

Greenwich
Historical
Society

Explore our colorful past

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact Information:

Barbara Bishop, Marketing & Communications Director

BBishop@greenwichhistory.org

203-869-6899, Ext. 12

**Palladium Musicum and the Greenwich Historical Society to Present
“Historic Gardens and Their Creators” Symposium**

Cos Cob, CT, April 1, 2015--In partnership with the Greenwich Historical Society, Palladium Musicum, Inc. will offer a special symposium on historic Greenwich gardens and their creators as a contribution to the 375th Anniversary Celebration of the Founding of the Town of Greenwich. The symposium on May 7 will focus on two pioneering women landscape architects, Ellen Biddle Shipman (1869-1950) and Marian Cruger Coffin (1876-1957), who were both active in designing and developing the historic gardens of many of the great estates of Greenwich.

The substantial contributions of these women in shaping the formation of the field of landscape architecture in this country will be examined by two eminent experts: Judith B. Tankard, landscape historian and former lecturer, Landscape Institute at Harvard University, and author of *The Gardens of Ellen Biddle Shipman* (1997) and Mac Griswold, journalist and cultural landscape historian and author of *The Golden Age of American Gardens: Proud Owners, Private Estates, 1890-1940* (1991).

Selected commissions for Greenwich estate owners executed by both these female landscape architects will be discussed throughout the symposium. Marian Cruger Coffin was responsible for designing the original seaside garden for industrialist J. Kennedy Tod at his estate Innis Arden (now Greenwich Point), where the garden's original walls as well as other design elements still exist. The 26 Greenwich clients of Ellen Biddle Shipman included Mrs. Ormsby Mitchell (1929), Joseph Verner Reed (1938), J. Sterling Rockefeller (1938), Herbert L. Satterlee, “The Orchards” (c. 1925) and Henry William Croft, “Grahampton” (1917)--the last two commissions (and Coffin's J. Kennedy Tod commission) being included in *The Great Estates of Greenwich* (1986) book written by the Greenwich Junior League.

The program begins at 7:30 pm with a reception and refreshments and concludes with a book signing.

Greenwich Historical Society, Vanderbilt Education Center
39 Strickland Road, Cos Cob, CT 06807

May 7, 2015, 7:30 to 9:30 pm

Tickets are \$55

For reservations and information, please call Palladium Musicum, Inc.

(www.palladiummusicum.org) at 203-661-6856 or email apalladio@mac.com.



Photo: Image of the original Coffin seaside garden design for the J. Kennedy Tod Estate from an article, *House & Garden*, March, 1920