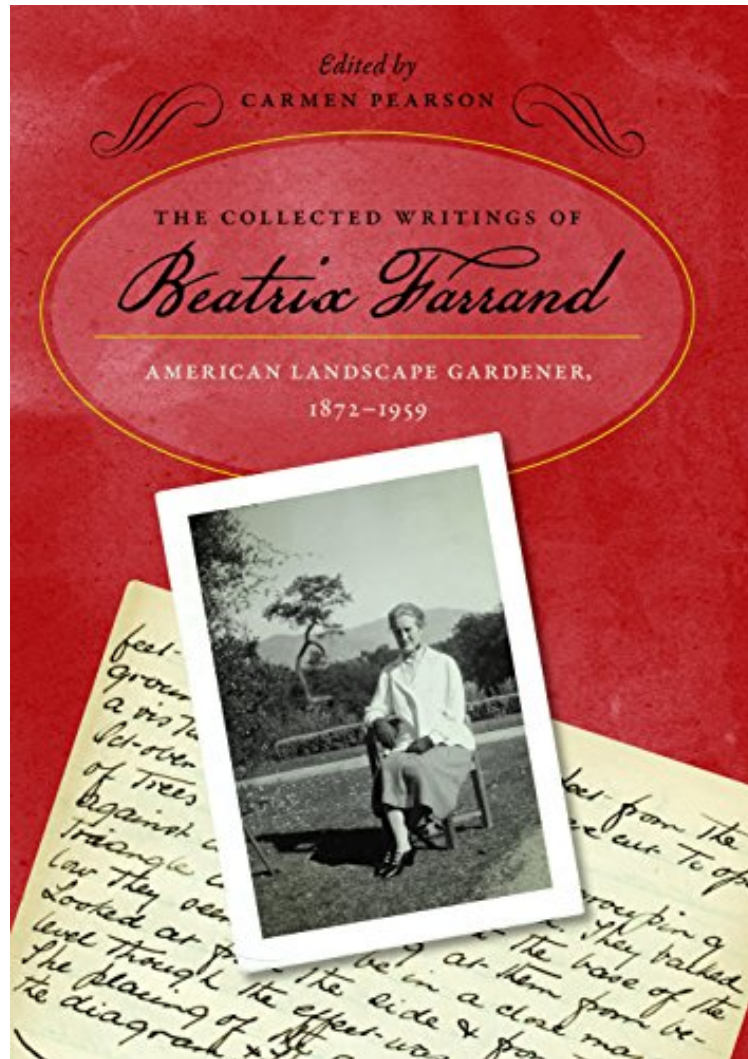


The Collected Writings of Beatrix Farrand: American Landscape Gardener, 1872-1959

Beatrix Farrand

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before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Collected Writings of Beatrix Farrand: American Landscape Gardener, 1872-1959:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Gardens of Delight By Saxon Henry Powerful things happen in a garden. Beyond the miracle of riotous color and the vibrancy of burgeoning life, momentous occurrences have transpired on the garden bench through the ages marriage proposals uttered, business alliances formed, treachery divulged, fatherhood revealed and affairs of the heart commenced (or terminated). As time telescopes into the past, the

arrangement of the floras encircling a person becomes increasingly formal. Consider that as recent as the 1800s, the costume a gentlewoman wore for afternoon tea in the garden conservatory or on the loggia was merely a simpler-cut gown sewn from a less sumptuous fabric than the one she would have donned for her evening activities. This is an era and societal stratum I've been studying for a while, the constraints of which Edith Wharton wrote about in novels like "The Age of Innocence" and "The House of Mirth." It wasn't until I began digging into Wharton's papers that I learned she had a niece who was a lauded landscape architect. Her name is Beatrix Farrand, and both women were such avid horticulturists, their letters to each other, which Wharton dubbed their garden talks, are filled with arch giddiness and downright despair over growing things. They so adored the mindboggling variety of plants they discussed in the decades-long correspondence, they anthropomorphized entire species of them. In June 1936, Farrand wrote to her aunt, "It amuses me to hear that Fulva has flowered well with you as she is usually a persnickety lady." And Wharton wrote to her niece of her gardens at her Villa Ste. Claire in the south of France, "Every day for the last week I have longed for you, for your beautiful irises are in their glory. You will remember that when you were here you were disappointed that they had not made a more vigorous growth, and I was depressed because I felt that I must in some way have hurt their feelings, and that they were going to be sulky about it. But their only grievance was the cold wet weather, and as soon as the sun came back they burst into vigorous growth, and for the last few days they have been a glorious spectacle. Farrand's collected writings hold unbounded beauty for all who love the garden." - See more at: <http://saxonhenry.com/beatrice-farrand-gardens-of-earthly-delight/#sthash.YrRWYdHc.dpuf>

Beatrix Jones Farrand (1872-1959) was among the first professional American women landscape gardeners. One of the founding eleven members of the American Society of Landscape Architects, Farrand believed in using native plant materials to connect the natural and designed landscape. Her papers are archived at the University of California, Berkeley, and Harvard's Arnold Arboretum. This volume offers a print version of most of her written work, which includes her gardening diary and a wide selection of essays. The volume also contains a bibliography of additional materials.

The compendium helps illuminate the inspiration behind some of the 20th century's most beautiful gardens. *Old House Journal*