

# Cultural Heritage By the Numbers

This assignment focuses on the ways that the metadata obtainable from the Harvard Art Museum API can provide unique historical insights on exploring extinct culture with the focus on Byzantine

## The most and least viewed Byzantine items on the HAM website



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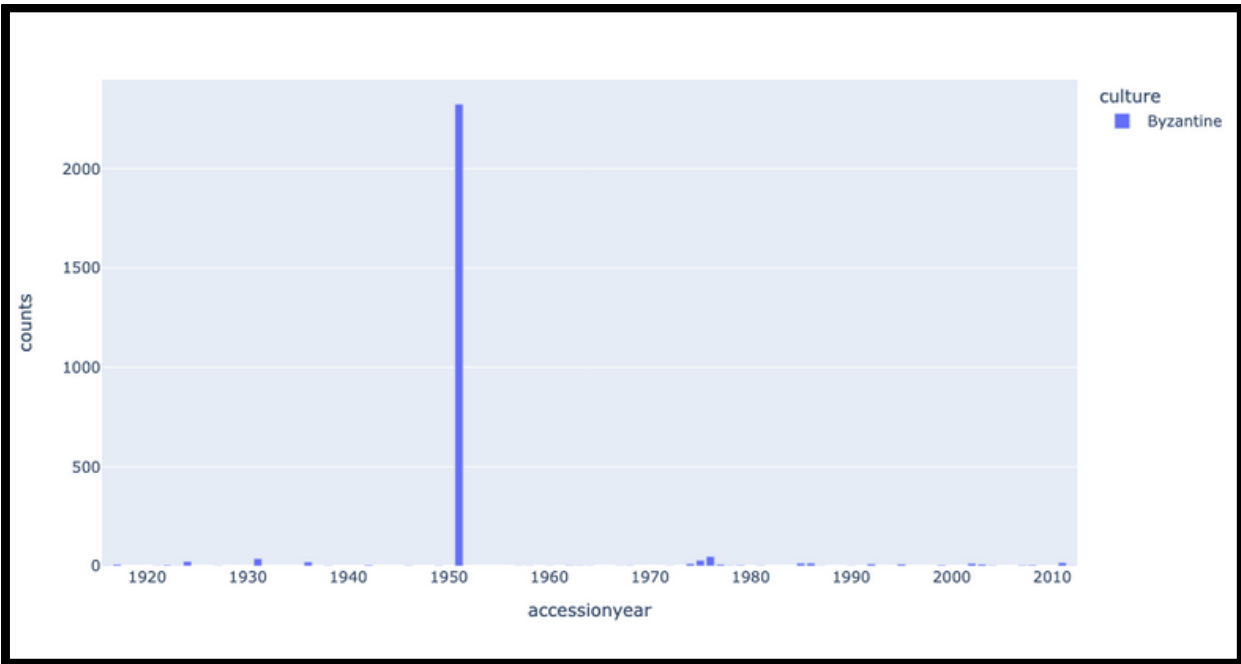
- Least Viewed Items: Primarily coins.
- Common Theme: Many coins relate to the same ruler, Constans II.
- Reason for Lower Popularity:
  - Perceived repetitiveness.
  - Lack of visual appeal compared to other items.
  - Limited storytelling elements.



Empress Bust Weight, Steelyard, and Collar with Chains

- Most Viewed Item: "Empress Bust Weight, Steelyard, and Collar with Chains."
- Appeal Factors:
  - Diversity and uniqueness in content.
  - Captivating storytelling and visual appeal.
- Audience Interest: Draws those intrigued by historical and religious themes.
- Popularity Reflection: Indicates the importance of variety and narrative in art's appeal.

## Acquisition of Byzantine works in HAM



Accession Year Time Series Bar Graph

Analyzed Byzantine items at HAM using accession year data and a time series bar chart.

- Surprising find: most art pieces acquired in the 1950s.
- Discovery: Thomas Whittemore founded the Byzantine Institute, an organization specialized in the study, restoration, and conservation of Byzantine art and architecture
- His sudden passing in 1950 resulted in the bequeathment of these pieces to Harvard Art Museums.