

# Hill-Stead MUSEUM

## *Welcome to Hill-Stead*



**W**e are delighted to know that you are interested in learning more about Hill-Stead Museum, one of Connecticut's unique cultural treasures. Enclosed is material to help familiarize you with the outstanding art collection, 1901 Colonial Revival house, founding family—father a leading art collector, daughter an architect of note—sweeping, landscaped grounds, and the many lectures, programs and events that take place year-round.

We also invite you to browse our web site at [www.hillstead.org](http://www.hillstead.org). There, you can view Impressionist paintings and other works in the collection, explore the museum's diverse programming and browse our extensive calendar of activities.

Please read on to learn about the past, present and future of Hill-Stead.

Thank you for your interest!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cynthia Cagenello'.

Cynthia Cagenello  
Communications Manager

## *Welcome to Hill-Stead*



**A National Historic Landmark** and an Official Project of **Save America's Treasures**, Hill-Stead Museum in Farmington, Connecticut, is a stop on the **Connecticut Art Trail** and a member of **Connecticut's Historic Gardens**. The period rooms are open for tours Tuesday through Sunday, 11 am–4 pm, November through April, and 10 am–5 pm May through October. Grounds are open daily 7:30 am–5:30 pm. For tour and program information, call 860.677.4787 or browse [www.hillstead.org](http://www.hillstead.org).

Hill-Stead is noted for its 1901 33,000-square-foot house filled with art and antiques. Pioneering female architect **Theodate Pope Riddle** designed the Colonial Revival-style house, set on 152 hilltop acres, to showcase the **Impressionist masterpieces** amassed by her father, Cleveland iron industrialist Alfred A. Pope. Hill-Stead is one of the nation's few remaining representations of early-20th-century Country Place Estates. Collections include original furnishings, paintings by Claude Monet, Edgar Degas, Édouard Manet, James M. Whistler and Mary Cassatt, as well as numerous works on paper and Japanese woodblock prints. Stately trees, seasonal gardens, over three miles of stone walls and woodland trails for walks or cross-country skiing accent the grounds. A centerpiece of the property is the **c. 1920 sunken garden** designed by landscape architect **Beatrix Farrand**, today the site of the renowned Sunken Garden Poetry Festival.

# Hill-Stead MUSEUM

## FACT SHEET

**Mission:** Hill-Stead Museum, a National Historic Landmark, serves diverse audiences in Connecticut and beyond as a welcoming place for learning, reflection and enjoyment. The museum develops, preserves, documents, displays and interprets its exceptional Impressionist paintings, 1901 historic house and 152-acre landscape for the benefit of present and future generations.

**Hill-Stead is considered “perhaps the most significant Colonial Revival house in America.”** 1901 clapboard house painted white, designed by Theodate Pope Riddle (1867-1946) with McKim, Mead & White, 174 original shutters painted green, attached carriage barn and theater, total of 33,000 square feet. Of the 36 residential rooms, 19 are intact (1901-1946) and open for public tours.

Collections include **renowned French Impressionist paintings**—4 by **Monet**, 3 by **Degas**—and notable works by **Manet**, **Cassatt** and **Whistler**. Assembled by the Cleveland iron industrialist Alfred Atmore Pope, this extraordinary art collection remains *in situ*, the only surviving and intact Impressionist painting collection amassed by an American patron. The paintings and interiors constitute an ongoing **blockbuster exhibition** along with **152 hilltop acres** with **woodland trails, gardens, stone walls** and more.

Hill-Stead is the first significant project of **Theodate Pope Riddle** (1867-1946), 6th registered female architect in Connecticut, early proponent of historic preservation, social progressive and caretaker of the family art collection. Theodate broke into architecture at a time when the field was male-dominated.

**Collections** include prints and photographs, ceramics, furniture, books and archival documents. The property features a 150-person-capacity Arts and Crafts theater, stone garages, Sunken Garden designed c. 1920 by **Beatrix Farrand** (1871-1957), woodland trails, pond and dairy farm complex.

The museum was **established in 1946** per Theodate Pope Riddle’s Last Will and Testament, as a memorial to her parents and a cultural resource for the public to enjoy in perpetuity.

**Attendance** totals nearly 35,000 visitors per year (over 670,000 since 1946) with 10% of these being school children from 52 educational systems across the State of Connecticut.

Hundreds of **public programs** are offered—house and garden tours, gallery talks, lectures, writing workshops, poetry readings, concerts, teacher workshops, curriculum-based school activities, family festivals, nature activities and studies, and gardening, craft and art boutiques.

### Selected Achievements

- 2005 Institute of Museum and Library Services awards HSM \$143,000 for education programs
- 2003-2004 \$2.5 Million Exterior Restoration and Visitor Access upgrades are launched
- 2003 American Association of Museums awards accreditation
- 2000 Hill-Stead is named an Official Project of Save America’s Treasures.
- 1999 Hill-Stead is added to the Connecticut Women’s Heritage Trail
- 1995 Hill-Stead joins the Connecticut Impressionist Art Trail
- 1991 Hill-Stead is designated a National Historic Landmark

### Governance and Operations

A non-profit 501(c)3 organization, Hill-Stead is governed by three (3) Trustees and 27 Governors who participate in committees and follow By-Laws and a Code of Ethics. Operations: 18 full-time equivalent staff, 155 volunteers, \$3.5 million endowment and \$1.4 million operating budget.

# Hill-Stead MUSEUM

## CHECKLIST OF MAJOR PAINTINGS IN THE ALFRED ATMORE POPE COLLECTION

1. **Mary Cassatt** (American, 1844–1926)  
*Sara Handing a Toy to the Baby*, c. 1901  
Oil on canvas, 33 x 27 inches  
Alfred Atmore Pope Collection, 46-1-001  
Hill-Stead Museum, Farmington, CT
2. **Edgar Hilaire Degas** (French, 1834–1917)  
*Dancers in Pink*, c. 1876  
Oil on canvas, 23 ¼ x 29 ¼ inches  
Alfred Atmore Pope Collection, 46-1-004  
Hill-Stead Museum, Farmington, CT
3. **Edgar Hilaire Degas** (French, 1834–1917)  
*Jockeys*, 1886  
Pastel on paper, 15 ¼ x 34 ¾ inches  
Alfred Atmore Pope Collection, 46-1-002  
Hill-Stead Museum, Farmington, CT
4. **Edgar Hilaire Degas** (French, 1834–1917)  
*The Tub*, 1886  
Pastel on paper, 27 ½ x 27 ½ inches  
Alfred Atmore Pope Collection, 46-1-003  
Hill-Stead Museum, Farmington, CT
5. **Édouard Manet** (French, 1832–1883)  
*The Absinthe Drinker*, c. 1859-1862  
Pen and ink wash on paper, 9 5/8 x 6 1/8 inches  
Alfred Atmore Pope Collection, 46-1-046  
Hill-Stead Museum, Farmington, CT
6. **Édouard Manet** (French, 1832–1883)  
*The Guitar Player*, 1866  
Oil on canvas, 25 x 31 ½ inches  
Alfred Atmore Pope Collection, 46-1-005  
Hill-Stead Museum, Farmington, CT
7. **Édouard Manet** (French, 1832–1883)  
*Toreadors*, 1863  
Oil on canvas, 20 ¼ x 35 ¼ inches  
Alfred Atmore Pope Collection, 46-1-006  
Hill-Stead Museum, Farmington, CT
8. **Claude Monet** (French, 1840–1926)  
*Fishing Boats at Sea*, 1868  
Oil on canvas, 37 ½ x 50 ¾ inches  
Alfred Atmore Pope Collection, 46-1-010  
Hill-Stead Museum, Farmington, CT
9. **Claude Monet** (French, 1840–1926)  
*Grainstacks, in Bright Sunlight*, 1890  
Oil on canvas, 23 x 38 inches  
Alfred Atmore Pope Collection, 46-1-009  
Hill-Stead Museum, Farmington, CT
10. **Claude Monet** (French, 1840–1926)  
*Grainstacks, White Frost Effect*, 1889  
Oil on canvas, 25 ¼ x 36 inches  
Alfred Atmore Pope Collection, 46-1-008  
Hill-Stead Museum, Farmington, CT
11. **Claude Monet** (French, 1840–1926)  
*View of Cap d'Antibes*, 1888  
Oil on canvas, 25 ¾ x 31 ¾ inches  
Alfred Atmore Pope Collection, 46-1-007  
Hill-Stead Museum, Farmington, CT
12. **James McNeill Whistler** (American, 1834–1903)  
*The Blue Wave, Biarritz*, 1862  
Oil on canvas, 25 ¼ x 35 inches  
Alfred Atmore Pope Collection, 46-1-020  
Hill-Stead Museum, Farmington, CT
13. **James McNeill Whistler** (American, 1834–1903)  
*Symphony in Violet and Blue*, 1893  
Oil on canvas, 20 x 29 inches  
Alfred Atmore Pope Collection, 46-1-021  
Hill-Stead Museum, Farmington, CT
14. **Pierre Puvis de Chavannes** (French, 1824–1898)  
*Peace*, c. 1861  
Oil on canvas, 15 x 12 inches  
Alfred Atmore Pope Collection, 46-1-011  
Hill-Stead Museum, Farmington, CT
15. **Eugène Carrière** (French, 1849–1906)  
*Head of a Woman*, c. 1890  
Oil on canvas, 16 ½ x 13 ¼ inches  
Alfred Atmore Pope Collection, 46-1-012  
Hill-Stead Museum, Farmington, CT

## COLLECTIONS BY CATEGORY

### Alfred Atmore Pope Collection

- 19 intact period rooms
- 55 paintings: oils, pastels, watercolors
- 13 sculptures
- 170 works on paper: etchings, engravings, Japanese wood block prints
- 330 pieces of furniture
- 860 pieces of ceramics, glass & silver
- 735 objects, e.g. clocks, boxes, lamps
- 620 textiles, e.g. costumes, Oriental carpets, linens, window treatments
- 3,300 books, the family library

Subtotal: 2,802 individual objects  
3,300 books

### Pope Riddle Family Archive Collection

- 25,800 letters, postcards, diaries, business and financial records
- 1,800 photographs, including 43 by Gertrude Kasebier and 400 by Theodate Pope Riddle

Subtotal: 27,400 documents & photographs  
2,500 research files

### Board of Governors' Collection / Extended Loan

- 80 objects used for interpretation of interiors, including 50 pieces of crystal stemware

### Buildings Collection

Designed by Theodate Pope Riddle, with McKim, Mead & White

- Pope Riddle house, 1898–1901 (Open to the public)
- Attached Carriage Barn & Stable, 1898, rebuilt after fire 1908 (Open to the public)
- Attached Makeshift Theater, 1917 (Open to the public)
- Greenhouse & garage, 1903–08
- Summerhouse, 1901 (Open to the public)
- Pump house, 1898–1901
- Shepherd's Cottage, 1899–1901 (On-call Security Officer's residence)
- Hay Barn, 1899

### Collection Buildings, Not Designed by TPR

- Timothy North Farmhouse, ca. 1780 (Director's residence)
- Horse barn, 1870s
- Guest house, 1920s
- Caretaker's Cottage, 1940s museum period (On-call Security Officer's residence)

### Landscape Collection

- 152 acres
  - 100 acres of woodland & scrub
  - 52 acres of meadows, fields & lawn
- Mountain Road entry, stone piers & wing walls
- 1/4 mile entry drive
- 1/8 mile allee of maple trees
- 2 miles of hand-crafted stone walls
- Blue stone paths
- 1 acre, 36-bed Sunken Garden Designed c. 1920 by Beatrix Farrand
- 1-1/2 acre Wild Garden, not restored
- Greensward
- Dairy farm, not restored
- Apple orchard, not restored
- 3/4 acre pond
- 2 miles of walking trails & bridle path
- Adirondack style bridge & farm road
- Scenic views of the Farmington Valley and Tunxis Ridge

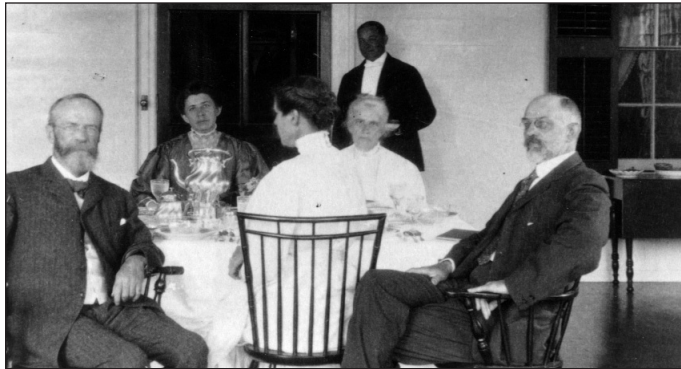
### Museum Business Archive

This repository includes museum director's papers, meeting minutes, Trustee and Governors' records and transactions, annual reports, financial reports and museum publications.

While the business archive is not part of the fine and decorative arts and family archive holdings, it is managed systematically and is vital to the museum's history.

# Hill-Stead MUSEUM

## GUESTS OF NOTE VISITING THE POPES & RIDDLES AT HILL-STEAD, 1901-1946



### Farmington, CT individuals who visited Hill-Stead frequently

- John, Joseph and Corinne Robinson Alsop
- Mr. and Mrs. D. Newton Barney
- Robert Brandegee, artist
- Sheffield and Anna (Roosevelt) Cowles, Theodore Roosevelt's sister
- Mary Hillard, head of Westover School
- Wilmarth Lewis, collector of Walpole materials
- Sarah Porter, founder of Miss Porter's School
- J.H. and Julia Whittemore, industrialist, art collector

### Others for whom specific dates unknown

- Alice Hamilton, physician
- Katharine Hepburn, actress, Hartford native, 1920s
- Senator/Governor George MacLean, 1910s
- Archibald MacLeish, poet, author
- Mariana [Mrs. Schuyler] Van Rensselaer, before 1920
- Edith Wharton, author

### Others, in chronological order

- Warren Manning, landscape architect, 1898, possibly 1907
- William Rutherford Mead, of McKim, Mead & White Architects with Egerton Swartout and W. R. Wilder at the firm, 1898-99, 1909
- Gertrude Kasebier, photographer, 1902
- George P. McLean, CT Governor, US Senator, lawyer, philanthropist, 1902-03
- Roger Fry, art critic, 1906
- William James, philosopher, 1907
- Ida Tarbell, journalist, 1907
- August Jaccaci, art critic, 1907
- Mary Cassatt, artist, 1908
- Louisine Havemeyer, art collector, 1908
- Henry James, author, 1911, first viewed Hill-Stead in 1904, came as guest 1911
- President Theodore Roosevelt, 1911
- Belle Sherwin, founder, League of Women Voters, 1916
- Cass Gilbert, architect, 1916
- Governor Holcomb, 1917
- Sinclair Lewis, author, 1923
- Thornton Wilder, author, 1929
- Edna St. Vincent Millay, poet, 1934
- Eleanor Roosevelt, 1937
- Governor Wilbur Cross, 1937

**Alfred Atmore Pope**  
(July 4, 1842–August 5, 1913)



"...in business management I have held to the doing and results, rather than to the anticipations through estimates..." –Alfred A. Pope, December 1900

Alfred Pope was born of Quaker parents in Vassalboro, Maine. In 1861, the family moved to Cleveland, where Alfred joined his father and brothers in the family woolen business. He married Ada Brooks, his childhood sweetheart, in 1866, and they welcomed their only child, Theodate, a year later. In 1869, Alfred borrowed \$5,000 to buy into the Cleveland Malleable Iron Company, where he rose to the rank of president within a decade. His foresight, dedication and sound investment made Alfred a wealthy man. When he took his family to Europe on the Grand Tour in 1888–89, Pope began to collect French Impressionist art, a radical departure from the traditional tastes of many of his peers. Passionate and discerning, Pope favored quality over quantity and bought only paintings he could "rise to," as he put it. Over the next 20 years, he gradually acquired a singular and impressive collection of paintings, decorative arts, sculpture and Asian, American and European prints. In 1901 Alfred and Ada Pope retired to Hill-Stead in Farmington, Connecticut, the home their daughter Theodate had designed and built for them. With them came their furnishings and art collections, on view intact today at Hill-Stead Museum.

## Ada Brooks Pope

(March 31, 1844–May 6, 1920)



"...the place [Hill-Stead] ...seems to be running riot while we are away... I do not like to be kept in the dark as to my affairs at home."

–Ada Brooks Pope, in a letter to her daughter, Theodate, 1904

Ada Brooks was born in Salem, Ohio, the third of eight children. In 1862, when she was only 18, both of her parents died, bringing her and her siblings closer together; they remained so throughout their lives. In 1866, Ada married her childhood sweetheart Alfred Atmore Pope. Like other nineteenth-century women of privilege, managing her household income became her life's work, a job she accomplished with skill and grace. When Alfred died in 1913, Ada never fully recovered, finding it difficult to spend long, lonely winters at Hill-Stead. Instead, she joined her Brooks relatives in California.

## Theodate (Effie) Pope Riddle (February 2, 1867–August 30, 1946)



"I closed my eyes and thought, 'This is of course the end of life for me,' and then I thought of you, dearest mother... I counted the buildings I had designed—the ones built and building, and hoped I had 'made good.'"  
—Letter to her mother, recounting Lusitania disaster, May 1915

Theodate was born Effie Pope in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1867, named after one of her mother's sisters. In 1886, she changed her name to "Theodate," after her father's mother. An only child of privilege, Theodate yearned for her own dairy farm in an era when women of her class were expected to focus on family and social prominence. She came to Farmington as a student at Miss Porter's School from 1886 to 1888, and, charmed by the village, begged her parents to allow her to return after their year-long "Grand Tour" to Europe. At the age of 21, Theodate settled in Farmington, cutting her professional teeth on the restoration of an 18th-century saltbox, which she rented and eventually purchased, naming it "The O'Rourkey."

When her parents decided to retire to Farmington, Theodate collaborated with premier New York architecture firm McKim, Mead & White to design and build Hill-Stead for her parents and their fine art collection. In the spring of 1901, Alfred and Ada Pope moved into their "great new house on a hilltop," as American novelist and houseguest Henry James would later describe it.

At the age of 49, Theodate married diplomat John Wallace Riddle. They were happily married for 25 years, traveled extensively and raised two foster sons. After a full life of travel, innovation, education and community involvement, Theodate Pope Riddle died in 1946. As a memorial to her parents and "for the benefit and enjoyment of the public," Theodate stipulated in her Last Will and Testament that Hill-Stead become a museum, and that its contents remain intact, not to be moved, lent or sold. Along with Hill-Stead, all of Theodate's buildings stand today as enduring testimony to one of the country's earliest important female architects.

# Hill-Stead MUSEUM

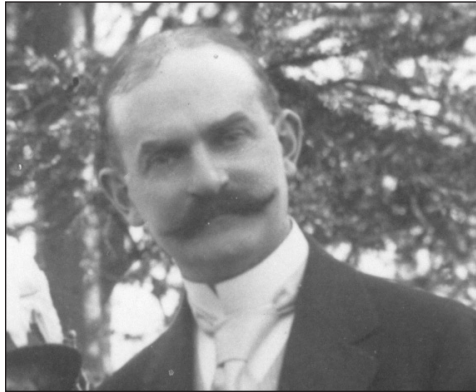
## THEODATE POPE RIDDLE (American, 1867–1946) CHRONOLOGY AS AN ARCHITECT

"Avon Old Farms School, 1922–26, was named among Connecticut architects as one of their five favorite buildings. Theodate was inspired by a 16th-century Cotswold Village when she had sandstone quarried from the site and drew on centuries-old techniques and handcrafting for the construction." –*Connecticut Magazine*, November 2003

- 1887 Theodate writes in her diary of drawing plans for a house where she will take in poor children and operate a dairy farm
- 1888-1889 Considers architecture as a possible career choice after deciding, during the European Grand Tour with her family, not to marry suitor Harris Whittemore
- 1890 Moves to the "Village of Beautiful Homes," Farmington, CT. Rents, renovates and later purchases a house on High Street, the O'Rourke, later called The Gundy
- 1895-1896 Spends time with a tutor in Princeton, NJ; studies art history and archaeology
- 1898-1901 Begins construction on Hill-Stead, collaborating with the premier architects of the day, McKim, Mead & White
- 1907-1909 Designs and builds Westover School in Middlebury, CT. Her friend and former teacher at Miss Porter's School is headmistress and participates in the school's design
- c.1911 Constructs Chamberlain House in Middlebury, CT, now the Highfield Golf Club
- 1913 Opens architectural office in NYC. Around this time, designs and builds three houses on Garden Street in Farmington for Hill-Stead employees.
- 1914 Completes Gates House in Locust Valley, Long Island, NY
- 1915-16 Completes Hop Brook School in Naugatuck, CT, a public elementary school.
- 1916 Receives NY State architectural license
- 1918 Becomes member of American Institute of Architects
- 1919-22 Designs and rebuilds Theodore Roosevelt's Birthplace in New York City
- 1922-1927 Designs and builds Avon Old Farms School near Farmington, her masterpiece
- 1933 Certified as architect in CT, license # 246, 6th woman to receive a license

## John Wallace Riddle

(July 12, 1864–December 8, 1941)

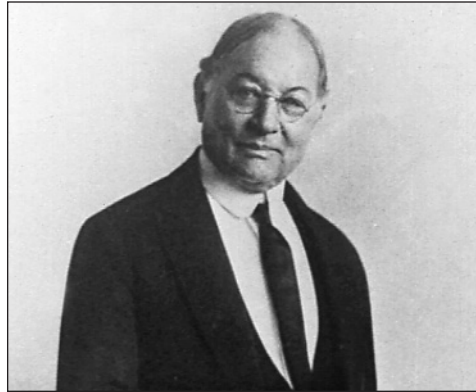


"John's engagement was a great surprise to me of course... He certainly is of sufficient maturity to 'know his own mind,' and while... it seems to me as a rule inadvisable for a very poor man to marry a rich woman, it often works entirely well."  
–Charles Flandrau, half brother, letter to a relative, January 1916

John Wallace Riddle's father died before his son's birth; when John was seven years old, his mother married Judge Charles Flandrau of St. Paul, Minnesota, a widower with two daughters. Flandrau and John's mother then had two sons together. Although John funded his own education from a small inheritance, his stepfather's important political connections—including his friendship with Theodore Roosevelt—helped advance John's diplomatic career. After graduating from Harvard in 1886, John attended Columbia Law School and then the Ecole des Sciences et Politiques in Paris. A skilled linguist, he was proficient in six languages. His first diplomatic post was to Turkey (1893), and he later served in Russia (1901–1903, 1906–1909), Egypt, Romania and Argentina (1921–1924). John and Theodate met in 1905 through their mutual friend and Farmington resident Anna Roosevelt Cowles, Theodore Roosevelt's sister. They were married in 1916; on some levels, it was a marriage of convenience, but the couple shared a deep affection. To John, Theodate was the "dearest of geniuses."

## **Earnest Bohlen**

(December 22, 1852–December 11, 1942)



"His association with the family was always – shall I say,  
'relaxed reserve.' Everybody loved him dearly."

–Donald Carson, foster son of Theodate and John, remembering Earnest in 1996

Earnest was born on a plantation in Alabama. His African-American mother was a seamstress. His father, a white overseer, was killed in the Civil War. When Earnest was in his late teens, his mother sent him north to find work. When their new house on Euclid Avenue in Cleveland was finished in about 1885, Alfred and Ada Pope hired him to be their butler, a position he held until the end of his life. His duties included household management, supervision of the household staff, and greeting and accommodating visitors. Friends and relatives enjoyed his gentle presence. When he died at age ninety, Theodate had him buried in the family plot in Farmington.

# Hill-Stead MUSEUM

## HILL-STEAD MUSEUM'S SUNKEN GARDEN



### Beatrix Jones Farrand (1871–1959)

The planting plan for Hill-Stead's Sunken Garden was developed by landscape gardener **Beatrix Jones Farrand**, who was a friend and colleague of Hill-Stead founder and architect, Theodate Pope Riddle (1867-1946). Perhaps the two women first met when they were working at Westover School for Girls, Theodate in the role of architect and Beatrix working on the grounds. The two women also worked in tandem on at least one other occasion, when in 1919 they submitted drawings jointly to a design competition for a women's reform school in East Lyme, Connecticut. Neither was awarded the commission.

The women both aspired to careers and, while neither attended college, they supplemented their education with extended trips abroad to study European architecture and gardens. Beatrix's family was well connected in the Northeast, and it was through her family associations that she received some of her first commissions. The same is true for Theodate, whose father and his business associates helped to launch her career in architecture. Both women's designs can be found at the homes of wealthy individuals and at educational facilities including independent secondary schools, colleges and universities. Both women found inspiration in England: Theodate looked to Cotswold cottage designs and to English collegiate and ecclesiastic architecture, while Beatrix looked to the Arts and Crafts gardens of architects William Robinson and Gertrude Jekyll for design ideas and plant selection. Theodate embraced the Arts and Crafts Movement's design simplicity and solid craftsmanship, some of which can be seen in her designs for Hill-Stead.

Deferring matrimony until after their careers were established, both women were in their 40s when they married—Theodate was a 49-year-old bride to American diplomat John Wallace Riddle, and Beatrix was 45 when she married Yale professor and Constitutional scholar Max Farrand. Both continued to work after they were married. Both women left legacies: Theodate created Hill-Stead Museum and Beatrix left her extensive archives to the University of California at Berkeley.

Hill-Stead's Sunken Garden reflects Farrand's love of texture and subtlety of palette. She was perhaps drawn to the abundance of pink, purple, blue and white in the Monet and Degas canvases on view at Hill-Stead. Her work also owes much to the study of classical traditions: Hill-Stead's beds are laid out in an octagonal plan; the central axis divides the garden and radiates into meadowlands. Her landscape style combined formal and naturalistic elements, and she favored the use of native plants. The 90 varieties planted in the beds at Hill-Stead—including campanula (bellflower), delphinium, dianthus (pinks), heliotrope, heuchera (coral bells), iris, lilies, platycodon (balloon flower), and stachys (lamb's ear)—are varieties that existed in many of Farrand's gardens. The Sunken Garden at Hill-Stead is open daily, 7:30 am to 5:30 pm. View Hill-Stead's garden, then travel to Washington, D.C. and see Farrand's masterpiece at Dumbarton Oaks; or drive to Waterford, CT and see her gardens at Harkness State Park. The New York Botanical Garden also boasts a Farrand-designed Rose Garden.

# Hill-Stead MUSEUM

## HILL-STEAD MUSEUM'S SUNKEN GARDEN POETRY FESTIVAL



*"A cultural phenomenon" –Billy Collins*

### Return of the Festival, 2008

**Summer-long Performance Series.** Hill-Stead's Sunken Garden Poetry Festival, the museum's largest public program, returned with resounding success in the summer of 2008, following a one-year hiatus. Long-time fans and newcomers alike were delighted with six evenings of world-class poetry and ravishing music—unparalleled performances in an unparalleled setting. Season 17 will open in June 2009 with former U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Hass and his wife, acclaimed poet Brenda Hillman.

**Hartford Underserved Youth Outreach Initiative.** Hill-Stead offers a poetry writing and performance workshop series in two Hartford public high schools, October–April. 50 students served, total attendance of 190.

### Performance Series Highlights

**16 seasons of success, 1992-2008.** One of the nation's longest running outdoor poetry festivals.

**Incomparable setting.** Hill-Stead's c. 1920 one-acre Sunken Garden, called "a little paradise for poetry" by Galway Kinnell; historic landscape and a notable 1901 Colonial Revival country house filled with art and antiques.

**Artistic excellence and diversity.** Rosters include former Poets Laureate **Robert Pinsky** (2008) and **Billy Collins** (2008, 1999 & 1997); **Gary Soto** (2005); **Grace Paley** (2004); Pulitzer Prize-winners **Maxine Kumin** (2003) and **Yusef Komunyakaa** (2002); Frost Medalist **Sonia Sanchez** (2001); and numerous other world-class and award-winning poets.

**Audience.** Seasonal audiences of 2,000 to 3,000; public radio audience of 1,250,000-plus.

**Recognition.** Hour-long broadcasts over five CT public radio stations; excerpts on **National Public Radio's *Weekend Edition Saturday***. \$10,000 Creativity Award from the National Endowment for the Arts in 2004.

### Inner-city Outreach Highlights

**Community partnerships.** A.I. Prince Tech, Hartford Public High, Trinity College Poetry Center and Curbstone Press.

**Achievements.** Workshops build self esteem and promote literacy. A 2002 participant went on to become a winner in the Young Poets Competition, and a 2003 participant was a finalist. A partnering teacher commented, "Minority students hear a voice (the presenter's) speaking more directly to and for them."

# Hill-Stead MUSEUM

## HILL-STEAD MUSEUM'S SUNKEN GARDEN POETRY FESTIVAL

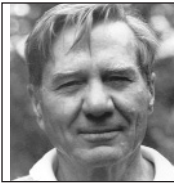
### Featured Poets, 1992–2008



Grace Paley



Billy Collins



Galway Kinnell



Yusef  
Komunyakaa



Sharon Olds



Major Jackson



Maxine Kumin

#### 1992

Charles Darling  
Steve Foley  
Emily Holcombe  
David Holdt  
Elizabeth Kincaid-Ehlers  
Susan Lukas  
Rennie McQuilkin  
Marilyn Nelson  
Pam Nomura  
Hugh Ogden  
Pit Pinegar  
Sue Ellen Thompson

#### 1993

Norah P. Christianson  
Robert Cording  
James Merrill  
Bessy Reyna  
Carole Stasiowski  
Young Poets

#### 1994

Theodore Deppe  
Martín Espada  
Honor Moore  
Kate Rushin  
Richard Wilbur  
Young Poets

#### 1995

Donald Hall  
Jeffrey Harrison  
Galway Kinnell  
Cheryl Savageau  
Patricia Smith

Sue Ellen Thompson

Young Poets

#### 1996

Brendan Galvin  
Stanley Kunitz  
Marilyn Nelson  
Sharon Olds  
Marge Piercy  
Fresh Voices

#### 1997

Dick Allen  
Naomi Ayala  
Billy Collins  
Mark Doty  
Patricia Smith  
Fresh Voices

#### 1998

Hayden Carruth  
Lucille Clifton  
Leo Connellan  
Carolyn Forché  
Margaret Gibson  
Natasha Trethewey  
Fresh Voices

#### 1999

Billy Collins  
Stephen Dunn  
Eamon Grennan  
Joy Harjo  
Gray Jacobik  
Fresh Voices

#### 2000

Martín Espada  
Donald Hall  
Marie Howe  
Susan Kinsolving  
Philip Levine  
Thomas Lux

#### 2001

Doug Anderson  
Linda McCarriston  
Rennie McQuilkin  
Pam Nomura  
Pit Pinegar  
Sonia Sanchez  
Edgar Gabriel Silex  
Fresh Voices

#### 2002

Marilyn Chin  
Yusef Komunyakaa  
Wesley McNair  
Vivian Shipley  
Steve Straight  
Fresh Voices

#### 2003

Jack Agüeros  
Margaret Gibson  
Maxine Kumin  
Tim Seibles  
Wally Swist  
Fresh Voices

#### 2004

Richard Blanco

Suzanne Cleary

Martha Collins  
Joan Joffe Hall  
Grace Paley  
Kate Rushin  
Fresh Voices

#### 2005

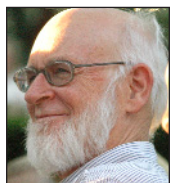
Douglas Goetsch  
Brad Davis  
Cortney Davis  
Major Jackson  
Gary Soto  
Edwina Trentham  
Fresh Voices

#### 2006

Renée Ashley  
Jim Daniels  
Jane Hirshfield  
Li-Young Lee  
Norah Pollard  
John Surowiecki  
Fresh Voices

#### 2008

Robert Pinsky  
Coleman Barks  
Billy Collins  
Patricia Fargnoli  
Ilya Kaminsky  
Paul Muldoon  
CT Poetry Circuit College  
Winners  
Fresh Voices



Rennie  
McQuilkin



Bessy Reyna



Jane Hirshfield



Martín Espada



Robert Pinsky



Marilyn Nelson



Li-Young Lee

# Hill-Stead MUSEUM

## WALKING TRAILS

**Location** On the grounds of Hill-Stead Museum, Farmington, CT, 10 miles west of Hartford and 18 miles east of Litchfield.

**Woodland Trail** Easy / 1 mile loop / white blazes / primary access from paved parking lot

This old bridle path set below the Metacomet Ridge was once used for horse and pony rides and as a sheep run; be aware of old posts and barbed wire that once helped contain sheep. The trail is shaded by Oak, Maple, Hemlock, Ash, and Hickory trees; and the forest floor is covered with native Christmas ferns, Maple saplings and invasive barberry. Some Hemlocks along the route are infested with woolly adelgid and the trees are on the decline. Along this trail, see areas of loose stone. Back in 1898, stones such as these were used to build the miles of stone walls found on the property. In the northeast corner of the trail look for vestiges of a substantial old road. Coming out of the woodlands in the north part of the property, the trail leads into a meadow and through the former apple orchards that once bordered the farm complex. A meadow Overlook affords hikers a commanding view of the farm complex and the Farmington Valley. The upper edge of the ridge section is actually the State of CT Blue Blazed corridor, the Metacomet Trail.

**Bittersweet Loop** Easy / 0.4 mile loop / orange blazes / access from Woodland Trail or trail head along the tree-line driveway, north of the paved parking lot

See on borders of this trail bittersweet, grape vines, raspberry and wild rose. The property around the Bittersweet Loop was once open pasture, but today has been encroached upon by exotic invasive species such as bittersweet. The small stone Pump House in the northwest corner of the field once served to direct water to domestic and service buildings throughout the property.

**Pond Loop** Easy / 0.2 mile loop / blue blazes / access along driveway north of the paved parking lot

The pond was originally dug as an estate water source and a design element within the expansive landscape; it was also built as a water hazard for Alfred Pope's six-hole golf links. Fairways and tees were located on either side of the pond traversing this part of the property. As a source of block ice used for refrigeration and for water for fire suppression, the pond was essential to estate operations. Situated in the lowest part of the property, this three-fourths acre body of water provided a low-land-defining reflective surface in the space between the domestic zone around the house and the farm complex on the opposite hill and in the distance. The Pope Book was dammed to create the pond, which today is home to a grey heron, numerous ducks, frogs and fish.

(continued)

# Hill-Stead MUSEUM

## WALKING TRAILS, continued

### Swamp Oak Trail

Easy / 0.4 miles / yellow blazes / maintained seasonally

Traversing the interior of the property, this trail takes hikers through the property's wetlands. During rainy seasons this trail will be wet. Watch for frogs. The footbridge along this trail crosses the Pope Brook. Look for several very large White Swamp Oaks, Black Willow and areas of cat-tails, pampas grass and invasive purple loosestrife.

### Cedar Lane

Easy / 0.2 miles / green blazes / maintained seasonally

Like the Swamp Oak Trail parts of this trail takes hikers through the property's wetlands.

### Animals Sighted

Bobcats, chipmunks, coyotes, deer, foxes, rabbits, raccoons, mice, squirrels, skunks

### Birds Sighted

Blackbirds, bluebirds, cardinals, chickadees, finches, grosbeaks, hawks, herons, kingfishers, mockingbirds, mourning doves, orioles, owls, robins, scarlet tanagers, sparrows, swallows. Thrushes, titmouses, towhees, turkey, vultures, warblers, woodpeckers, wrens.

Alfred and Ada Pope and their daughter Theodate Pope established their estate as a 250-acre experimental and working dairy farm in 1900. Theodate contributed to the landscape design. Today the historic grounds exemplify a woven tapestry of social and cultural influences from various landscape design traditions, including the English Landscape Movement, the Colonial Revival Style and the Arts and Crafts Movement. The Hill-Stead property has undergone man-made and natural changes. Earliest documentation of the site shows Native American habitation until the late 17th century, when, under the Colonist control, it became small farmland parcels. In the mid-19th century, as townspeople prospered, larger farms and orchards were established on the site. Beginning in 1898, the Popes acquired several small farm properties at the edge of the village of Farmington to comprise their original landholdings. In 1946, when Theodate Pope Riddle died, her will established Hill-Stead as a charitable cultural resource for "the benefit and enjoyment of the public." In the fall of 2003, Hill-Stead's Walking Trails were blazed and re-opened to the public in keeping with Theodate's vision for her family's homestead.

### Walking Trail Precautions

As a normal precaution when venturing out of doors, please remember to keep away from poison ivy, which grows in abundance on the Hill-Stead grounds. In addition, after you have finished your walk, remember to check your clothing for ticks as Connecticut ticks may carry Lyme disease. If walking with your dog, please keep dog leash and pick up after your dog out of consideration for others. We ask that you take only photographs and leave only footprints.

## BENEFIT AND MEMBER EVENTS

When you join the Hill-Stead family, you receive invitations to social events and quality programs throughout the year. Benefit events provide additional opportunities to enjoy Hill-Stead's resources and special ambience. The following benefit and member events are organized by the museum's core volunteer group, the **Hill-Steaders**, the museum's Board of Governors, and staff.

### May Market



This annual two-day home and garden emporium features over 50 exhibitors of antiques and quality crafts, dotted throughout the historic property. Participants can shop for perennials and woodland plants, enjoy daily gardening and cooking demonstrations with local experts, consult with horticulturalists and Master Gardeners, and hear world-class lecturers such as Chris Giftos, Chief Floral Designer at The Metropolitan Museum of Art for over three decades, and Mar Jennings, award-winning author, lifestyle expert extraordinaire, and gardening authority featured on national television and in numerous national and regional publications.

### Dinner Auction

This major benefit event supports Hill-Stead's educational programs and preservation projects. Held the last Thursday in May, it showcases such outstanding auction items as a week on the Caribbean island of Nevis, three nights at the Sanctuary at Kiawah Island, and golf on Fishers Island. Over 500 Greater Hartford luminaries, art lovers and museum enthusiasts gather to enjoy the spectacular hilltop views, creative martini bar and exceptional dining.



### Members Holiday Party



This convivial gathering in December is an occasion to renew friendships and introduce your neighbors to Hill-Stead. Participants view the festively decorated period rooms, chat with costumed interpreters portraying members of the Pope family, and enjoy music, lavish food and plentiful holiday spirits.