



## Old Westbury Gardens

### Days of Grace on Long Island

Clive Aslet

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- A unique exploration of Old Westbury Gardens, tracing the creation and preservation of one of Long Island's most important historic estates
- A celebration of the life and vision of Jay Phipps and Dita Grace, and the English world of architecture, gardens, and craftsmanship they created in America
- A richly illustrated showcase of architecture, horticulture, and the decorative arts, preserved to the highest standards and enjoyed by the public today

**Old Westbury Gardens: Days of Grace on Long Island** honors the life and legacy of the house that Jay Phipps built to woo his English love, Dita Grace. In his efforts to secure her hand in marriage, he promised to recreate the world of elegance, gardens, and dogs that she had known in Sussex. She said "Yes"—and the rest is Westbury.

Designed in 1906 by English connoisseur and family friend George Crawley, the house was furnished with British antiques and craftsmanship, with gardens planted under Dita's discerning eye. Of the hundreds of mansions built on Long Island around the turn of the twentieth century, Old Westbury Gardens is now unique—the only one preserved in its original condition.

In 1959, Peggie Phipps Boegner generously placed Old Westbury Gardens in trust, in memory of her mother, Dita, so that the public could enjoy the place where she herself had been so happy. Maintained to the highest standards of authenticity, it is now a showcase of architecture, horticulture, and the decorative arts.

**Clive Aslet** is a visiting professor of Architecture at the University of Cambridge and the publisher of Triglyph Books. For many years he worked at the magazine *Country Life*, where he was editor from 1993 until 2006. Since publishing *The American Country House* with Yale University Press in 1990 he has written widely about American architecture. In 2025 he was awarded the Board of Directors Honor by the Institute of Classical Architecture and Art as part of its Arthur Ross Awards. Clive has authored more than thirty books, including *The Story of the Country House* (Yale) and *Sir Edwin Lutyens: Britain's Greatest Architect?* (Triglyph Books).