



ON BECOMING A HISTORICAL GARDENER

Gary A. O'Neil

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I didn't intentionally start out with the idea of becoming a historical gardener. In 1992, my family and I bought a distressed Federal style house (circa 1830) that was really built in 1945. I should add that this dwelling is located in a historic district of a California Central Valley city more known for oil and cotton than historical architecture. The house and outbuilding situated on one-half acre was entangled in an overgrown and under-watered landscape. Very little was worth saving. However, after it was all mowed, plowed and scraped away, a very empty exterior palette remained.

It was at this juncture that repressed childhood memories of long walks through gardens asserted themselves. You see, I grew up in Massachusetts not far from Old Sturbridge Village (OSV), a recreated Federal township that is a living history museum. Those memories crystallized upon reading an article in May 1992 about the efforts of Christy White, resident horticulturist at OSV, to recreate historically correct New England landscapes of the 1830s. I called Miss White on the phone. (You're calling from where?) She graciously gave me several suggestions for doing my own historic garden and steered me to the OSV Bookstore [(508) 347-3362, ext. 259 or www.osvgifts.org/], whose knowledgeable clerks promptly shipped me several books that were helpful. Among them was a reprint of Joseph Breck's *The Flower Garden; or Breck's Book of Flowers* (1851; reprinted by Opus Publications, Inc., Post Road Box 269, Guilford CT 06437). That book and Ann Leighton's *American Gardens of the Nineteenth Cen-*

tury (Amherst MA: The University of Massachusetts Press, 1987, available at \$19.95) became beacons for me in fulfilling my project.

My garden plans started out in earnest upon discovering Old Garden Roses at the same time. I decided that my garden would be a recreated Federal rose garden in the front and Victorian rose garden in the rear. First, I laid out gravel paths according to Breck's idea that "The main walks should, therefore, be calculated so as to admit two persons to walk comfortably in a social manner..." The next step, according to Breck, was that "The operator may now proceed to plant the box edgings..."

During the first six months, when not busy earning my living as a divorce lawyer, I worked every spare

hour alongside the hired crew, laying out the garden "bones"—walks, beds, paths, and sprinkler systems. The next three months of winter were spent planning and ordering 43 Old Garden Roses from suppliers in the United States and Canada. I chose an arbitrary introduction date of 1840 or before because the Federal Period ended just prior to Queen Victoria's ascending the throne in 1843. The roses consisted of European roses such as the Albas, Centifolias, Damasks, Gallicas and Mosses as well as Species, Noisettes, Chinas, Bourbons, Climbers, Ramblers and Teas.

I spend a great deal of time in the garden before planning anything just soaking up ideas of scope, form, perspective, color and mass. The grounds themselves suggested a



formal plan. A large oak at one end, a mock orange at the other created two large triangular beds. Centered by brick columns, the four-foot high picket fence along the 140-foot frontage also strongly hinted at a gravel walk border. Breck again provided guidance by asserting that "a walk should be carried round the outward boundary, leaving a border to surround the whole ground."

Leighton's book offered more suggestions. First, the front garden's large proportions were considered the best "for improvement in connection with adjoining neighbors." Frank J. Scott, a 19th century writer, (*The Art of Beautifying Suburban Home Grounds*, 1870) observed

that it is "unChristian to hedge from the sight of others the beauties of nature which it

has been our good fortune to create or secure." In other words,

front yards are to be shared.

On the other hand, foundation plantings were frowned upon. The grounds should

"give the foremost satisfaction to those looking out from the main windows or verandas." These observations became rules for me.

All foundation plantings were banished save one—a common lilac, *Syringa vulgaris*, which filled

a simple niche near the front portico while supplying a waft of fragrance to visitors at the front door.

The view from the living room windows has been improved by a twelve-by-eight-foot rectangular "island bed" which became the repository for an Italianate concrete bird bath and a perennial bed accented with the Autumn Damask or Portland, 'Rose du Roi' (1815).

I found out that a garden, like life, is a process of continuing discovery, or in this case, continuing rediscovery, of old truths. For example, Leighton's book supplied the answer—an "old truth" of garden design—to the problem of what to do about the vacant look created on one side of the yard by the rectangular bed on the other side. In the book was an illustration that showed

"An idea for a rose bed." The idea was simple and elegant at the same time. It also solved a problem. You see, the following year I became slightly more obsessive and bought 61 more old roses. After creating a second rose bed on the other side of the gravel path, I still had several climbing roses with no "home". The illustration showed a circular mounded bed about twelve feet in circumference with four climbing roses mounting a post. The elegant part was that the four roses were bound up by rope at the top, creating a blended spray of blooms. Voila! A solution had presented itself for that vacant space.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Members:

We wish to draw your attention to the following changes, and other items of importance.

Correction of Official CG&LHS Mailing Address: We accidentally listed the return address for the last issue (also on the renewal slips) incorrectly. We put Kathleen Craig's private business address on there instead of the CG&LHS box number. **P.O. Box 1075, Palo Alto, CA 94302-1075 is the correct address** to use to reach Kathleen in her Treasurer's role, and also to contact our new Membership Secretary, Glenda Jones.

Ordering Back Issues of *Eden*: Back issues of *Eden* may now be ordered through the Membership Secretary. They are \$2.50 apiece. Glenda can provide you with an order form on request if needed.

Dues Due??? As of this Winter quarter, billing procedures will be handled differently. Previously, we were enclosing renewal notices with your last issue of *Eden*. The Board members involved in this procedure met and decided to make some alterations as the old method meant dunning members for dues before a full year had passed since their last payment. Also, since members lead such busy lives, the newsletter often gets set aside until one has time to read it and the renewal notice is not seen and dealt with in a timely fashion. From now on, **Glenda will mail out renewal notices separately**. Starting with the memberships which expire in the Spring quarter, notices will be mailed out 30 days prior to expiration dates. So anyone who sees 3.00 at the bottom of their mailing label should receive a bill for dues in February if all goes well.

Currently, the date that appears on mailing labels below your name is based on the quarter in which you last renewed. That will gradually change as renewals come in this year. By September, bills will go out monthly, based on the date your last membership check was sent. This date (month and year) will be printed on the labels, below your name and address (as they are in this issue). If you renew late and miss an issue of *Eden*, your membership period will change, starting from the date of the renewal check unless you indicate you want to receive the missed issue(s). Glenda is revising the renewal forms to reflect these options. She also wants to remind you that any member who wishes to renew for more than one year may do so at any time.

Sustaining Membership Category: Since the majority of membership renewals fall within the Winter quarter, we would like to take this opportunity to again draw your attention to our new Sustaining Membership category of **\$50 and up**. Because our organizational status

as a non-profit group is now officially established on both state and federal levels, anyone who wishes to support CG&LHS in this way will be eligible for a tax deduction on any charitable contributions made.

Membership Directory 2000: Glenda is also working on the Membership Directory for 2000, to come out around April. We would like to have more than just names and addresses this time, to make this document a useful reference for members. If there is anything to be corrected, added to or deleted from the current version, please contact Glenda with this information ASAP. We request that members who have e-mail addresses provide them for the directory, as this enhances speedy and inexpensive communication among members. We would also like to expand this second edition of the Directory to include some brief biographical information about each member: related work and special interests, affiliations with other related organizations, areas of expertise you'd be willing to share with members.

BOARD ELECTIONS – FALL 2000

Any member of CG&LHS is eligible to become a member of the Board of Directors through election or appointment to fill a vacancy. The next election will be held at the Annual Meeting in the autumn (date and place to be announced—it's still under negotiation). **The deadline for nominations is April 1, 2000.**

They should be sent to William Grant, Chair of the Nominating Committee, 1678 Pleasant Valley Road, Aptos, CA 95003.

There is also the option to run for the Board even if not listed on the slate prepared by the Board (as set out in the By-laws) if a petition is signed by 10% of the members. This petition must be in the hands of the Membership Secretary, Glenda Jones, (1074 Moreno Avenue, Palo Alto, CA 94303), at least 45 days before the election. We expect to have the date of the next meeting set in time for publication in the Spring issue of *Eden*, so there should be plenty of time left to allow for meeting this deadline.

The positions to be filled at the autumn meeting are as follows: President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity Chair and Director-at-Large. If anyone needs a copy of the By-laws, please get in touch with Mitzi VanSant, (650) 323-1109 or e-mail: mitzi@thefragrantgarden.com.

PRESERVING THE GARDENS OF CALIFORNIA

"The Garden Conservancy, now eight years old, represents a national manifestation of the growing desire to preserve our garden heritage...One of our dreams is an archive of private gardens worthy of preservation in North America, so that important ones can be identified and their owners can begin to think about the prospect of preserving their gardens for posterity."

—Frank Cabot, *Conservancy founder*, *Pacific Horticulture*, Spring, 1998

By now, everyone probably knows that the Garden Conservancy was formed in 1989 to preserve exceptional American gardens by facilitating their transition from private to nonprofit ownership. In addition, the Conservancy serves as an advocate for the preservation or restoration of important American gardens, and is a resource for community groups and public agencies involved in such efforts. Here in California, they have been instrumental in assisting both Lotusland and the Ruth Bancroft Garden to establish themselves as nonprofit-owned gardens. The Conservancy undertook to assist local agencies in the effort to save Val Verde too, unfortunately with less happy results, but their support was certainly appreciated.

The Advisory Committee of the Garden Conservancy includes representatives of the horticultural and preservation communities in 27 states and Canada. These individuals guide Conservancy policy and coordinate regional preservation activities.

A professional Screening Committee reviews garden sponsorship nominations to determine a garden's significance, using aesthetic, horticultural, and historical/cultural criteria. Each sponsored garden is given technical assistance and support in the establishment of an independent governing board, long-term horticultural management, and fund-raising strategies.

The Conservancy is asking us to help them put together an archive of California gardens we consider exceptional. These gardens need not necessarily be candidates for immediate conservancy. This list is for future reference. Printed below are the Garden Sponsorship Selection Criteria. (We have omitted the Feasibility Criteria here because, although it is extremely helpful if a facility has, for instance, adequate room for off-street parking, this is not of primary importance in initial selection of a garden.) The Conservancy wishes to know of any gardens that



we feel rate highly in even *one* of the below criteria. If you have such a garden in mind, please write to the Conservancy, Box 219, Cold Spring, NY 10516. If you are interested in joining the Conservancy, send a check for \$35 to the above address. Benefits of membership include a newsletter and admission to Open Days at selected private gardens. The Open Days directory and viewing tickets are offered to members at a slight discount.

Garden Sponsorship Selection Criteria

Aesthetic Considerations

- Setting
- Overall design
- Use of plants
- Quality of architectural features
- Integration into its setting, both natural and architectural

Horticultural Considerations

- Quality of plants
- Cultural conditions
- Uniqueness of collection
- Diversity and variety of habitats
- Representation of a particular group of plants

Historical/Cultural Considerations

- Representation of the style of the period in which it was built
- Special cultural, local, or ethnic significance
- Significant work of a well-known designer or landscape architect
- Illustration of development of a region, relation of people to the land at a point in history

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Nancy Goslee Power



Nancy will be speaking at the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show in March on "The Sensual Garden—Current Designs for Pleasure" (see Coming Events). "Power built a thriving reputation as an interior designer before launching her garden career. The al-

most sculptural use of color and space within her gardens is a testament to this creative background.

In her book, *The Gardens of California: Four Centuries of Design from Mission to Modern*, (NY, Clarkson Potter, 1995), she describes her home as an 'eclectic paradise' mixing mediums and foliage in a kaleidoscopic collage of color and texture. Often working in collaboration with architects and designers such as Frank Gehry, Powers feels her best work often plays off existing architectural structures." [*Clippings*, the newsletter for the S. F. Garden Show]. Hortus Nursery of Pasadena reports in their newsletter *Dig* that Nancy's "sophisticated and elegantly understated Mediterranean garden is featured on the cover" of this year's *Los Angeles Times* Garden Calendar.

The 1995 *New York Times Book Review* of Nancy's book says, "She describes 30 gardens established from the Spanish colonial era to the present, and the result can only make gardeners with plots in less favored climates...long to travel, if not to move...For a book of this kind, photographs are of course essential, and Mick Hale's are sumptuous." The book is now out of print, but slightly damaged copies were recently available through Edward Hamilton, Bookseller, Falls Village, CT 06031-5000, website:

www.hamiltonbook.com.

CALIFORNIA GARDEN RESTORATION PROJECTS—WHAT NEEDS SAVING NOW?

Rowntree Native Plant Garden

We have some sad news from Carmel-by-the-Sea. At the City Council meeting on December 7, 1999, the Council voted 3-2 to direct City staff to prepare to sell or lease the Flanders Mansion as a single-family residence. While they thanked the Flanders Foundation for their efforts, the Council was not willing to give the Foundation a chance to begin working on their restoration and operations plan. A big vote of thanks to everyone who has supported the Foundation and especially to the many people who waited as long as four hours to speak in favor of the Foundation in the public hearing. In spite of this setback, Bill Grant believes the Foundation may still have some chance of affecting the outcome of events here. Check on their website from time to time: www.englisher.com/flanders.

Val Verde—Montecito

Susan Chamberlin has written to inform us Dr. Warren Austin, owner of the Val Verde estate died December 16, 1999 in Seattle, Washington. As we have mentioned in previous issues, Dr. Austin's attempt to preserve Val Verde was voted down by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors in July, 1999.

SOME USEFUL RESEARCH TOOLS

Two scarce reference documents you may find of use in your research come from CG&LHS member Tom Brown, 200-4th Street, Suite E, Petaluma, CA 94952.

The first is *A List of California Nurseries and their Catalogues—1850-1900*. Tom has listed every known nursery of those times; in some cases the notation is a bare mention of their existence. In others, it includes address, names of owners, and specific catalogues found. The nurseries are listed alphabetically, but there is also a grouping by region. Sources for the catalogues are cited. This document is 83 pages long, spiral bound, priced at \$60.00 plus \$2.50 for postage and handling. This may seem expensive, but when you consider the amount of time and effort put into doing the research, and the time it will save you, you may decide it is a bargain after all.

The second is *19th Century Horticulturists and Plant Raisers (American, Belgian, British, French, German and Italian)* with a list of British gardeners and whom they worked for. Most entries have dates and a location, some just a *fleurit* notation (from the Latin, meaning "flowered" or "flourished" or "was active", used when exact dates of birth and death are not known, or a single or very few dated references are available—may be abbreviated to *fl.*). This document is 77 pages in length, spiral bound on heavy paper, and the cost is the same.

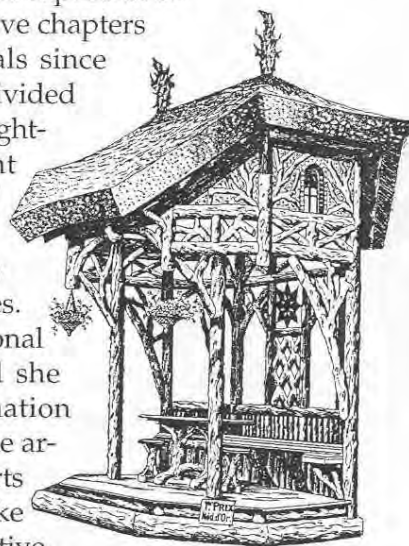
Tom also has an, as yet, unpublished database of plant introductions into California before 1900, constructed from his perusals of the contents of some 120 California nursery catalogues from 1853 to 1900. Currently it has entries for about 7000 ornamental species and cultivars, including over a thousand roses (Tom decided not to include fruits, cereals and vegetables, although he does have information on some of these.) If you have particular interests you want researched, contact Tom about fees charged for this work.

BOOK NEWS & REVIEWS

Furnishing the Old-Fashioned Garden: Three Centuries of Summerhouses, Dovecotes, Pergolas, Privies, Fences and Birdhouses, May Brawley Hill, (New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 1998), 160 pp, \$39.95.

Furnishing the Old-Fashioned Garden will interest general readers, garden historians, and professionals restoring historical gardens. The title is misleading. This is *not* a resource book of craftsmen and manufacturers of garden furnishings. Rather, it is a history of American garden ornament drawn from paintings, period photographs, museum collections, and architectural remains in gardens throughout the United States. The emphasis is on vernacular gardens, not the grand estates.

May Brawley Hill begins with a discussion of the ornamental aspects of colonial gardens. Successive chapters review 30-year intervals since 1780. Each chapter is divided into short sections highlighting the most important ornamental elements of the era. Hill carefully explains their sources and utilitarian purposes. The selections are personal and idiosyncratic, and she has a particular fascination with the evolution of the arbor and the pergola. Parts of the text read more like a catalogue than a narrative history. Not every example is illustrated.



The final chapter looks at garden furnishings since 1960 and does include the names of a few active craftsmen. Here, the present is a time when we long for a life real rather than virtual. Hill observes that "As a nation, we have taken up gardening as a panacea and we furnish our gardens with those things that remind us of a more human and humane past."

The notes and bibliography contain a wealth of research and information for historians. Hill has relied heavily on the Historic American Buildings Survey in the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian Institution's Archives of American Gardens as well as local museums and historical societies throughout the United States.

Furnishing the Old-Fashioned Garden presents a distinctly new view of vernacular American traditions within the context of traditional garden history. It is generally well written and illustrated with rarely seen images. California material is scattered throughout, but is limited by comparison with other regions. The book is highly recommended.

—Margaretta J. Darnall

The California Landscape Garden: Ecology, Culture, and Design. Mark Francis and Andreas Reimann, (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1999), 272 pp., \$50.00 (cloth), \$29.95 (paper).

Mark Francis is professor of landscape architecture at the University of California, Davis, and *The California Landscape Garden* is the outgrowth of research and a series of 1993 workshops on ecological garden design conducted in collaboration with his graduate student and co-author, Andreas Reimann. The purpose of the book is to promote environmentally sound gardening among home gardeners and professionals.

The first chapter, "The Nature of California," discusses the history of the California landscape from the standpoint of its geophysical past and indigenous flora, fauna, and peoples. This history introduces the themes of conservation and sustainability as the basis for the landscape garden as a microcosm of nature. Successive chapters outline the steps, from concept to execution, in creating gardens which emerge from and reflect various regional California landscapes.

The authors draw from the work of the better known environmentalists and landscape architects, such as Michael Pollan and Michael Hough. Their longing for a pre-industrial Eden, which may or may not have existed in quite the form they describe, is becoming more frequent in the rapidly growing and changing California economy. Similar laments have accompanied industrialization and urbanization throughout western history. In their epilogue, "Healing Landscapes," Francis and Reimann sum up their beliefs, saying, "as we work in our own gardens to heal the larger California garden, we are ourselves healed and restored by a personal habitat that is full of life and ecologically robust, in which nature itself provides deep and lasting meaning."

The California Landscape Garden is the most complete book available on ecologically restorative gardens for California. The charming illustrations by Yan Nascimbene make the book a pleasure to peruse, and the sources and references at the end are helpful to home gardeners and professionals alike.

—Margaretta J. Darnall

Southern California Gardens—Bible for CG&LHS

Southern California Gardens, by Victoria Padilla, should probably be required reading for any new student of California garden history. UC Press originally published the book in 1961, and Allen A. Knoll, Publishers reprinted it in 1994. This edition is also now "officially" out of print. We have been advised that selected editions are still available directly from the publisher. These are numbered, limited edition copies (1-20 and 980-1000) available at prices ranging from \$59.00 to \$99.00 per book, plus shipping and tax, if applicable. Hardcover, 384 pp, 170 b&w illustrations, 15 full color. To enquire or for additional information, please call (800) 777-7623 or (805) 564-6036. Ask for Abby Schott. E-mail: Aaknoll@aol.com.

Charles Eliot, Landscape Architect

In our Summer 1999 issue, we listed this book among others soon to be published thanks to the efforts of the Library of American Landscape History and its generous supporters. The book was published in

September and is readily available now. We saw it recently at William Stout Books in San Francisco. "An intriguing and little known story of one of the country's most accomplished landscape architects." Written by Charles W. Eliot, (University of Massachusetts Press, 1999), 900 pp, contains the same removable maps of the Boston open space system that were in the original 1902 edition, \$50 in hardcover. The Institute of Cultural Landscape Studies of the Arnold Arboretum has joined with the LALH as an educational partner. The Institute has published a study guide by Keith Morgan (who also wrote an introduction to the book) that contains a chronology of Eliot's life, project list, and bibliography. It is available from the Institute free of charge. To order, call (617) 542-1718, ext. 175 or e-mail: icls@arnarb.harvard.edu.

To Be Reviewed In A Future Issue

Outside The Bungalow: America's Arts & Crafts Garden, by Paul Duchscherer (author) and Douglas Keister (photographer). 184pp, color photographs throughout, \$32.95 (NY, Penguin Studio, 1999).

Preserving Modern Landscape Architecture edited by Charles A. Birnbaum, FASLA, and Jane Brown Gillette. This is a collection of thirteen papers from the November 1995 Wave Hill symposium of the same name. Essay topics range from designed masterworks by Dan Kiley and Thomas Church to preservation of adventure playgrounds. This publication initiates a dialogue between leading professionals in landscape architecture and historical preservationists regarding the problems and dilemmas of saving landscapes not yet old enough to have won a popular constituency. (New York, Spacemaker Press, 1998) \$15.95.

New Books of General Interest

American Designed Landscapes, A Photographic Interpretation, by Alan Ward, with Introduction by Gary Hildebrand. "An acclaimed landscape photographer spent 20 years cataloguing and interpreting the most significant designs in American landscape architecture. From Jefferson's Academical Village at the University of Virginia to Dan Kiley's Miller Garden, this book chronicles over 300 years of landscape design." [The Garden Book Club] Also has the Biltmore estate, Middleton Place, Naumkeag, Bloedel Reserve, Dumbarton Oaks, and the Blue Ridge Parkway, in other words, mostly East Coast locations. Each landscape featured includes a site plan and a brief history, 128 pages, more than 100 b&w photographs, (New York, Spacemaker Press, 1998). \$34.95. You may purchase this and the above book directly from the publisher's website: <http://spacemakerpress.com>.

Where to Find Out-Of-Print Books on Garden History

In a recent conversation with one publisher about a book we wanted to review for *Eden*, the Publicity Director replied, "Oh, that book is out of print now." "That doesn't matter," replied the Editor. "Most of the books our members are interested in are out of print now." We invite members to share information about their favorite horticultural bookstores not previously mentioned in *Eden*.

We've just acquired a copy of the "revised and expanded" edition of *The Used Book Lover's Guide to the Pacific Coast States* by David S. and Susan Siegel, Book Hunter Press, NY 2000. As you might expect we found Bell's Book Store in Palo Alto, V.L.T. Gardner in Santa Barbara and Quest Rare Books in Stanford, all excellent sources we have listed in previous editions of *Eden*. The following California sources also listed themselves as specializing in gardening and horticulture books, no doubt to varying degrees:

Brooks Books, Phil Nesty, P.O. Box 91, Clayton CA 94517, (925) 672-4566, by appointment only. E-mail: brooksbk@netvista.net.

Richard Glassman Books, 15 First St, Corte Madera, CA 94925, (415) 924-0410. Listed as an open shop, but only on Saturday afternoons and other times by appointment.

Quill & Trowell, 484 Main St, Diamond Springs, CA 95619, (530) 621-1883. A friend who lives in the area has been asked to report on whether this "specialty" amounts to much.

Thompson Books, Ingrid & Terry Thompson, 344 Binscarth Road, Los Osos, CA 93402, (805) 534-9220, E-mail: [thompsonbooks@thegrid.net](mailto:<thompsonbooks@thegrid.net>). By appointment only.

Toad Hall, J. A. Baker, P. O. Box 902, Berkeley, CA 94701. We never did get a call through to them, sent away for the catalogue instead. Fax only? (510) 540-0172. Mail order only.

Turtle Island Bookshop, 3032 Claremont Ave, Berkeley CA 94705, (510) 655-3413.

William Stout, Books, see below.

Some out-of-state specialist sites for Internet shoppers:

Calendula Horticultural Books:
www.localaccess.com/calendula/ortbooks.htm.

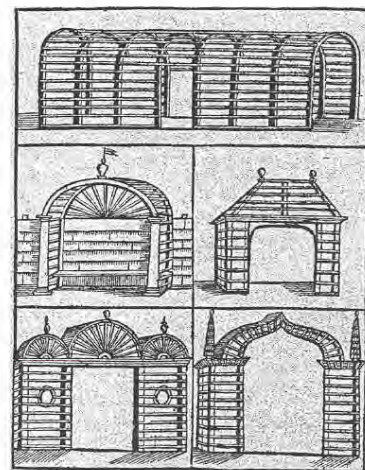
Flora & Fauna Books: [<www.ffbooks.com>](http://www.ffbooks.com).

Horizon Books: [<www.horizonbook.com/index.htm>](http://www.horizonbook.com/index.htm).

While the *Guide* is certainly a useful tool, it doesn't tell the whole story. Recent visits to some San Francisco bookstores have unearthed sources that are not listed in

the *Guide* as having a horticultural specialty yet had collections we felt were worthy of mentioning here. First, we checked up on the one that is listed: **William Stout Architectural Books**, 804 Montgomery Street, San Francisco 94133, (415) 391-6757, www.stoutbooks.com. They've just opened a new branch store with similar stock at 27-A South Park, San Francisco, (415) 495-6757. Hours: M-F 11-6:30, Saturday 11-5:30. They do have a catalogue, but it won't help the Internet-deprived as it lists only books on architecture. If there is a special one for landscape books, we did not see it. Those who don't live within driving distance will have to enquire by phone or snail-mail.

Downstairs in the basement of the Montgomery Street store are four tall cases of new and out-of-print books on garden subjects, plus more stacked on the tables next to them, including books from Germany, Italy, France and England. They are arranged in (approximately) alphabetical order by author, and you will get a serious crick in the neck if you browse through the lot. They had Padilla's *Southern California Gardens* (the 1994 reprint), Streatfield's *California Gardens: Creating A New Eden*, Montecito—*California's Garden Paradise*, Yoch's *Landscaping the American Dream*, and *The Gardens At Filoli*. We yielded to temptation and bought the paperback edition of Gebhard's book on A. E. Hanson for \$22.50. We yearned to acquire (but resisted) a book on the works of Achille Duchêne, the landscape architect who designed the French pavilion at the San Francisco Pan-Pacific Fair, the never finished gardens at The Carolans on the San Francisco Peninsula, and other gardens in California, Florida and on Long Island. (See "The Carolans: an Unfinished Garden" by Margaretta J. Darnall, *Pacific Horticulture* Su88.) On the more general topic of American Gardens, we found *Clues to American Garden Styles* by Fogle, Mahan and Weeks (a perfect little paperback primer at \$7.95), and *For Every House A Garden – A Guide for Reproducing Period Gardens* (from 1607 to 1900) by Rudy & Joy Favretti at \$10.95. Arriving back home, we couldn't resist checking the Internet site too, and found more intriguing items: Six books on Olmsted, including one in Italian; *The Machine In The Garden: Technology and the Pastoral Ideal in America*; a first edition of Thomas Church's *Gardens Are For People* at \$125; and *Trellis: Creative Gardening With Trelliswork*.



Bookstore number two was **Green Apple Books**, 506 Clement Street, San Francisco 94118-2324, (415) 387-2272, www.greenapplebooks.com. This was listed in *The [San Francisco Bay Area] Garden Lover's Guide* as having a good selection of books on horticultural subjects, so off we went to check it out in person. It's a very funky old building. If you have balance problems, bring your walker (though you'll have trouble getting it down the isles) because the floor is definitely off kilter in places (probably sinking from the weight of all those books!) Then there are the loose linoleum tiles. The books are used or remainders. The trip yielded a new copy of 1999 release, *The New Traditional Garden* by Michael Weishan, (editor of *Traditional Gardening*) at \$20 instead of the \$35 list price. They also had copies of Dr. Streatfield's book, Griswold & Weller's *The Golden Age of American Gardens*, the Yoch book, (new at \$25), Charles Francis Saunders' *With The Flowers And Trees In California* (\$15), John McLaren's *Landscape & Flowers* for \$50, and a couple of the Kevin Starr *California Dream* series Carol Greentree told us about in her recent article on California expos. There were lots of other treasures, too numerous to recall.

Number three was a serendipitous surprise. We went to **Sunset Books**, 2161 Irving Street, for another type of book altogether, but they turned out to have an amazingly fine (and large, considering the overall size of the store) selection of new and used gardening books. There are a lot of Asian food markets nearby so close parking is at a premium, but we found space a long block away next to Golden Gate Park. We can no longer remember the particulars of what we saw there (memory goes first, remember?), but this store is not too far away from the Helen Crocker Russell Library at Strybing Arboretum so you could visit both in one trip.

In the East Bay, we can recommend two longtime favorites in Berkeley: **Black Oak Books**, 1491 Shattuck Avenue in Walnut Square, North Berkeley, (510) 486-0698 and **Moe's Books** 2476 Telegraph Avenue, about six blocks south of the UC Campus, (510) 849-2087. Both have good selections of out-of-print garden books. If you have lots of money, see the special glass case collections in both stores—Moe's is upstairs in the rare book section and Black Oaks' is below the glassed in offices out front).

San Leandro (just south of Oakland) has **Gray Wolf Books** (formerly Roskie & Wallace), 14595 East 14th Street, (510) 483-4163. They sell used and remaindered books. There is a huge selection of garden books, but it's mixed in with a lot of old agricultural and forestry stuff; the proportion of chaff to wheat can be high, depending on what you're seeking. Some other drawbacks: this is an old warehouse so the place is very cold (the concrete floor doesn't help), you need a flashlight to see the books,

and there's little, if any, discernable organization about the shelving order. Also, the books are not price-marked, so you don't know how much they're asking until you get up to the desk. Check the California section too. We've seen the Montecito book there.

—mAg

SOURCES FOR ANTIQUE PLANTS

Historic Iris

One of our antique rose chums recently admitted to a new passion for antique iris. We immediately asked permission to pick his brain for any recommended sources. He replied with the following gleanings from the Internet, so thank you, Bill Howe, for generously sharing your knowledge with us all:

The place to begin for the Internet-connected is the Table of Contents for the World Iris website: http://www.worldiris.com/public_html/level1/TOC.html. This in turn will lead you to many links for the Historic Iris Preservation Society: A list of publications on historic iris; a page on how to join the society; a list of display gardens grouped by state; a list of suppliers; a list of the most popular iris among current members of the society, ranging from pre-1900 on up to the present; and a page of helpful tips about using historic iris in period gardens. See also their Notes from the Commercial Source Chairman for some interesting tidbits. In 1998, the Society consulted on two large garden restorations, one at the Frederick Law Olmsted Site in Massachusetts, the other at Oldfields, an estate owned by the Indianapolis Museum of Art. Both are interpreted as 1920s gardens, and the Olmsted firm designed both. For those who do not have access to the Internet, here are the California display gardens and sources.

Display Gardens

Bluebird Haven Iris Garden, Mary Hess, 6040 Fairplay Road, Somerset, CA 95684, (530) 620-5017, e-mail: jhess@innercite.com. This place is a **nursery** too and is listed as carrying a large selection of tall bearded types dating from the 1930s. Catalogue \$1.00.

Myhro's House of Plants, Edward Myhro, 2679 Hwy 140, Cathey's Valley, CA 95306, (209) 374-3301. Probably another nursery, but not listed as selling antique iris on the above site.

Rengstorff House Victorian Garden, 3070 N. Shoreline Blvd., Shoreline Park, Mountain View, CA 94039, (415) 903-6392. We will have more about Rengstorff House & Gardens in our Spring issue. It is a house museum with a Victorian historical recreation garden containing collections of old roses as well as iris.

Superstition Iris Garden, Rick Tasco & Roger Duncan, 2536 Old Highway, Dept. H9, Cathey's Valley, CA 95306, (209) 966-6277, e-mail: randrcv@sierratel.com. This is another **nursery**, listed as carrying most bearded classes pre-1900, plus Arilbreds from the 1930s on. Catalogue \$1.50.

Additional Sources

Nineteen sources were listed on the site. These above and below were chosen to list here because they are California companies that specifically stated the period they covered. For the full list and other information mentioned above,



see the website or join the Society by sending \$5 to HIPS, Membership Secretary, Andree Desiree Wilson, 15 Bracebridge Rd, Newton Centre, MA 02459.

Forte's Iris Gardens, Mary & Virginia Forte, 9320 Lakota Way, Atascadero, CA 93422, (805) 466-7958, email: jforte21@aol.com. Tall bearded, some medium, 1890 to present. Catalogue \$1.50.

O'Brien Iris Garden, Lois & J. Dan O'Brien, 3223 Canfield Road, Sebastopol, CA 95472, (707) 824-9223, e-mail: jdobrien@MCI2000.com. All bearded classes, pre-1900 to present.

COMING EVENTS

February 4 & 5: A two-day symposium on the natural garden at Strybing Arboretum in San Francisco, Golden Gate Park. On the 4th, the Strybing Arboretum Society presents "Natural Gardening in the Bay Area." Speakers: Judith Larner Lowry, Dr. Don Mahoney, Alrie Middlebrook, Dr. Glenn Keator, and Stewart Winchester. On the 5th, *Horticulture* magazine sponsors "Fitting in Naturally." Speakers: Lauren Springer, Daniel J. Hinkley, Gary C. Ratway, C. Colston Burrell, and Neil Diboll. To register for the Strybing seminar (\$75+), call (415) 661-1316 x354. For the *Horticulture* event (\$95+), call (800) 395-1901.

March 16 through 19: The 15th Annual San Francisco Flower & Garden Show, at the Cow Palace. Featuring 23 "showpiece" gardens. Speakers: Rosemary Verey, Dan Hinkley, Jeff Cox, Hugh Johnson, Nancy Goslee Power, Don Mahoney, Bob Hornback, Warren Roberts, Renee Shepherd, John Greenlee and many others.

March 18: The New England Garden History Society presents their Third Annual Symposium, "An Inconspic-

uous Inheritance: Rediscovering The Garden Legacies of Olmsted, Hutcheson, Shurcliff, Jensen and Church." The talks feature East Coast gardens designed by each of the above. Landscape Architect Stephen Mohr will speak on Thomas Church. The symposium is being held at the Bayside Expo Center and the \$110 fee includes an evening visit to the New England Flower Show. Contact Allyson Hayward, Program Chair at (781) 235-3307 or AMHayward@aol.com. Deadline for registration is March 10th.

July 1 thru July 17: Bill Grant's Millenium English Garden Tour, featuring the gardens of Beth Chatto, Christopher Lloyd, Gertrude Jekyll, the National Clematis Collection, Sandringham House, Hatfield House, the RHS Garden at Hyde Hall and 22 other gardens. Cost is estimated at \$4495 per person (double room). A deposit of \$300 is required. For full details, contact Port of Travel, Inc., 9515 Soquel Drive, Suite 102, Aptos, CA 95003 (831) 688-6004, Fax: (831) 688-6094.

DIRECTORY ADDITIONS

Please welcome (and add to your Directory) the following new members:

The University of California Library, Berkeley, CA 94720
Barbara Flaherty Crane, 9300 Lasaine Ave, Northridge, CA 91325

Maureen Gough-Decombe, 239 Seale Ave, Palo Alto, CA 94301
Betty Kimball, 8910 Ardenale Ave, San Gabriel, CA 91775
Kim Lemmer, 1202 Guinda St, Palo Alto, CA 94301
Cindy Lewis, 14431 Ventura Blvd, #411, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

Janet Segal, 4101 Park Vista Dr, Pasadena, CA 91107
Sally Swan, 1725 Milan Ave, South Pasadena, CA 91030

Please correct your directory to show the following:

Pam Waterman: email: pamchuck@pacbell.net

WEBSITES TO VISIT

The New England Garden History Society
<http://www.masshort.org/neghs.htm>

CG&LHS member Judith Tankard has asked us to list this website for our readers. Ms. Tankard is the editor of the highly rated *Journal of the New England Garden History Society*, and author of three recent books on garden history (*The Gardens of Ellen Biddle Shipman*, *Gertrude Jekyll At Munstead Wood* and *Gertrude Jekyll: A Vision of Garden and Wood*). The New England Garden History Society was founded in 1990 by a group of historians, garden designers, and landscape architects with a common interest in garden history. (Sound familiar?) Their activities include lectures, symposia (see Events this issue for

details on their upcoming Symposium in March 2000), and publications. They are a program of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, which is why they share a website. While you're there, you may as well browse through one of the finest horticultural libraries in the country as well.

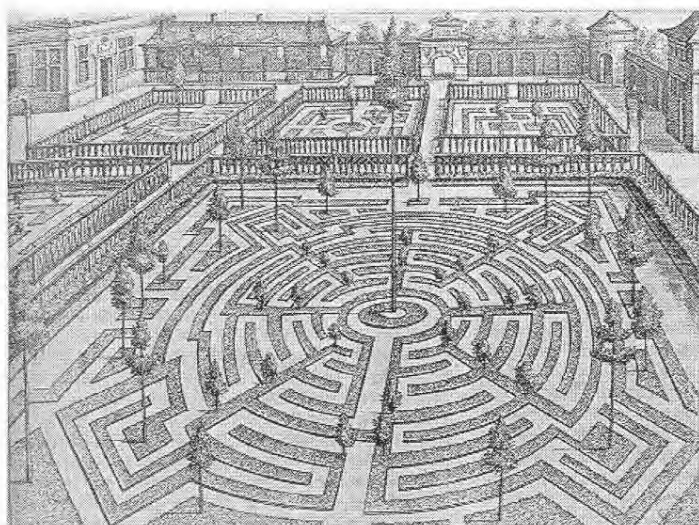
Ms. Tankard also asks that we remind you CG&LHS members are always welcome to submit proposals for articles for publication in the *Journal*. Information about this and about ordering copies of *Journal* back issues may be found on the website. There are seven volumes at \$30 each; a listing of article titles—mostly of East Coast topics—and authors is provided. If you don't have web access, send an enquiry to Massachusetts Horticultural Society/NEGHS, 300 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, MA 02115, (617) 536-9280 x311.

Mazes for Farm or Garden

www.mazemaker.com for Adrien Fisher's Maze Design (UK)

www.americanmaze.com for Don Frantz's American Maze Company (USA)

An article in *Garden Design*, October 1999, alerted us to the fact that mazes are no longer confined to gardens. Since 1993, Don Frantz has been promoting the design and construction of mazes of maize across the USA as temporary amusement parks. These have turned out



to be moneymakers for farmers whose back forty are lying fallow. In 1999, Frantz's company built a maze "event" for Pacific Earth Resources, a family-owned sod, tree and shrub farm located in Camarillo, just north of the Missile Test Center. The maze was planted on four acres of land and contained approximately two miles of paths to get lost in. The site contained a large-scale, California Mission-theme maize maze as well as several smaller "court-yard" mazes to entertain puzzle lovers, and booths sell-

ing food and souvenirs. The event had a briefer season than hoped for, being, literally cut short by dry weather that turned this forest of cornstalks into a fire hazard. They are looking into the use of more drought-tolerant types of maize for this year. Frantz says installing and running one of his mazes can cost \$70,000 to \$250,000, and they attract from 12,000 to 50,000 visitors, (Pacific Earth had 50,000), with adults paying up to \$8 for admission, "some of which goes to the landowner." Living History Farms across the country may wish to try this as a fundraiser, but how many of them can come up with the ante?

For those who want to learn more about the history of mazes and labyrinths in gardens, see Andrew Fisher's site. He has written several books on the subject and offers them for sale here. He has photos of some of the more than 175 mazes he has designed over the last 25 years, as well as illustrations of some historic mazes in Britain. Frantz hired Fisher to create the first maize maze in Pennsylvania in 1993, but this partnership apparently went sour after a few years, each accusing the other of stealing design ideas. Fisher is not shy about trying to make money, but he is a true creator, while Frantz remains a promoter who relies on others to do the creating of these living puzzles.

ERRATA

In the last issue's **What Needs Saving Now?** section, our report on the First Mayor's House of Salinas listed the 'Cloth of Gold' rose as being most correctly known by the name 'Fortune's Double Yellow'. This was the Editor's mistake. 'Fortune's Double Yellow' carries the synonym, 'Gold of Ophir', is filed under the category of Miscellaneous Old Garden Roses for want of a better place to put it, has truly vicious thorns, and blooms only in the spring. Though it is a beautiful rose, it cannot be recommended for use in a small garden. 'Cloth of Gold' is a synonym for the Noisette rose, 'Chromatella' (1843), and repeats bloom.

In her book, *To Begin Again: 1908-1929*, M. F. K. Fisher wrote the following about "Childhood Roses":

The first rose I remember that my mother loved was what she called, in her inimitable Anglo-Dresden accent, a 'Frau Karl Druschki'. Then I remember the 'Cécile Brünner', or as she pronounced the name, Sessle Br-r-ooner, rolling the *r* in her slightly operatic German. They were lovely, tight little curly things like pink shells, multi-petaled, of course. They grew on pergolas and trellises everywhere, and used to snag tall people's hair. They were wonderful on May Day for the baskets wehung on old ladies doors.

When we first went to Whittier, in about 1911, the county roads were still bordered with the free roses

that senators, mayors, and chambers of commerce begged the few orange ranchers and farmers to plant. They said, "Plant, plant, plant! People will come out from Iowa and this is an earthly paradise!" And the free donations grew almost frantically, and then died of neglect. By 1918, when we moved down Painter Avenue to the Ranch, there were still roses along the roads. It never occurred to any of the ranchers to spray, irrigate, clip, or prune. They grew the tag end of them, so beautiful: the 'Frau Karl Druski'; the common, bright scarlet, lustily blooming 'Ragged Robins'. But best of all, in my first year, were the ones that grew over the abandoned outhouses in Whittier.

Whittier was built about a hundred years ago by a band of Quakers who proved their social standing, in one way or another at least, by whether they had one-holers or two-or three-holers in their backyard. When the flush toilet came along, somewhat before we arrived in 1911, instead of removing the latrines and covering up the good supply of night soil, the settlers simply pushed their outhouses over, filled in the holes, and planted 'Gold of Ophir' roses they had brought from Pennsylvania. The vines thrived on the unexpected bounty of the richness beneath them, and I remember great heaps of them in every backyard in Whittier, blazing like moons on fire, yellow, gold, pink—and in the shade. I'll always remember their lovely color.



COMING ATTRACTIONS

In our next issue, we will have a list of places to visit in Monterey, reviews of *Outside The Bungalow: American's Arts & Crafts Garden* and *Preserving Modern Landscape Architecture*, information from Carol Greentree on NPS publications, an article on the Domoto Nursery, another on the Rengsdorff garden recreation, and the usual hodge-podge of tidbits about this and that. Remember to renew your subscription in a timely fashion so you don't miss this anything!

Illustrations this issue:

1. 'Pruning the Roses,' *The Gardener's Catalogue* (1975)
2. *Campanula vidalii*, *Victorian Floral Illustrations* (1985)
3. *Iris variegata*, *Early Floral Engravings*, editor E. F. Bleiler, (1976)
4. Nancy Goslee Power, *Clippings*, newsletter of the S. F. Flower & Garden Show, December 1999
5. 'No. 3—Banc Couvert,' *Constructions Rustiques En Bois*, Sannois (c. 1898)
6. '17th Century Dutch Treillage,' *The Gardener's Catalogue* (1974)
7. *Iris germanica*, *Victorian Floral Illustrations* (1985)
8. 'Design for a labyrinth,' from Hans Vredeman de Vries, *Hortorum Viridariumumque* (1583) from *The Oxford Companion To Gardens*, (1986)
9. 'Gold of Ophir' rosebush planted in South Pasadena in 1884, *Southern California Gardens*, Victoria Padilla (1961) [Is there an outhouse hiding under this rose?]

Cover: 'The Geometric Style,' from an old print, *Landscape Gardening and Rural Architecture*, A. J. Downing (originally 1865)

EDEN

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To celebrate the beauty, wealth, and diversity of California gardens and landscapes.

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To aid and promote interest in, study of, and education about California garden and landscape history.

*

To identify, document, restore, and preserve gardens and landscapes depicting California's culture and history.

*

To collect and/or coordinate resources and expertise about the history of California's gardens and landscapes.

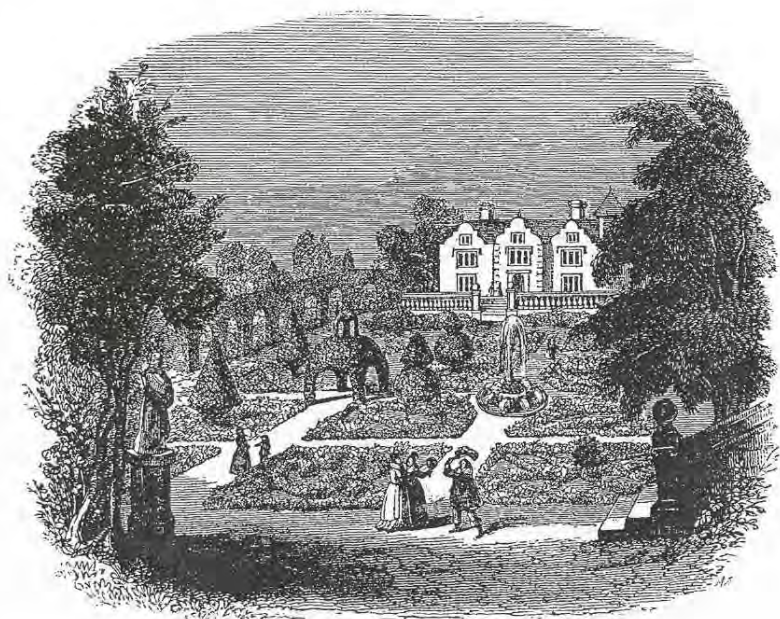
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To visit on various occasions historical gardens, landscapes, archives and libraries in different parts of the State.

*

To enjoy one another's company at meetings, garden visits, and other get-togethers.

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Membership Secretary
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