



The Bard Graduate Center

Studies in the Decorative Arts, Design, and Culture

The Executive Committee
American Society of Landscape Architecture
636 Eye Street
Washington, DC 20001-3736

To the Executive Committee:

I am writing in support of Dr. Charles Beveridge as a recipient of the ASLA's 2005 Professional Award. I can gratefully testify to the value of his lifetime of superb scholarship on the life and work of Frederick Law Olmsted to my own work in the rebuilding of Central Park and to the growing movement of historic landscape preservation in this country and abroad.

In the early 1970s the name Olmsted was nearly forgotten. Central Park was a disgrace from years of unregulated use and mismanagement, and other Olmsted parks were also rapidly falling into decrepitude. The publication of *The Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted*, the enterprise that Charles Beveridge undertook with Charles Capen McLaughlin beginning in the early 1970s, was instrumental in reviving Olmsted's reputation as a great landscape artist and (along with his partner Calvert Vaux) the father of the profession landscape architecture in America. Further, Charlie's very beautiful book *Frederick Law Olmsted*, published by Rizzoli in 1995, traces the arc of Olmsted's career as a designer. The several volumes of the *Papers* as well this work are an immense resource for anyone who is part of the historic landscape preservation movement, especially those who are dealing with nineteenth-century parks. As Central Park administrator, founding president of the Central Park Conservancy, and a landscape design historian myself, I know how much I have benefited from the scholarship of Charlie and his co-editors and collaborators. His work has been a ready reference for me over the past thirty years. I cannot think of anyone more worthy of the honor conferred by the ASLA, the organization founded by Olmsted's son, Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., than Charles Beveridge.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Barlow Rogers
Senior fellow, Garden History and Landscape Studies
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