



# GARDEN CITINGS

CHEROKEE GARDEN LIBRARY

SPRING 2016 NEWSLETTER

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## JUDITH B. TANKARD COLLECTION: RENOWNED AMERICAN LANDSCAPE HISTORIAN AND AUTHOR DONATES EXTENSIVE COLLECTION

*By Staci Catron, Cherokee Garden Library Director*

Many will remember when Judith Tankard captivated a large audience at the Cherokee Garden Library in March of 2012 with her inspiring lecture regarding her widely praised book, *Gertrude Jekyll and the Country House Garden* (Aurum Press/Rizzoli, 2011). Tankard first visited the Cherokee Garden Library in 2003 when the Garden Library helped host the Southern Garden History Society Annual Meeting in Atlanta. On that first visit, she was impressed that the library held all of Gertrude Jekyll's books, some in multiple editions. Tankard pondered for several years where she might donate her significant collection of periodicals and papers. She loved the friendliness of the library and the breadth of its collections. The idea of having her papers under the same roof as those of such esteemed writers as Jim Cothran and Elizabeth Lawrence was very appealing.

In late summer of last year through February of this year, Judith Tankard generously donated a remarkable collection to the Cherokee Garden Library as she continued to sort through her vast collection in preparation for her family's move from a larger home to a smaller condo in Boston.

The Judith B. Tankard Collection includes an extensive collection of late nineteenth century to mid-twentieth century periodicals, including *American Homes & Gardens*, *Better Homes & Gardens*, *Cottage Gardening*, *Country Life in America*, *The Garden*, *Garden*

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### Judith Tankard, Distinguished Landscape Historian and Author

An independent scholar specializing in American and British garden history, Judith Tankard is a prolific author, popular lecturer, and preservation consultant.

Born and raised in New York, she holds a Bachelor of Arts in Art History from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and a Master of Arts in Art History from the Institute of Fine Arts of New York University.

Tankard taught at the Landscape Institute of Harvard University for over two decades. In 2000, she was awarded a Gold Medal by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society for her significant role in the advancement of historic New England gardens.

She gardens in the Boston area and on Martha's Vineyard. She and her husband, John, are passionate about visiting gardens around the world, and she occasionally leads small groups to visit beloved gardens in Britain.



Magazine, *The Gardener*, *Gardener's Chronicle*, *Gardener's Chronicle of America*, *Gardening Illustrated*, *House and Garden*, *House Beautiful*, *Ladies Home Journal*, and *Landscape Architecture Quarterly*. Tankard used these resources extensively in her research and study for her award-winning books.

For researchers at the Cherokee Garden Library, these periodicals provide infinite research opportunities to study architecture, interior design, and gardening trends in American and Britain from the 1890s to the 1950s. In addition to being outstanding resources to study, the illustrations and photographs within these publications are inspiring, and their covers are visually captivating.

### Scholarly Resources Included in the Collection

The Judith B. Tankard Collection also comprises extensive research files for popular courses Tankard taught at the Arnold Arboretum and the Radcliffe Seminars (later called the Landscape Institute) at Harvard University from 1988 to 2007. The range of fascinating topics includes "Great Gardens of Edwardian England" and "Arts and Crafts Gardens" to "Gardens of Gertrude Jekyll" and "Garden Design in Modern England."

Judith Tankard's collection at the Garden Library also holds her research files on women landscape architects, such as Marian Cruger Coffin, Rose Greely, and Florence Yoch.

Marian Coffin (1876-1957) was born and raised in New York City, designed over 50 significant estate gardens in the northeastern United States in the first half of the twentieth century, and is recognized for her elegant formal and naturalistic designs as well as her book, *Trees and Shrubs for Landscape Effects* (Charles Scribner's Sons, 1940). Her most important commission was Winterthur, the estate of Henry Francis du Pont, near Wilmington, Delaware.

Rose Greely (1887-1969), a native of Washington, D.C., became Washington's first female licensed architect in 1925. She designed more than 500 landscapes in her forty-year career with a focus on residential design integrating the house and garden.

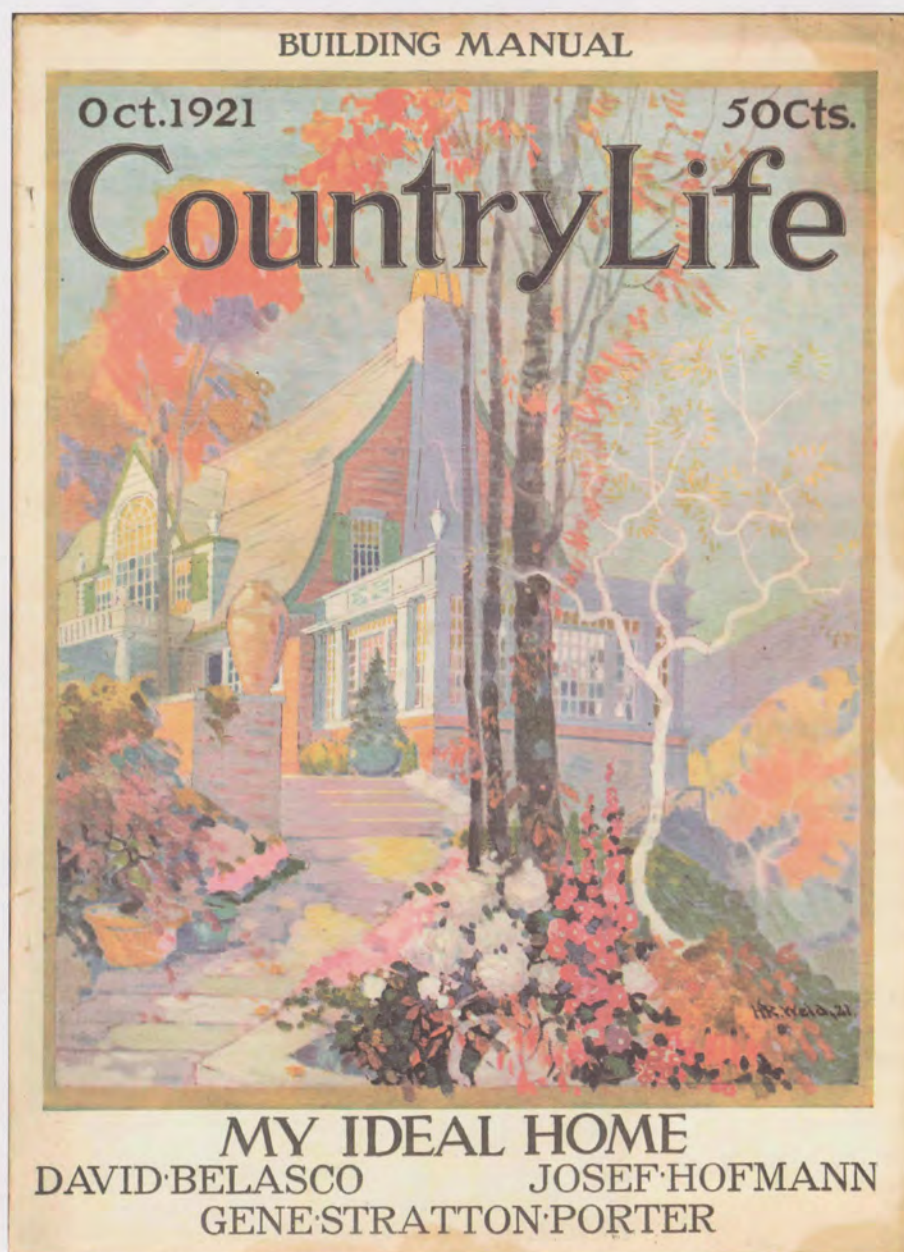
Californian Florence Yoch (1890-1972) began her practice in the field of landscape gardening in 1918. Her work, spanning over five decades, included more than 250 projects from campuses and parks to estates and a botanical garden. Prestigious commissions included the Mrs. Howard Huntington residence in Pasadena and the Wilshire Country Club in Los Angeles. Yoch also designed the Tara set for the film, "Gone with the Wind."

Tankard's collection also consists of articles, dissertations, and theses pertaining to American and British landscape design and landscape history, women landscape architects, and more.

### Distinguished Garden History Author

Tankard's works include nine books as well as numerous articles, book reviews, and scholarly papers. Her books have received many prestigious awards and have been supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Graham Foundation for Advanced Studies in the Fine Arts, and the Hubbard Educational Foundation.

Tankard's most recent book, co-authored with Martin Wood, is *Gertrude Jekyll at Munstead Wood* (Pimpernel Press, 2015), a revised edition with updated text and new photography of the classic work from 1996 (Sutton/Sagapress).



*Country Life*, October 1921, Judith B. Tankard Collection, Cherokee Garden Library, Kenan Research Center at the Atlanta History Center.



Gertrude Jekyll (1843-1942) was one of the most influential garden designers of the early twentieth century. She laid the basis for modern garden design and is credited with popularizing an informal, naturalistic look in counterpoint to the rigid, formal landscapes of the Victorian era. Taking as a basis Jekyll's own notebooks, photographs, and scrapbooks, Tankard and Wood masterfully portray the building and development of Munstead Wood, one of the most famous gardens in England. They also describe Jekyll's skills in the arts and as a businesswoman as well as her collaboration with architects, particularly Edwin Lutyens.

*House & Garden* (UK) magazine wrote: "The authors of this book have dexterously explored (Jekyll's) many interests and varied talents to give an intriguing insight into the world of this indomitable gardener, artist, and craftswoman."

Another significant work by Tankard, ***Beatrix Farrand: Private Gardens, Public Landscapes*** (The Monacelli Press/Random House, 2009), was named a 2010 Honor Book

by Historic New England. One of America's most celebrated landscape architects, Beatrix Farrand was famous for her private estate gardens, including the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden in Seal Harbor, Maine, and Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C., as well as her work as a landscape consultant for prestigious universities including Princeton and Yale. Farrand was the only founding woman member of the American Society of Landscape Architects in 1899. Tankard's book is highly regarded by critics. *Gardens Illustrated* magazine said, "This well written and deeply researched book ... will surely remain the standard work on Beatrix Farrand for years to come."

Tankard's articles and book reviews have been widely published in journals and magazines, including *Antiques*, *Arnoldia*, *Country Life*, *Horticulture*, *Hortus*, *Landscape Architecture*, and *Old-House Journal*, to name only some. For ten years, she served as editor of the *Journal of New England Garden History Society*. In her role as a preservation consultant, Tankard has created cultural landscape histories for the Garden Conservancy

and other organizations. Tankard is a popular lecturer in the United States and Britain, frequently speaking at conferences and symposia on topics related to her vast research in historic landscapes, female landscape designers, the Arts and Crafts Movement, and other related fields.

## Significant Expansion of the Garden Library Collection

The Cherokee Garden Library is privileged to have the **Judith B. Tankard Collection**, which substantially broadens its rare American and British periodical collections and research files pertaining to the subjects of landscape design and history in America and England in late nineteenth century through the twentieth century and American and British women landscape practitioners from the same periods. This fine collection will draw new researchers to the Cherokee Garden Library for years to come. The Cherokee Garden Library extends its deep gratitude to Judith Tankard for her generosity.

## Books by Judith Tankard in the Cherokee Garden Library Collection

Tankard's books are requested frequently by students, landscape architects, historians, and gardeners.

***Gertrude Jekyll at Munstead Wood***, co-authored with Martin Wood (Pimpernel Press, 2015), a revised edition with updated text and new photography of the classic work from 1996 (Sutton/Sagapress)

***Gertrude Jekyll and the Country House Garden: From the Archives of Country Life*** (Aurum Press/Rizzoli, 2011)

***Beatrix Farrand: Private Gardens, Public Landscapes*** (The Monacelli Press/Random House, 2009)

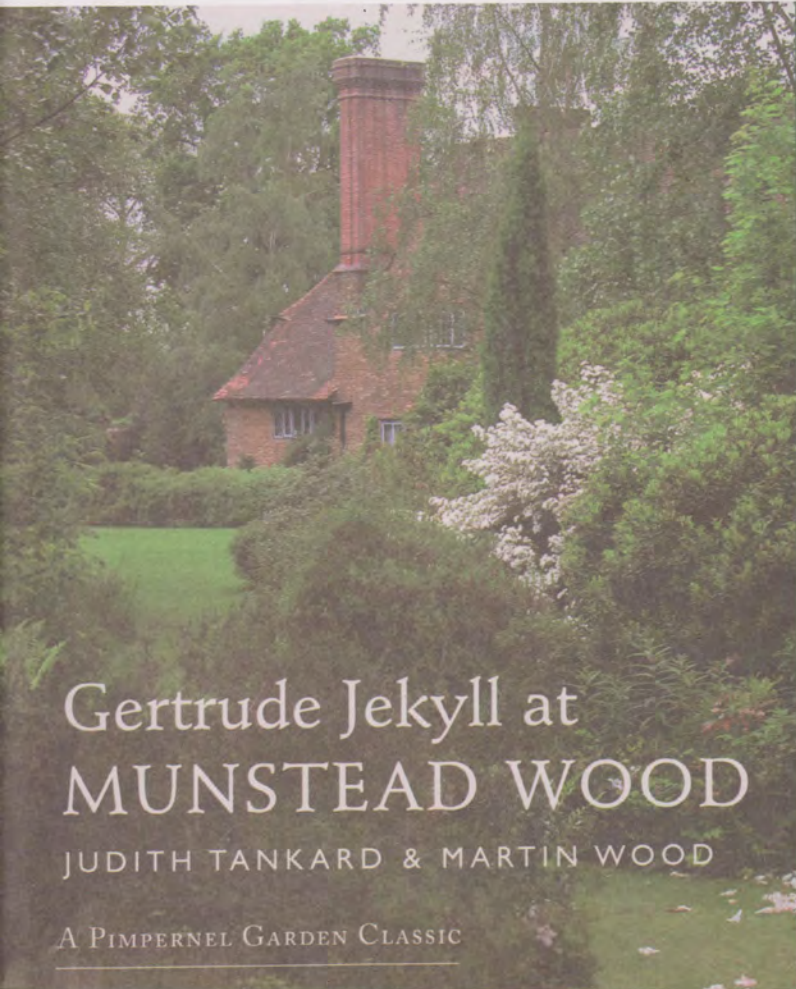
***A Legacy in Bloom: Celebrating a Century of Gardens at the Cummer*** (Cummer Museum, 2008)

***Gardens of the Arts and Crafts Movement: Reality and Imagination*** (Abrams, 2004)

***A Place of Beauty: The Artists and Gardens of the Cornish Colony***, co-author with Alma Gilbert (Ten Speed Press, 2000)

***The Gardens of Ellen Biddle Shipman*** (Sagapress/Abrams/Library of American Landscape History, 1996)

***Gertrude Jekyll: A Vision of Wood and Garden*** (Abrams/Sagapress, 1988)



# Gertrude Jekyll at MUNSTEAD WOOD

JUDITH TANKARD & MARTIN WOOD

A PIMPERNEL GARDEN CLASSIC