



**Media Contact:** Ellen Bruzelius, 718-885-1461  
[ebruzelius@bpmm.org](mailto:ebruzelius@bpmm.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## Vintage Gardening Book Exhibit at Bartow-Pell

*The International Garden Club's "working" library – books from 1870 to 1946*

Bartow-Pell's fall exhibit, ***A Gardener's Library: Vintage Books from the Bartow-Pell Collection***, presents an unusual view of a true "working" library. These are the books collected by the International Garden Club (now the Bartow-Pell Conservancy) that the members used to understand the history of gardens and to create and maintain the beautiful gardens at Bartow-Pell. From Frank J. Scott's *The Art of Beautifying Suburban Home Grounds* (1870) to Vita Sackville-West's *The Garden* (1946), the collection reflects the evolution of American gardening from the late 19th century to just after World War II.

The International Garden Club established its headquarters in March 1914 at the Bartow-Pell Mansion, becoming caretakers of the then-dilapidated mansion and setting to the task of creating gardens that were relevant to the period of the mansion yet reflective of respected trends in English landscape design. The IGC library remains intact, a recognition of the central role that books play in the history, creation, and maintenance of gardens in general and the Bartow-Pell gardens in particular. Although few of these books are rare, they are valuable for their contents and for their role as a working collection that provides reading pleasure, practical information, and aesthetic guidance.

The exhibit opens on September 6 with a multifaceted event. Singer-songwriter Maya Caballero will be performing for Bartow-Pell's *First Friday!* series, and the newly restored formal garden will be open for strolling. Curator Joseph Disponzio—noted author, scholar of garden history, and a preservation landscape architect with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation—will be on hand to discuss, informally, the secrets and surprises of *A Gardener's Library*.

*A Gardener's Library* will be on exhibit until November 17 during the Museum's open hours: Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. Mansion admission is \$5 adults, \$3 seniors and students; free for children under six. Visiting the exhibit is free. On opening night, enjoy the exhibit and *First Friday!* plus a trip on the free Bronx Seaside Trolley, which does an hourly loop from the #6 Pelham Bay Park subway station to BPMM to City Island. **Registration requested. Cost** \$10 adults; \$8 seniors and students; *members free*.

###

**Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum** is located at 895 Shore Road, Pelham Bay Park, Bronx, New York. To reach us by public transportation, take the #6 Lexington Avenue Local subway to Pelham Bay Park station, followed by the Westchester Bee-Line #45 bus direct to the mansion gate. For driving directions, please visit [www.bpmm.org](http://www.bpmm.org). The mansion and carriage house are open to the public for guided tours on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. The gardens and grounds are open daily from 8:30 a.m. to dusk. Mansion admission is \$5 adults, \$3 seniors and students; free for children under six. Visiting the garden and grounds is free.