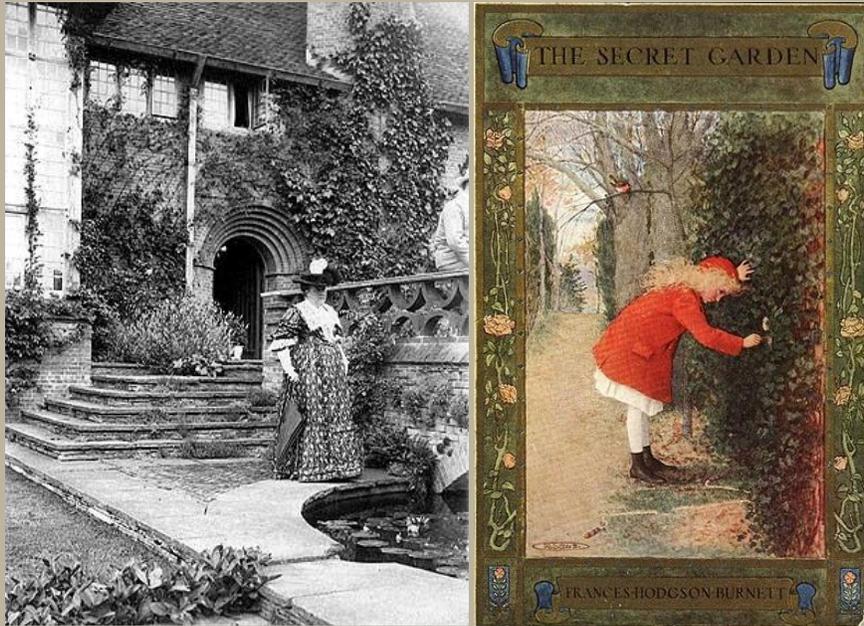


DUMBARTON OAKS DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
PUBLIC LECTURE

LAWRENCE BUELL, HARVARD UNIVERSITY

“GARDENS AND THE WORK OF ENVIRONMENTAL MEMORY”

THURSDAY, APRIL 11 AT 5:30



Gertrude Jekyll, Deanery Garden, Sonning, UK, c. 1901, courtesy English Heritage-National Monuments Records
Book cover of *The Secret Garden*, by Frances Hodgson Burnett, c. 1911, courtesy The Project Gutenberg eBook

Gardens and the practice of gardening offer rich and tangled combinations of remembrance and forgetting. These vary according to garden type—aesthetic or utilitarian, public or private, “wild” or “formal,” secular or sacred—and according to the background and motives of the experiencer. Ranging through numerous examples of garden history and garden literature across times and cultures, Professor Buell will take note of some important ways in which gardens can embody or activate environmental memory in the different meanings of that term: personal, folk-collective, national, evolutionary, spiritual. But how closely does a passion for gardens or gardening correlate with environmental stewardship beyond those privileged garden spaces? To what extent does it nurture an “ecological conscience,” a sense of connectedness and accountability to the natural world? To those larger questions of environmental ethics Professor Buell will also suggest some answers.

Lawrence Buell is Powell M. Cabot Research Professor of American Literature at Harvard, where he teaches courses in the history of American literature and culture. Professor Buell (AB, Princeton, PhD, Cornell, both in English) has a particular interest in environmental(ist) literature, art, and history in the United States and the Anglophone world at large. The 19th century, particularly the antebellum era, is his period of greatest expertise. He is the author of *New England Literary Culture* (1986), *The Environmental Imagination: Thoreau, Nature Writing, and the Formation of American Culture* (1995), *Writing for an Endangered World: Literature, Culture, and Environment in the United States and Beyond* (2001), *Emerson* (2003), *The Future of Environmental Criticism* (2005), and (forthcoming 2013) *The Dream of the Great American Novel*. He is co-editor, with Wai Chee Dimock, of *Shades of the Planet: American Literature as World Literature* (2007).

Reservations are required and are first-come first-served. To register please email ItalianoS@doaks.org

The event will be held at **Dumbarton Oaks** located at **1703 32nd Street, NW, Washington DC**.
Open to the public without charge. Parking not provided.