

Jan Ziolkowski



A Renaissance for Medieval Classics

FOR NEARLY 70 years, Harvard's scholarly outpost at Dumbarton Oaks, in Washington, D.C., has housed one of the world's greatest collections of material relating to Byzantine studies, while also providing an academic home for some of the field's foremost scholars (see "Home of the Humanities," May-June 2008, page 48). As of this fall, after more than a decade of planning, it will also give its name to a new series of medieval texts published by Harvard University Press (HUP)—making a bit of Dumbarton Oaks more accessible in Cambridge (and everywhere else) than ever before.

The Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library (DOML) is modeled on the 512-volume (and growing) Loeb Classical Library, whose distinctive, tidy green and red hardcover editions of Greek and Latin texts with facing-page translations have become an informal emblem of classical studies during the past century (see "Renewal of a Classic," September-October 1993, page 48). The new venture began in the late 1990s with Porter professor of medieval Latin Jan Ziolkowski's wish for a similar public face for medieval literature. Now general editor of DOML, Ziolkowski recalls that there "wasn't

really anything that could serve the same functions as the Loeb for the medieval period, and that was a frustration for me as I thought about trying to communicate my field to a wider public." The project incubated until Ziolkowski was appointed director of Dumbarton Oaks in the summer of 2007, when he began to discuss the process of bringing it into existence with HUP.

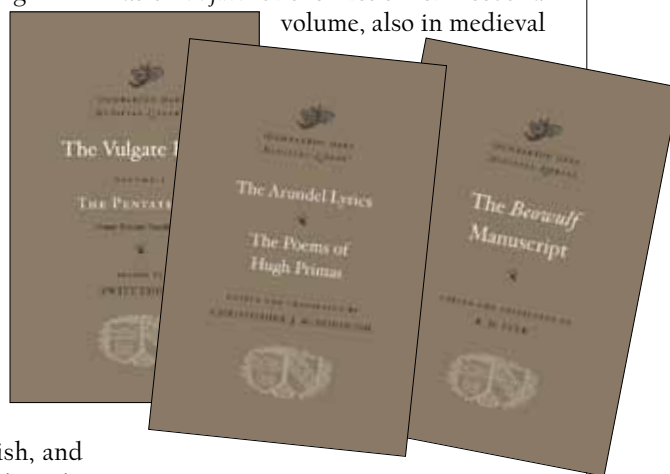
Sharmila Sen, general editor for the humanities at HUP, oversees DOML (www.hup.harvard.edu/collection.php?cpk-1320) as well as its predecessors and companions, the Loeb Classical Library and I Tatti Renaissance Library (see "Rereading the Renaissance," March-April 2006, page 34). "There is a thousand-year gap between Loeb and I Tatti, so DOML performs a much-needed function of making those missing years come alive," she says. "We benefit a lot from having learned how to publish the Loeb's and I Tatti, and we hope that we can take those lessons and use them to help this new series grow." Yet "every period is very different," she explains: "The world of Renaissance Latin requires very different things than the world of classical Greek and Latin, and this is equally true of Dumbarton Oaks: the field of medieval studies has its own contingencies, its own challenges. You cannot blindly follow the Loeb model."

For one thing, unlike the Loeb series, which covers only classical Greek and Latin, DOML will publish texts in medieval Latin, Byzantine Greek, and Old English, and expand, potentially, to works written in other medieval vernacular languages. Because scholars with equal expertise in all these languages are rare, the series has separate editorial committees (headed by professor of English Daniel Donoghue for Old English; Danuta Shanzer, professor of classics and medieval studies at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, for medieval Latin; and historian Alice-Mary Talbot '60, former director of Byzantine studies at Dumbarton Oaks, for Byzantine Greek). Furthermore, the form of the languages themselves is less standardized, and DOML will expose a lesser-known part of the history of each. "On the value-added principle, I've been trying to have us work with texts where we

can keep a medieval spelling," Ziolkowski explains. "It's going to throw people who are trained in classical Latin, to get some of the spellings that we've got, I feel no doubt about that; however, they'll have the English alongside to help them get accustomed to it, so I hope the novelty will excite people rather than deter them."

But Ziolkowski also hopes the series will appeal more broadly, serving both the lay reader and the specialist. "You have to appeal to a wide audience, but also satisfy the erudite people," he explains. This approach has also informed the selection of the texts for DOML: "I've been trying to strike a balance between something that people will have heard of before, and then some texts that are quite offbeat."

Three titles will formally open the project. The Pentateuch of Saint Jerome's Latin translation of the Bible—the first part of a projected five-volume edition of the complete Vulgate—is paired with the seventeenth-century Douay-Rheims translation *en face* for the first time. A second volume, also in medieval



Latin, presents two separate manuscripts of secular Latin poetry from the twelfth century: a collection known as the Arundel lyrics, which comprises love songs, Christmas poems, and ecclesiastic satires, as well as the work of a poet known as Hugh Primas—whom Ziolkowski compares to "a Beat Generation poet" in terms of the cultural position and effect of his work.

The third volume of the initial release, and the first in Old English, presents the full *Beowulf* manuscript: not just the eponymous poem, but also the four other works included in the single, centuries-old, manuscript that preserved the Anglo-Saxon epic into the modern era. "Dan Donoghue was amazingly adept at get-



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ting together an energetic board of people to put together the Old English volumes; they saw it as being of great benefit to the field...and he did a great job of enlisting Robert Fulk [professor of early English at Indiana University] to take care of the *Beowulf* manuscript, with extensive commentary," Ziolkowski says. "What's exciting is that, just a few years ago, the theory was advanced that maybe the *Beowulf* manuscript as a whole was a sort of anthology that had to do with monsters, and this new collection enables one to appraise certain ideas like that." DOML's first volume in Byzantine Greek will appear next spring: three collections of accounts of miracles, a distinctive genre of medieval Greek literature.

Like the Loeb and I Tatti Libraries,

DOML will have its own signature appearance. "One of the first things that anyone asks us, when we talk about the project, is 'What color?'" Sen says. "I Tatti has a very lovely light blue color scheme, and we decided to do something different: a kind of metallic light bronze. These are going to be jewel-like books." The three series' complementary visual appearance is far from accidental, underlining their shared vision of producing accessible, high-quality editions of important literature in their original languages. Sen hopes the three collections, together with the forthcoming Hackmey Hebrew Classical Library and Murty Classical Library of India, will present an unparalleled set of tools for "a whole new generation of scholars who might be

able to do a completely new type of research," explaining, "I don't think there's any other publisher in the world right now who can present such an extensive and exhaustive list of classical titles across these languages."

Ziolkowski agrees. "Every morning I walk past the inscription from the bequest [for Dumbarton Oaks], which says, 'The Dumbarton Oaks Research Library has been assembled...that the continuity of scholarship in the Byzantine and medieval humanities may remain unbroken,'" he says. He hopes that the DOML will continue the spirit of that gift: "I want the series to be here forever," he explains, laughing. "I would love to dream that it would grow into the sort of series the Loeb has become." ~SPENCER LENFIELD

UNDERGRADUATE

Walking a Mile in My Own Shoes

by SARAH ZHANG '11

BLACK, CLOSED-TOE, not too shiny, enough of a heel to announce her arrival—this is the kind of shoe I imagine on successful women. Two days before the Harvard-Radcliffe Women's Leadership Conference (WLC) in August, I found myself in dire need of such shoes. The sneakers that had protected my feet from lab chemicals during the rest of summer certainly would not do. A hasty shopping trip ensued, and I strode into the conference with two extra inches of height. By lunchtime of day one, however, a blister was already asserting itself, and I was hobbling in a manner that was neither lady- nor leader-like.

My feet were telling me what I had suspected, that maybe this conference on women in leadership wasn't quite the right place for me. WLC brings together 30 female undergraduates for six days of panels, discussions, and workshops on planning our future personal and professional lives. I had applied on blind faith in a friend's recommendation, even though I was personally ambivalent about female-only undertakings. By drawing these cir-

cles around women, aren't we further isolating ourselves from the men with whom we have to compete?

At a pre-conference meeting in the spring, we each received a packet of readings for discussion that included an essay by Joanne Lipman, founding editor of *Portfolio* magazine. "When I was in college in the 1980s," she writes, "many of us looked derisively at the women's liberation movement. That was something that strident, humorless, shrill women had done before us. We were sure we were beyond it. We were post-feminists. After all, we lived equally with men." And here I was in college in the 2010s, still wanting to be post-feminist, and largely indifferent toward women's movements.

Or was I? On second thought, I have been involved in a number of women's organizations. I had joined Women in Business freshman year (which is also when I first encountered difficulty in finding good dress shoes). When my interest in business waned and I turned to science, I signed up for the Radcliffe Mentor Program and the Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics men-

toring program. But I never consciously chose to join women's organizations, and if equivalent ungendered organizations had existed, I probably would have joined those.

As a young woman in science, I have not personally experienced discrimination based on gender. But that is not to say my experience has been gender-neutral. Of the dozen courses I have taken toward my concentration in neurobiology, exactly two were taught by female professors, both of whom were co-teaching with male colleagues. The neurobiology concentration is 65 percent female. When I took physics, most students who showed up for help at office hours were female, even though the class itself was predominantly male. These statistics are more anecdotal than rigorous, but the fact that these observations have stayed with me suggests their subtle influence.

The conference reminded me how far we have come from a time when discouraging women was not at all subtle. Sandra Moose, Ph.D. '68, formerly senior vice president and director of the Boston Consulting Group, gave the keynote ad-