of the work of pre-Columbian artists which I have avoided for fear I should have to build a separate house should I begin to amass examples of that particular expression of art.”—Robert Woods Bliss, February 10, 1959

Inspired by this statement, the Dumbarton Oaks Museum presents a selection of Peruvian Pre-Columbian art from the Susan A. Safer Collection. This collection is a promised gift that will not only enhance the museum holdings but will belatedly fulfill Robert Bliss’s desire to acquire the finest examples

of ceramics from Peru. This exhibit celebrates the achievements of the Andean people, of the Pre-Columbian artists who produced the objects that enchanted Mrs. Safer and Mr. Bliss and that demonstrate their mastery, genius, and creativity. We celebrate their diversity and the different ways they had to represent the same ideas.

Clothing for the Afterlife

January 24–July 5, 2023

Curated by **Juan Antonio Murro**, Chief Curator

Sumptuous attire of the ancient Andes offers a glimpse into the cultures' elite lifestyles and their perceptions of the afterlife. A selection of Peruvian Pre-Columbian textiles and feather works from the Bliss Collection.

Garden and Nature in the Medieval World

February–July 2023

Curated by **Elizabeth Dospěl Williams**, Curator, Byzantine Collection; **Rong Huang**, Harvard University; **Nikos Kontogiannis**, Director of Byzantine Studies; and **Anatole Tchikine**, Curator of Rare Books, with assistance from **Lizzie McCord**, Curatorial Fellow

Contributions from **Micah Budway**, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Harvard University; **Stephanie Caruso**, Giorgi Family Foundation Curatorial Fellow, Art Institute of Chicago; **Noa Corcoran-Tadd**, Pre-Columbian Studies Librarian; **Juan Antonio Murro**, Chief Curator; and **Frauke Sachse**, Director of Pre-Columbian Studies.

This exhibition presents snapshots of medieval gardens in a global comparative framework, drawing attention to the varied expressions of garden culture in the research areas represented at Dumbarton Oaks. In addition, this exhibit includes selected objects from the museum galleries that depict medieval peoples' relationship to gardens and nature through their art.



Installing the exhibition *Contemporaries: Twentieth-Century Painting at Dumbarton Oaks*, May 2023.

Contemporaries: Twentieth-Century Painting at Dumbarton Oaks

May 9–December 3, 2023

Curated by **Samuel Shapiro**, Princeton University

The exhibition provides a cross-sectional view of the House Collection through a chronological lens in order to illustrate how objects from across the collection relate to one another, how the narratives of twentieth-century art contained within the collection diverge from canonical art-historical narratives, and how the Blisses turned to contemporary artists to articulate the history through which they were living.

Standardizing an Empire

Curated by **Idabelle Paterson**, Humanities Fellow, and **Juan Antonio Murro**, Chief Curator (supervisor)

A Khipu exhibition created and delivered to be produced and installed at the museum of the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

Museum Staff Research and Outreach

Study Visits

BZ Class Study Visits

Fall 2022

Anton Fedeshin, American University; **Konstantina Karterouli**, Georgetown University; **Joseph Kopta**, Temple University; **Sarah McNamer**, Georgetown University; **Eiren Shea**, Grinnell College; and **Warren Woodfin**, Queens College, CUNY

Spring 2023

Cynthia Hahn, CUNY; **Ioli Kalavrezou**, Harvard University; **Joseph Kopta**, Temple University; and **Marcia Kupfer**, New York University

BZ Object Study Visits

Fall 2022

Eric Boudot, independent scholar; **Paroma Chatterjee**, University of Michigan; **Elisabetta Scirocco**, Bibliotheca Herziana; and **Ayumi Yasui**, Kanazawa College of Art

Spring 2023

Ivan Drpić, University of Pennsylvania; **Hallie Meredith**, Washington State University; **Alex Nagel**, Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History; and **Matt Westerby**, Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts

Coins and Seals Class Visits

Fall 2022

District of Columbia Public Schools; **Brad Hostetler**, Kenyon College; **Lynn Jones**, Florida State University; **Dimitri Korobeinikov**, University at Albany, SUNY; and **Sarah McNamer**, Georgetown University

Spring 2023

Ioli Kalavrezou, Harvard University

Coins and Seals Object Study Visits

Fall 2022

Zhenya Zhekova, University of Shumen

Spring 2023

Dimitri Korobeinikov, University at Albany, SUNY

PC Class Visits

Fall 2022

Thomas B. F. Cummins, Harvard University

Spring 2023

Thomas B. F. Cummins, Harvard University; the National Museum of the American Indian conservation team; and Pre-Columbian fellows, Dumbarton Oaks

PC Objects Study Visits

Fall 2022

Allison Caplan, University of California, Santa Barbara; **Christopher Donnan**, independent scholar; **inti figgis-vizueta**, Musician in Residence; **Mack FitzPatrick**, Harvard University; **Andrew Hamilton**, Art Institute of Chicago; and **Marcos Reyes** and **Natascha Castro**, National Institute of Standards and Technology

Spring 2023

Nicholas E. Brown, Yale University; **Davide Domenici**, University of Bologna; **Emily Kaplan**, National Museum of the American Indian; **Eric Mazariegos Jr.**, Columbia University; **Hillary Olcott**, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco; **Samuel Shapiro**, Princeton University; and **Jeff Splitstoser**, George Washington University



E. Keats Webb, an imaging scientist at the Smithsonian's Museum Conservation Institute (MCI), photographing the micromosaic Icon of St. John Chrysostom (BZ.1954.2) in the MCI lab where it underwent extensive material analysis.

Museum Colloquium

Piece by Piece: Micromosaic Artifacts in Byzantium and the Ancient Americas

May 18–19, 2023

Co-organized by **Ivan Drpić**, University of Pennsylvania;
Elizabeth Dospěl Williams, Curator, Byzantine Collection;
and **John Lansdowne**, Harvard University

Museum Study Days and Workshops

Graduate Study Day

September 23, 2022

“Seals and Art,” in conjunction with the exhibition *Lasting Impressions: People, Power, Piety*

Curatorial Workshop for Early Career Fellows

December 2022 and March 2023

“Exhibition Making”

Museum Public Lecture

September 23, 2022

John Cotsonis, Hellenic College Holy Cross, “The Image of the Mother of God on Byzantine Lead Seals: Ubiquitous Presence/Rare Selection”

Public Talks

Museum staff hosted and introduced the collections to the community through tours and public talks. This year we catered our efforts to Dumbarton Oaks research fellows (including Mellon, humanities, plant humanities, cultural philanthropy, Tyler, and post-baccalaureate) as well as museum docents.

American Friends of the Louvre, Glenstone Museum fellows, the Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials (SALALM) conference, the Medieval Academy of America, the Hill Museum & Manuscript Library, Horizons Greater Washington, the International Society of Antique Scale Collectors, and the Hajji Baba Club were some of the groups outside the immediate Dumbarton Oaks community that also benefited from this.

Illustrious Visitors

This year the museum hosted notable visitors to the galleries like Claudine Gay (president of Harvard University), contemporary artists Rose Simpson, Santiago Montoya, and

Kapwani Kiwanga, Popol Vuh Museum director Estuardo Mata, and Puerto Rico's cultural officials Zoe Rodriguez and Maria Caragol.

Symposia, Conferences, and Workshop Papers

July 2022

Elizabeth Dospěl Williams, "Gender and Status in Rings from the Medieval Eastern Mediterranean," on the panel "The Rich Lives of Medieval Rings," International Medieval Congress, Leeds

August 2022

Elizabeth Dospěl Williams, "*L'Art byzantin* (1931) and the Politics of Exhibition Making," on the panel "Byzantium in the Interwar Years," International Congress of Byzantine Studies, Venice

October 2022

Juan Antonio Murro, "Written in Knots: What We Know Today about Khipu," National Institute of Standards and Technology

November 2022

Elizabeth Dospěl Williams, "At Home with Hestia: A Late Antique Furnishing Textile in Context," on the panel "Domestic Religion," supported by the Mary Jaharis Center for Byzantine Art and Culture, Byzantine Studies Conference, Los Angeles, CA

Ivan Marić, "Emperor Constantine V as Dragon-slayer Revisited," Byzantine Studies Conference, Los Angeles, CA

December 2022

Juan Antonio Murro, "Exhibition Making: A Personal View," Dumbarton Oaks



Participants in the workshop and museum colloquium “Piece by Piece: Mosaic Artifacts in Byzantium and the Ancient Americas” examine the Late Postclassic Maya mosaic mask (PC.B.557) held by Carla Galfano. The Middle Horizon Wari mosaic mirror (PC.B.432) is in a tray in the foreground.

February 2023

Elizabeth Dospěl Williams, “Curating Global Medieval Material Culture,” Medieval Academy of America Annual Meeting, Washington, DC

March 2023

Elizabeth Dospěl Williams, “Fragments and Wholes: The Mobility of Fabric between the Medieval Mediterranean

and Indian Ocean,” invited presentation, “Bringing the Holy Land Home: The Crusades, Chertsey Abbey, and the Reconstruction of a Medieval Masterpiece,” organized by the New England Medieval Consortium and in conjunction with the Cantor Gallery, College of the Holy Cross

April 2023

Elizabeth Dospěl Williams, “Medieval Objects and Sensory Experience in the Museum,” at the workshop “The Senses: Present Issues, Past Perspectives,” Congressi Stefano Franscini, Monte Verità, Switzerland

May 2023

Elizabeth Dospěl Williams, “Between the Local and the Global: The Mobility of Craft Production in the Early Medieval Eastern Mediterranean,” in working group “Portability in the Global Middle Ages,” University of St Andrews

Elizabeth Dospěl Williams, “New Critical Terms in Medieval Art History,” panel supported by the International Center for Medieval Art, International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI

Elizabeth Dospěl Williams, “Sculptural Threads: Materiality, Design, and the Viewer’s Imagination in Tapestry Weaves from Late Antique Egypt,” on the panel “Dynamic Decoration,” International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI

Jake Ransohoff and **Ivan Marić**, “Conversations Among Coins? Ideology, Iconography, and Institutional Memory in the Byzantine Monetary System,” International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI

Jonathan Shea, “Coins and Seals in Byzantium I,” panel organizer, International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI

Jonathan Shea, “Coins and Seals in Byzantium II,” panel organizer, International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI



Museum visit to the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

Publications

Patricia Blessing, Elizabeth Dospěl Williams, and Eiren Shea, *Medieval Textiles across Eurasia, c. 300-1400*, Cambridge Elements Series (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023)

Elizabeth Dospěl Williams, “Joseph Brummer and the Flourishing of Byzantine Art History,” in *The Brummer Galleries, Paris and New York: Defining Taste from Antiquities to the Avant-Garde*, ed. Yaëlle Biro, Christine E. Brennan, and Christel H. Force (Leiden: Brill, 2023), 235–64

Elizabeth Dospěl Williams, “The Mobility of Fabric: Textiles in and around Medieval Eurasia,” in *Bringing the Holy Land Home: The Crusades, Chertsey Abbey, and the Reconstruction of a Medieval Masterpiece*, ed. Amanda Luyster (London: Harvey Miller, 2023), 177–200

Elizabeth Dospěl Williams, “Equity, Access, and New Narratives for Byzantine Art in the Museum,” in *Towards a Critical Historiography of Byzantine Studies*, ed. Benjamin Anderson and Mirela Ivanova (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, forthcoming), 172–78

Loans, Gifts and Acquisitions

Incoming Loans

- Boulloterion (sealing device) from Harvard Art Museums to the exhibit *Lasting Impressions. People, Power, Piety* (November 19, 2021–December 4, 2022)
- Brier Patch* by Hugh Hayden from the Madison Square Park Conservancy for the eponymous exhibit (September 22, 2022–September 30, 2023)
- Fifteen Peruvian ceramics from Susan A. Safer to the exhibit *A Beautiful Dichotomy: Contrasting Pre-Columbian Peruvian Ceramics* (November 16, 2022–March 29, 2023)

Outgoing Loans

- Pectoral cross (BZ.1938.24), necklace with oval and trefoil links containing blue glass and large pendant with pearls and blue glass (BZ.1938.69.1 and .2), pair of earrings (BZ.1952.13.1-2), marriage ring (BZ.1953.12.3), ring with archangel holding a globus cruciger (BZ.1953.12.6), pendant cross with conical arms (BZ.1958.39), and marriage ring (BZ.1969.77) to the Art Institute of Chicago for use in their permanent exhibit (February 14–November 30, 2022)
- Bowl with hunting scene (BZ.1947.12) and phalera or harness pendant (BZ.1952.9) to the Getty Villa, Los Angeles, CA, for the exhibit *Persia: Ancient Iran and the Classical World* (March 16–August 29, 2022)
- Seated female figurine (PC.B.194), anthropomorphic and phytomorphic whistle (PC.B.559), bowl with anthropomorphic cacao trees (PC.B.208), and pair of carved ornaments (PC.B.567) for the exhibit *Lives of the Gods: Divinity in Maya Art* at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (November 14, 2022–April 2, 2023) and the Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, TX (May 7–September 3, 2023)
- Seventeen objects from the Byzantine Collection and Coins and Seals Collection to the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Art Gallery, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA, for the exhibit *Bringing the Holy Land Home: The Crusades, Chertsey Abbey, and the Reconstruction of a Medieval Masterpiece* (January 26–April 6, 2023)

Drinking bowl with Greek inscription (BZ.1938.22) and ewer (BZ.1938.81) to Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens, Washington, DC, for the exhibit *Glass: Art. Beauty. Design* (June 10, 2023–January 14, 2024)

Purchases

Coins

- BZC.2022.004 4 Nummi, Vandal, Carthage (480–533)
BZC.2022.005 Follis of Constantine I, Constantinople (327–328)
BZC.2023.001 Third siliqua of Constantine I, Constantinople (330)
BZC.2023.002 Siliqua of Constantine I, Rome (July–August 326)
BZC.2023.003 Siliqua of Constantine I, Constantinople (328)
BZC.2023.004 Light Miliarensis of Constantine I, Nicomedia (327)
BZC.2023.005 Commemorative Series, Constantinople (330)
BZC.2023.006 Commemorative Series, Constantinople (330)
BZC.2023.007 Commemorative Series, Constantinople (330)
BZC.2023.008 Commemorative third siliqua, Constantinople (330)
BZC.2023.009 Follis of Constantine I, Treveri (July 326)
BZC.2023.010 Follis of Constantine II as caesar, Treveri (July 326)
BZC.2023.011 Follis of Constantius II as caesar, Treveri (July 326)
BZC.2023.012 Follis of Crispus as caesar, Cyzicus (February 326)
BZC.2023.013 Follis of Constantine I, Rome (ca. 320)
BZC.2023.014 Follis of Constantine I, Rome (ca. 320)
BZC.2023.015 Festival of Isis commemorative series, Rome (321)
BZC.2023.016 Nummus of Constantine II as caesar, Constantinople (327–328)



Participants in the micromosaics workshop.

Seals

BZS.2022.008 Seal of Romanos, bishop of Telmoupharan
(eleventh century)

BZS.2022.009 Seal of Basil, protospatharios (eleventh
century)

BZS.2022.010 Seal of Nikephoros, patriarch of Antioch and
the whole East (1079–ca. 1091)

BZS.2022.011 Seal of Pope Martin IV (1281–1285)

- BZS.2022.012 Seal of Pope Eugenius IV (1431–1447)
- BZS.2022.013 Seal of Theophanes, primikerios, imperial protospatharios, and protovestiarios of the Christ-loving emperor (934–941)
- BZS.2022.014 Seal of Thedora, basilissa and porphyrotentos (1042–1056)
- BZS.2022.015 Seal of Kourselios Phrangos, vestes (1070–1072)
- BZS.2022.016 Seal of George (eleventh century, middle)
- BZS.2022.017 Seal of Michael Bourtzes, kouropalates and strategos of the Anatolikon (eleventh century, second half)
- BZS.2023.001 Seal of Basil, imperial protospatharios and genikos logothetes (ninth/tenth century)



Gardens and Grounds

While still immersed in the splendor of last year's grand centennial garden celebrations, our focus shifted this year to ensuring the seamless continuation of gardens operations amid significant challenges posed by numerous capital improvement projects across the Dumbarton Oaks campus. Among these projects, the Greenhouse renovation mentioned in last year's annual report has had the most profound impact on the gardens by reducing garden access and eliminating growing environments for tropical specimens and plants in production for the gardens. However, we eagerly anticipate the completion of this project, which will result in an enhanced Greenhouse with expanded bench space and state-of-the-art environmental controls. These improvements will enable our dedicated gardeners to cultivate a greater quantity and quality of plants for our beloved gardens.

Despite the absence of a functional Greenhouse, we have undertaken remarkable preservation and restoration projects over the past year. One of the most exciting endeavors involved preservation work carried out on a cherished *Katsura japonica*—an ancient tree dating back to approximately 1890 and believed to be among the oldest of its kind in North America. Collaborating with Professor Ron Henderson, graduate student Hans Friedl, and Japanese master gardener Kurato Fujimoto from Kenrokuen Garden in Kanazawa, Japan, we constructed traditional supports (*hoozue*) to sustain the tree's numerous lateral branches that have been naturally reducing for several years. This technique is

(From left to right) Donnie Mehlman, Walter Howell, Rigoberto Castellon (crew leader), and Jonathan Kavalier celebrate Donnie and Walter's retirements.

Some photographs of works in the gardens.



Gardeners with Kurato Fujimoto after installing tree supports.



Katsura tree after hoozue installation.



Pebble Garden Arbor braced for construction.



New Pebble Garden Arbor.



Newly reproduced Beatrix Farrand-designed furniture returns to the gardens.

widely employed in Japan to preserve the branches and lifespans of venerable trees, some reaching over two thousand years old. We organized a lecture on this practice for our staff and fellows, and the entire process was documented by podcaster Doug Still for an episode of his delightful podcast, “This Old Tree.”

Another notable restoration project involved rebuilding the arbor at the Pebble Garden. Preservation carpenter Dan Rudie skillfully reconstructed the entire arbor using *Thuja plicata* wood, ensuring the protection of the mature wisteria vine that gracefully drapes across its roof. Moreover, unseen enhancements were incorporated to fortify the arbor’s structural integrity while maintaining its original design. Additionally, we successfully reconstructed over forty original pieces of Farrand-designed furniture, representing nineteen distinctive designs.

Unfortunately, unforeseen challenges are inherent in tending to century-old gardens. One such incident occurred this spring when the swimming pool unexpectedly emptied itself, revealing the collapse of a 100-year-old main drain line. We are currently undertaking the task of replacing the pipe, which involves excavating through the pool’s base and trenching

approximately 150 feet through the Pebble Garden to reach the pool's mechanical room. Undoubtedly, this inconvenience affects our staff, fellowship community, and gardens visitors, regrettably resulting in the cancellation of the swimming season this summer for staff and fellows.

In September, we celebrated the retirements of two remarkable individuals who have dedicated much of their professional lives to Dumbarton Oaks. Long-time gardener Donnie Mehlman retired after thirty-six years of distinctive service, and Walter Howell bid farewell to his position as crew leader after thirteen years of commitment across several garden areas.

This spring, we have witnessed an unprecedented surge in gardens visitation, accompanied by an increase in observed damage throughout the gardens. We are actively working to comprehend this phenomenon better and develop plans for a visitor experience that provides the intimacy the Blisses desired while safeguarding the integrity of our cherished gardens.



Music at Dumbarton Oaks

With the first full season since the pandemic, Music at Dumbarton Oaks' 2022–2023 concerts were warmly embraced by appreciative audiences. Our numbers were consistently high, with new subscribers and robust individual ticket sales. Opening the season, the distinguished Manasse/Nakamatsu Duo—Jon Manasse, clarinet, and Jon Nakamatsu, piano—performed *Five Bagatelles for Clarinet and Piano* by Gerald Finzi and the two sonatas for clarinet and piano by Johannes Brahms, op. 120. Jon Nakamatsu performed Frédéric Chopin's *Fantaisie in F Minor*, op. 49.

The young Danish trio Dreamers' Circus delivered a highly charged, enthusiastically received evening of original compositions, combining influences from Scandinavian folk music with elements of classical music and other traditions from around the world. Instrumentation comprised piano, accordion, and synthesizers (Nikolaj Busk); violin and guitar (Rune Tonsgaard Sørensen); and cittern, kannel, and violin (Ale Carr). The works were introduced from the stage by the performers.

Italian-born pianist Rodolfo Leone turned in a varied program of works by Ludwig van Beethoven (*Sonata in E Major*, op. 109); Chopin (*Polonaise-Fantasy in A-flat Major*, op. 61); Claude Debussy (*Images: Books 1 and 2*); and Igor Stravinsky's virtuoso *Trois mouvements de Petrouchka*.

Our holiday concert, "A Midwinter Feast," featured ModernMedieval Voices, a trio of female singers (Jacqueline Horner-Kwiatek, Martha Cluver, and Chloe Holgate), in a program of English medieval and Renaissance carols as well as a newly composed work written



Andrew Rosenblum and Seth Parker Woods.

especially for the program by British composer Andrew Lovett. His song “Winter Wakeneth” is a setting of an anonymous poem from the fourteenth century.

Pianist Zhu Wang, winner of the 2020 Young Concert Artists International Auditions, gave the first concert of the new year. He played three nineteenth-century works: Beethoven’s Piano Sonata no. 16, op. 31, no. 1; Robert Schumann’s *Humoresque* in B-flat Major, op. 20; and *Réminiscences de Norma*, Franz Liszt’s impressive transcription of music from the Bellini opera.

The brilliant cellist Seth Parker Woods opened a thoughtfully varied program with “Calvary Ostinato” from *Lamentations: Black Folk Song Suite* for solo cello by Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson. Joining forces with pianist Andrew Rosenblum, he played Rachmaninoff’s Sonata in G Minor, op. 19. Rosenblum took a turn as soloist with *Andante* from the Piano Sonata in E Minor by Florence Price, and together the two artists rounded out the evening with Robert Schumann’s *Fantasiestücke*, op. 73 and George Walker’s Cello Sonata (1957).

Early music filled the air with “On the Breath of Angels,” featuring cornetto virtuoso Bruce Dickey and Czech soprano



The Breathtaking Collective with Hana Blažíková (second from right) and Bruce Dickey (far right).

Hana Blažíková, supported by The Breathtaking Collective: Tekla Cunningham and Chloe Myers, baroque violin; Joanna Blendulf, viola da gamba; Michael Sponseller, harpsichord and organ; and Brandon Acker, theorbo. Composers from the sixteenth through twentieth centuries were represented, including a commissioned work for the ensemble by London-born Ivan Moody.

The final concert of the season, called “Shaping the Future,” offered contemporary works by American and European composers. Harpist Lavinia Meijer and violist Nadia Sirota performed music by Philip Glass, Nico Muhly, Caroline Shaw, Marcos Balter, Ellen Reid, Ellis Ludwig-Leone, and Lavinia Meijer.

Performances

September 18 and 19, 2022

Manasse/Nakamatsu Duo



Nadia Sirota and Lavinia Meijer.

October 2 and 3, 2022

Dreamers' Circus

November 13 and 14, 2022

Rodolfo Leone

December 11 and 12, 2022

ModernMedieval Voices

January 22 and 23, 2023

Zhu Wang

February 12 and 13, 2023

Seth Parker Woods with Andrew Rosenblum

March 12 and 13, 2023

“On the Breath of Angels”

April 2 and 3, 2023

Lavinia Meijer and Nadia Sirota



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†Regrettably, Susan Boyd passed away in May 2022

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