

THE PHILADELPHIA PSYCHOANALYTIC FOUNDATION

T/A THE FOUNDATION OF THE PSYCHOANALYTIC CENTER OF PHILADELPHIA

3810 Mt. Pleasant Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19121

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CELEBRATING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF FAIRMOUNT PARK'S
ROCKLAND MANSION**

The Philadelphia Psychoanalytic Foundation presents “Sweet Were the Flowery Banks” presentations by Elizabeth Milroy, PhD, Saturday, March 13, 11:00 AM and 3:30 PM at Rockland Mansion, 3810 E. Mt. Pleasant Drive, Philadelphia.

Wesleyan Art History Professor Milroy will elaborate on Rockland and its neighbors two centuries ago. A leading authority on Fairmount Park historical mansions, she comments that Rockland, “first purchased by a George Thomson, the property was part of Philadelphia’s most exclusive summer communities.” Further Milroy adds, “During the eighteenth century, several leading families of the city built elegant villas and created extensive gardens along the Schuylkill River. The area became one of America’s first and most outstanding resort districts.”

Dr. Milroy’s presentation will be followed by a wine reception and the building, now completely renovated and the home of the Philadelphia Psychoanalytic Center will be open for tours. Seating is limited and tickets at \$30 must be purchased in advance by calling 215-235-2345.

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

ABOUT ELIZABETH LAMOTTE MILROY, PhD

Elizabeth (Lily) Milroy is Professor of Art History and American Studies at Wesleyan University. She is a specialist in American art and teaches courses on the history of arts and cultural institutions in the United States and Canada from the period of European settlement to 1945.

Milroy's current research areas include Philadelphia history and the history and preservation of cultural landscapes. She is currently researching material for a book with the working title: *The Green Country Town: The Birthplace of Philadelphia's Public Parks, 1682-1882*.

Milroy has a long history with Philadelphia, having taught at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Design Graduate Program in Historic Preservation. She has also been associated with Pennsylvania Fairmount Park" in *Philadelphia's Cultural Landscape: the Sartain Family Legacy*, published by Temple University Press, and "A Crowning Feature: The Centennial Exhibition and Philadelphia's Horticultural Hall" in the April-June issue of *Studies in the History of Gardens and Designed Landscapes*.

ABOUT ROCKLAND MANSION:

Constructed circa 1810 by prominent Philadelphia merchant George Thomson, Rockland survives today as an outstanding example of a Philadelphia Federal style villa. The buildings Chinese Chippendale railings, ornamental plaster work and elliptical staircase celebrates the Adamesque Federalist style, as does the neoclassical front portico with tapered columns and double doors beneath an arched semi-elliptical fanlight.

After many years of neglect, Rockland Mansion was adopted by the member of the Philadelphia Psychoanalytic Center (PCOP) who saw it as an ideal place to establish its new home base. With the help of the Fairmount Park Historic Preservation Trust, PCOP restored the mansion from top to bottom in keeping with its original design. Today the building is in use 5-7 days a week. It houses the administrative offices of PCOP and uses what were formerly bedrooms as meeting

room and classrooms. To celebrate Rockland's 200th anniversary, the building will be open to the public to tour this historic gem which has been revitalized and given new life.

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ABOUT THE PHILADELPHIA PSYCHOANALYTIC CENTER:

The Philadelphia Psychoanalytic Center (PCOP) is an independent, nonprofit organization originally founded in 1939 to promote the study and practice of psychoanalysis. The Center was substantially expanded in 2001 through a merger with a similar organization and currently has approximately 300 members as well as 60 trainees and some 2000 individuals who participate in various educational and community programs.

In 2002 PCOP members voted to move closer to the center of Philadelphia to better serve the general community. They chose Rockland Mansion as their new home and spent four years, working with the Fairmount Park Historic Preservation Trust, to restore and refurbish the building. Today the building houses the business office of PCOP and serves as the meeting place and venue for various scientific and cultural presentations.

ABOUT THE PHILADELPHIA PSYCHOANALYTIC FOUNDATION:

The Philadelphia Psychoanalytic Foundation (PPF) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and supporting psychoanalytic education and training, and to encouraging innovative community-based programs and research efforts that enhance public awareness of psychoanalysis and its value in addressing today's important challenges.

PPF has provided support for the renovation of Rockland which we believe will allow PCOP to be an invaluable resource for the greater Philadelphia community through programs for neighborhood residents, mental health professionals, and educators.