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ABA, PBFA, ILAB

Gardening & Botany.

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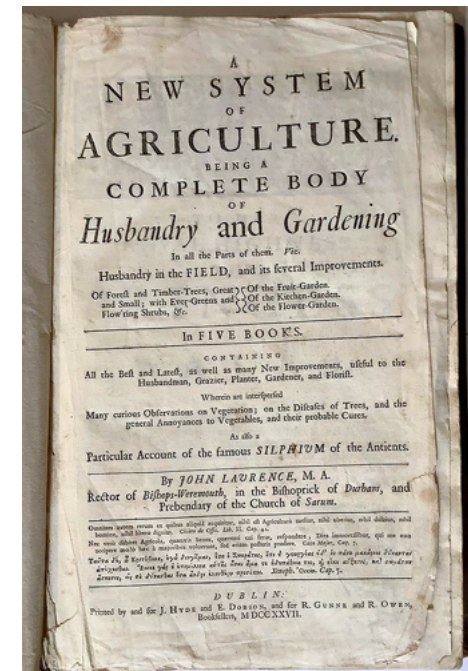
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June 2026



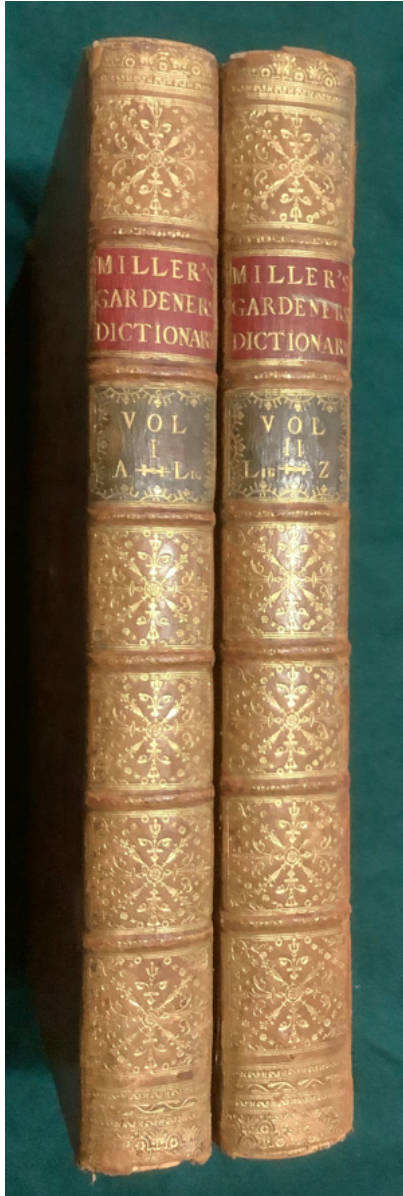


1. LAURENCE, John. A New System of Agriculture. Being a complete body of husbandry and gardening In all the Parts of them. Viz. Husbandry in the Field, and its several Improvements. Of Forest and Timber-Trees, Great and Small; with Ever-Greens and Flow'ring Shrubs, &c. Of the Fruit-Garden. Of the Kitchen-Garden. Of the Flower-Garden. In five books. Containing All the Best and Latest, as well as many New Improvements, useful to the Husbandman, Grazier, Planter, Gardener, and Florist. Wherein are interspersed Many curious Observations on Vegetation; on the Diseases of Trees, and the general Annoyances to Vegetables, and their probable Cures. As also a Particular Account of the famous Silphium of the Antients. By John Laurence, M. A. Rector of Bishops-Weremouth, in the Bishoprick of Durham, and Prebendary of the Church of Sarum.



[18], 312pp., 3 engraved plates (one normally the frontispiece is bound before the preface), and 5 small engraved illustrations within the text. A very good copy bound in contemporary panelled calf, with expert repairs to three small areas of insect damage on the covers. Title-page and following leaf with some marginal wear not affecting the text. With a list of subscribers, many Irish. ESTC T118289. **First Dublin edition.** Henrey 946.

folio. Dublin: printed by and for J. Hyde and E. Dobson, and for R. Gunne and R. Owen, Booksellers, MDCCXXVII. [1727]. £395.00

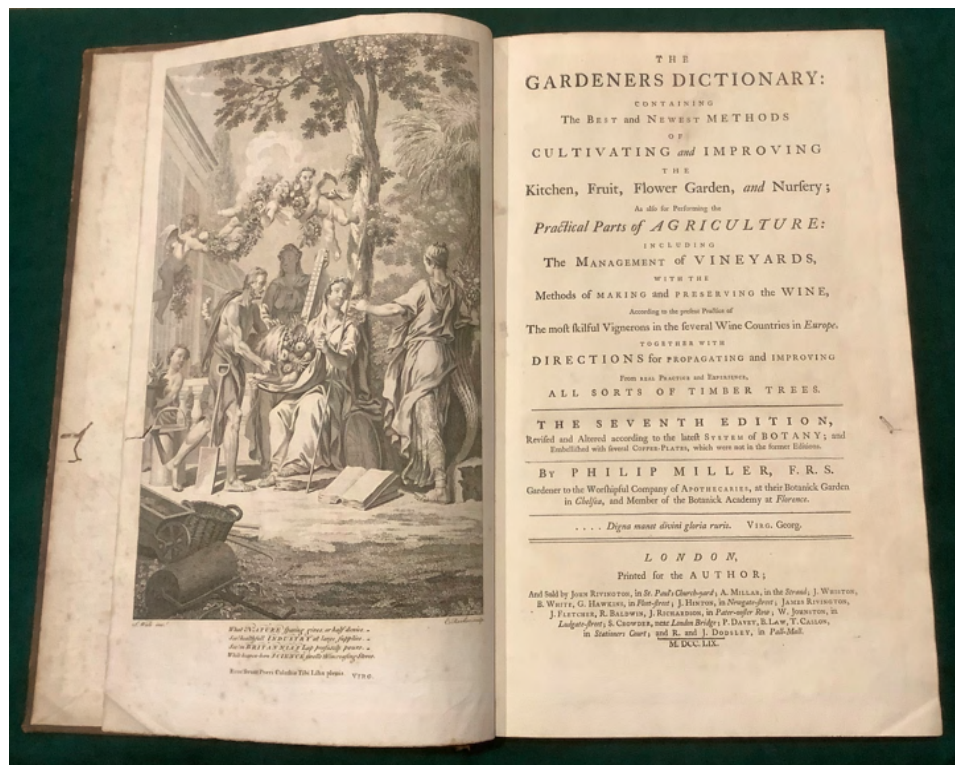


2. MILLER, Philip. *The Gardeners Dictionary: containing the best and newest methods of cultivating and improving the kitchen, fruit, flower garden, and nursery...* The seventh edition, revised and altered according to the latest system of botany. Two volumes. [1368]pp., *engraved frontispiece and 19 engraved plates*. Full contemporary calf, ornate gilt panelled spines, with red and green morocco labels. Minor wear to the head and tail of the spines, but a handsome copy. Internally there is some worming, mainly marginal and confined to the first section of Vol I. Discolouration to the end-papers and paste-downs. folio. printed for the author; and sold by John Rivington; A. Millar; J. Whiston, B. White, G. Hawkins [and 11 others in London], [1756-]1759.

£395.00

ESTC T59415. "The seventh edition was published in 112 numbers, .. between 16 October 1756 and 31 March 1759" (Henrey, B. *British botanical and horticultural literature before 1800*, 1111).

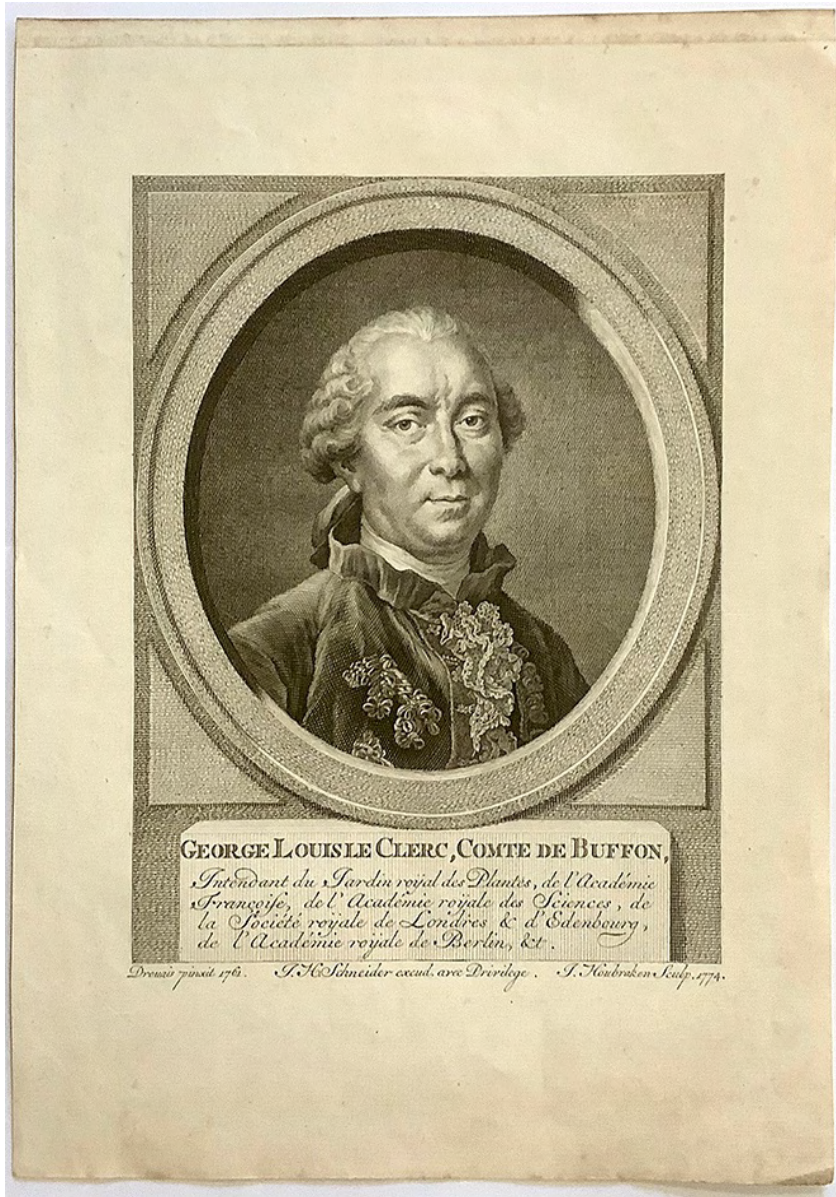
"Arguably one of the greatest gardeners who excelled at both plantsmanship and authorship was Philip Miller, Curator of the Chelsea Physic Garden for almost fifty years, and the centre of an international network of plant enthusiasts and botanists. In a brief memoir of Miller's life included in *The Vegetable Cultivator* in 1839, the unnamed author (who had met Miller personally) writes that Miller was distinguished for his great theoretical knowledge of plants and "especially by his skill in their cultivation." It was through *The Gardeners Dictionary* that he reached such an enormous audience. It was said that it was the *Dictionary* laid the foundation of the horticultural taste and knowledge in Europe.



The Gardeners Dictionary made Miller's name a household word. Everyone who gardened owned a copy, and used it as their horticultural Bible, from Dukes and Earls to ordinary working gardeners and nurserymen. One reason for its wide dissemination and immense influence is that the horticultural advice contained in the Dictionary was available in a variety of formats and prices, putting it within range of virtually anyone with an interest. The first edition of the Dictionary was published in April 1731, and the book was immediately popular - so much so that a pirated edition was already available in Dublin the following year, the first of many unauthorized Dublin printings.”

ref: Philip Miller and *The Gardeners Dictionary*, University of Toronto Library.

Members of the nobility, scientific community, universities and the navy along with nurserymen and booksellers from various corners of England were listed among the 400 first edition subscribers. They included: Edmund Halley, Astronomer Royal, Botany Professors from Dublin and Edinburgh Universities, the Duchess of Gainsborough, the Lord Commissioner of the Admiralty, the Collector of the King's Customs at Plymouth, members of the Royal Society and 16 booksellers. Abroad the book was shipped to subscribers in Leiden, Amsterdam, South Carolina and Boston.

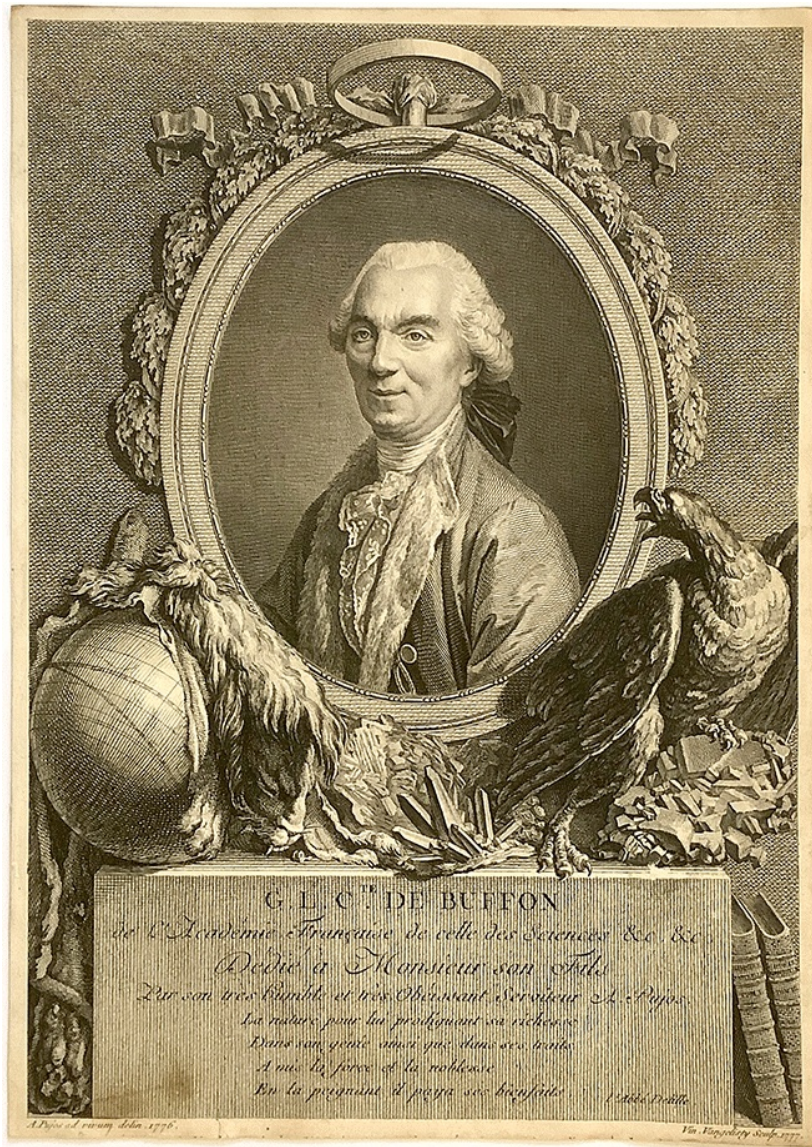


3. BUFFON (Georges Louis Leclerc; Comte de; naturalist). Print, line engraving, after François-Hubert Drouais by Jacobus Houbraken (Dordrecht 1698 - Amsterdam 1780). It is dated 1774, but this is a later impression in slightly reduced size..

295mm x 151mm. Early 19th century.

£25.00 + vat

~ Georges Louis Leclerc, Comte de Buffon (1707- 1788), was keeper of the French botanical gardens and in 1752 published the first of 44 volumes of his Natural History.



4. BUFFON (Georges Louis Leclerc; Comte de; naturalist). A fine copper engraved portrait, after a drawing by Andre Pujos in 1776, by Vincenzo Vangelisti (1738-98). 287mm x 214mm. 1777. £40.00 + vat

~ Georges Louis Leclerc, Comte de Buffon (1707- 1788), was keeper of the French botanical gardens and in 1752 published the first of 44 volumes of his Natural History.

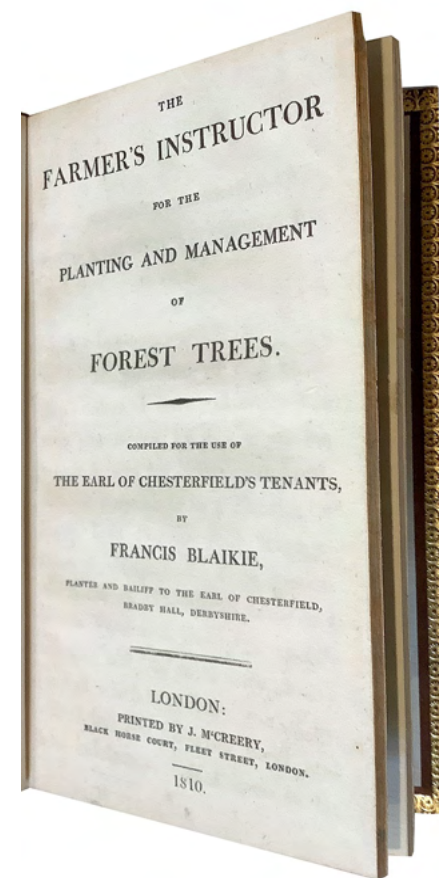


5. CASTEL, Rene-Richard. *Les Plantes, Poeme*. Seconde edition, revue. *xiii, [1], 251pp., 5 plates after J.E. Deseve engraved by Pierron*. A very good copy bound in full contemporary mottled calf, ornate gilt banded spine with flower head gilt motifs, and red morocco label. Nineteenth century bookplate of Frederick J. Edlmann. Near contemporary calf backed glazed paper boards, ornate gilt spine.
12mo. Paris: de l'Imprimerie de Didot Jeune. [1799]. £45.00

~ First published in 1797. Castel, a botanist and natural philosopher influenced by Erasmus Darwin was a close friend of Gericault, whom he had taught literature at the Lycee Imperial, and developed his interests in natural science.

6. BLAIKIE, Francis. *The Farmer's Instructor for the Planting and Management of Forest Trees*. Compiled for the use of the Earl of Chesterfield's tenants. *viii, [1], 10-42pp., half-title*. A very good copy bound in recent full calf, green morocco label, gilt dentelles. A recent presentation book-label. Scarce.
8vo. J. M'Creery. 1810. £120.00

~ This early treatise by Francis Blaikie, planter and bailiff to the Earl of Chesterfield at Bradby Hall in Derbyshire, was written expressly for the use of tenant farmers on the estate, and "a copy thereof" is instructed to "be given to each". He later became land steward at Holkham Hall.



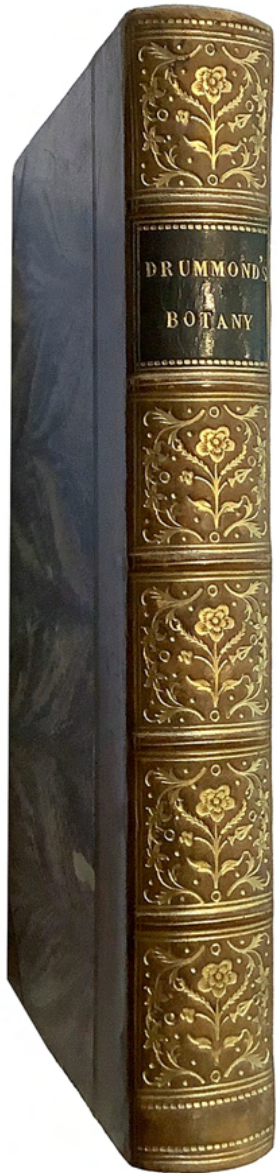


"I am sorry to record such a scurvy bit of hypocrisy in so competent a man."

7. MAWE, Thomas., and ABERCROMBIE, John. Every Man his Own Gardener. The Complete Gardener; being a Gardener's Calendar and General Directory. Enlarged and improved by R. Forsyth. 658, 10pp index., engraved frontispiece. A very good copy in near contemporary black half calf, marbled boards. Gilt banded spine with tan morocco label.
8vo. Printed for the Booksellers. 1829. £65.00

~ First printed in 1767, this immensely popular gardening book ran to more than 25 editions, in no small part due to the spurious announcement of authorship to Thomas Mawe, gardener to the Duke of Leeds. Although he was a nurseryman himself, the true author, John Abercrombie, was so doubtful of his reputation that he paid twenty pounds to Thomas Mawe to allow him to place his name on the title-page. The ruse worked, sales were boosted, and Abercrombie later went on to become gardener at Kew.

"I am sorry to record such a scurvy bit of hypocrisy in so competent a man. The book sold, however, and sold so well, that, a few years after, the elegant Mr. Mawe begged a visit from the nurseryman of Tottenham Court, whom he had never seen; so Abercrombie goes down to the seat of the Duke of Leeds, and finds his gardener so bedizened with powder, and wearing such a grand air, that he mistakes him for his Lordship; but it is a mistake, we may readily believe, which the elegant Mr. Mawe forgives, and the two gardeners become capital friends." [an anecdote recorded in the Atlantic Monthly, 1864].

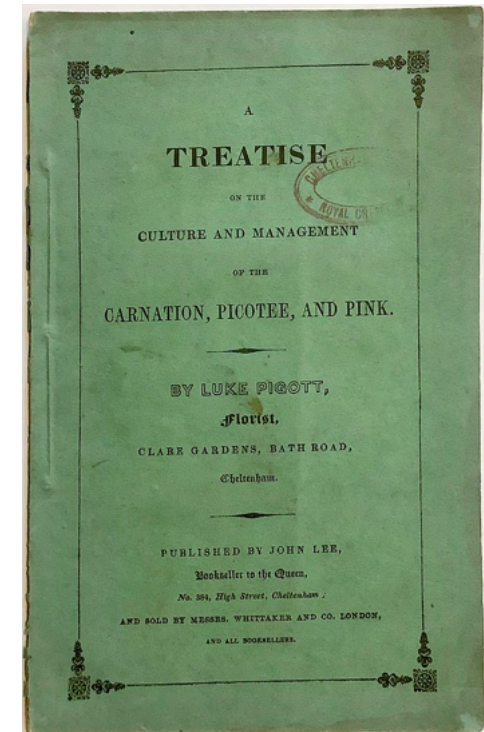


8. DRUMMOND, James Lawson. *First Steps to Botany*, intended as popular illustrations of the science, leading to its study as a branch of general education. Fourth edition. *viii*, 391, [1], [6]pp adverts., 89 figures in the text, and woodcut head and tail pieces. A very good copy bound in contemporary half calf, marbled boards. Ornate gilt panelled spine with black gilt label. Stationer's ticket of H.J. Cooke, of Warwick. Some slight edge rubbing. Scarce. 12mo. Longman, Rees, Orme... 1835. £75.00

~ James Lawson Drummond (1783-1853) was an Irish physician, naturalist and botanist. From 1835 to 1836 he was Professor of Botany at the Belfast Academical Institution, and he was the first President of the Belfast Natural History Society. The majority of the illustrations were drawn by G.W. Bonner. He was also the author of *Letters to a Young Naturalist on the Study of Nature*. His botanical notebooks are held at St Andrews University.

9. PIGOTT, Luke, Florist, Clare Gardens, Bath Road, Cheltenham. *A Treatise on the Culture and Management of the Carnation, Picotee, and Pink*. 31, [1]p. Arranged in monthly sections. Original printed green card wrappers, backstrip worn otherwise in very good condition. Oval stamp of Cheltenham Library, Royal Crescent, to upper wrapper, title-page (here stamped "Withdrawn for sale"), and verso of last leaf. 8vo. Cheltenham: John Lee, no date [1839?] £65.00

~ Scarce, Copac records copies at Lindley Library, Bodleian, BL, Cambridge, and National Library of Scotland.

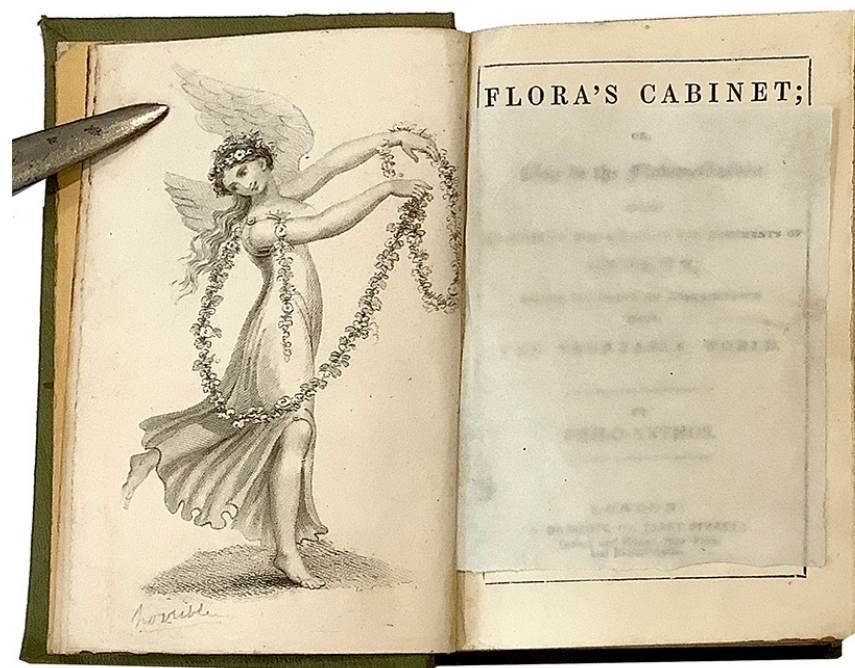
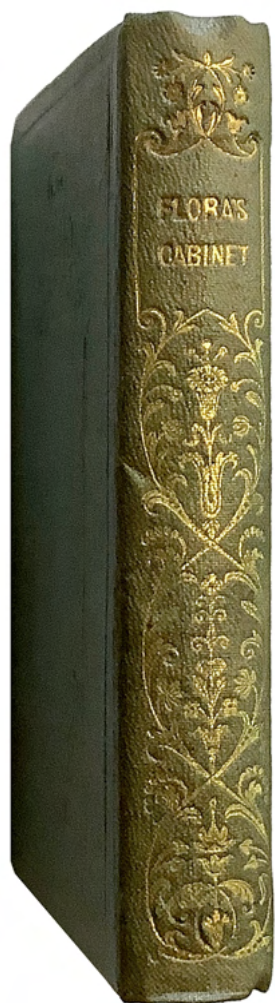




10. AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL. South View of the North of England Agricultural School, Great Ayton. Lithograph by S. Straker, after Thomas Cail. Slight marginal crease marks, but very scarce. The image is repeated on the reverse.
central image measures: 205mm x 270mm. c1841. £75.00 + vat

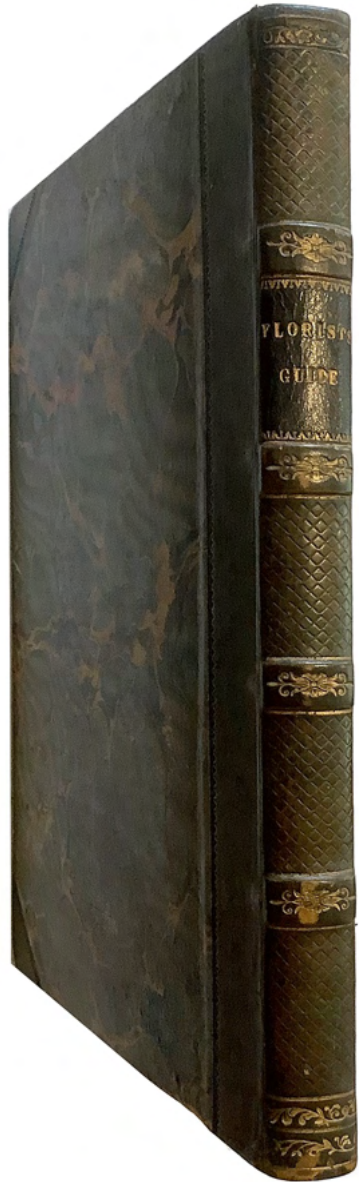
~ The North of England Agricultural School was founded by The Society of Friends in 1841. The School was established in direct response to growing concern about the education of children of those Friends who had been 'disowned', often as a result of 'marrying out'. Unable to attend existing Friends schools, it was felt these children were deprived of an education which would provide 'that grounding which would have made (them) recruit(s) for the Society. (Their lives) and possibilities were lost to the Friends.'

A visit in 1840 by Jonathan Backhouse and his wife Hannah Chapman Backhouse to the recently founded Brookfield School near Dublin, provided Friends in Durham and North Yorkshire with a model: a practical education in farming for boys and domestic service for girls, combined with a good Quaker education. A boarding school was preferred, and one in close proximity to 'a considerable number of our society', both aimed at winning back hearts and minds. ref: G. Alston Watson, Ayton School Centenary History, 1841-1941.



11. PHILO-ANTHOS (pseud.). *Flora's Cabinet, or, Visit to the Flower Garden: being an attempt to familiarize the rudiments of botany, and to cultivate an acquaintance with the vegetable world.* First edition. xvi, 240pp., engraved frontispiece with tissue-guard. A very good copy in original sage green blind and gilt decorated cloth, all-edges-gilt, glazed yellow endpapers. 12mo. London: G. Hodgson. [1841]. £125.00

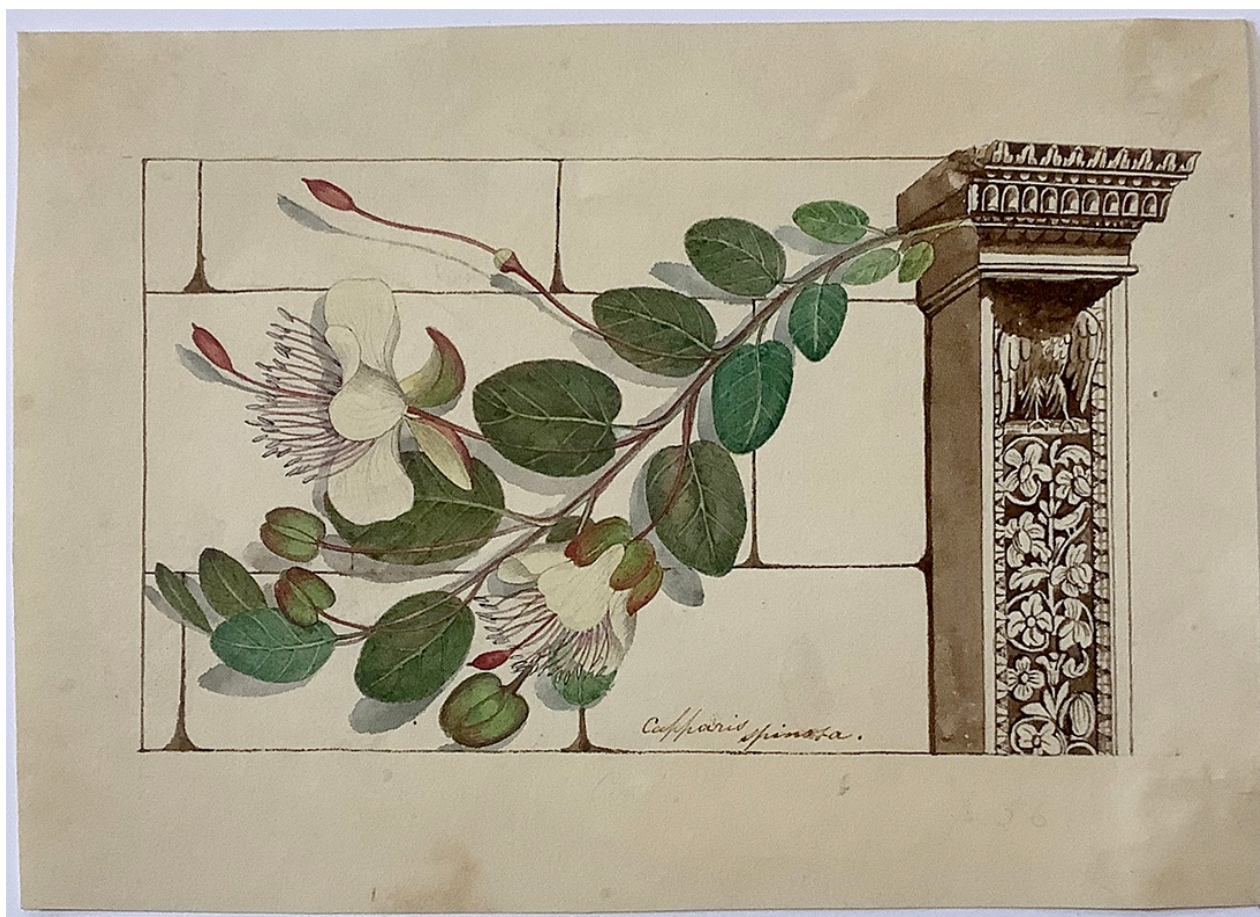
~ Scarce, Copac records copies at BL, & Oxford only. The title references the 17th century poem “Flora’s Cabinet Unlocked” (1673). The family of Hodgson, the publishers in Fleet Street, consisted of George and Orlando (who published a variant of this title c1850, Cambridge copy only). Interestingly they also published at least one title by William Hodgson (1745-1851), who in early life studied medicine in Holland, where he developed a taste for botany.



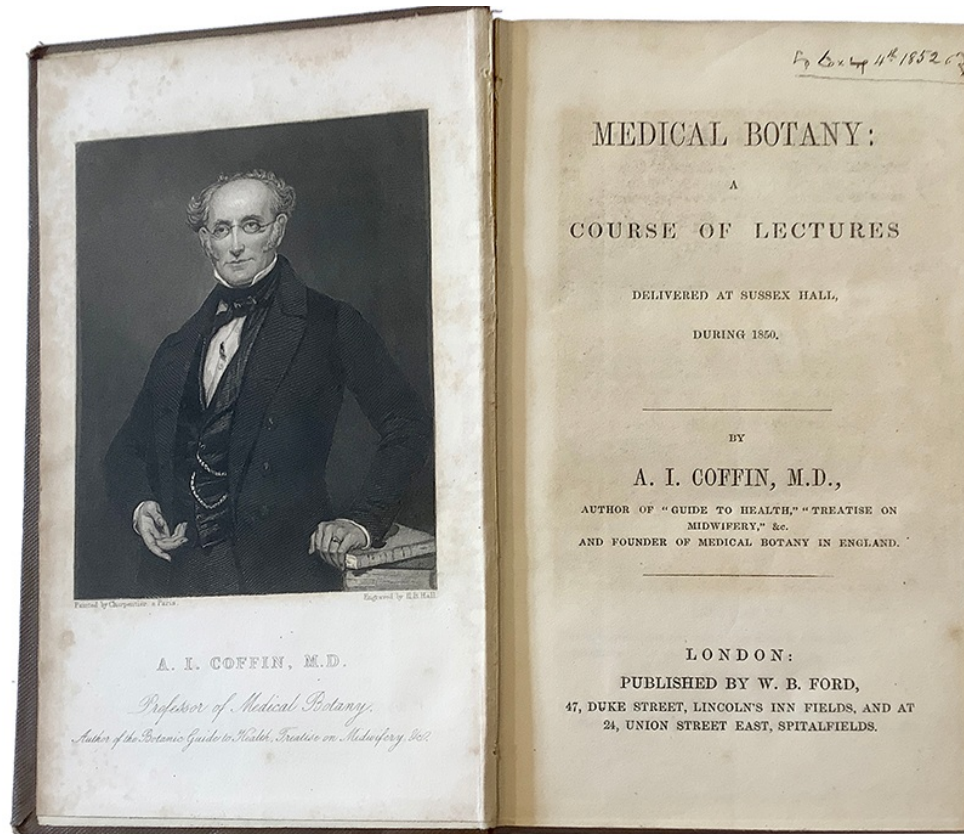
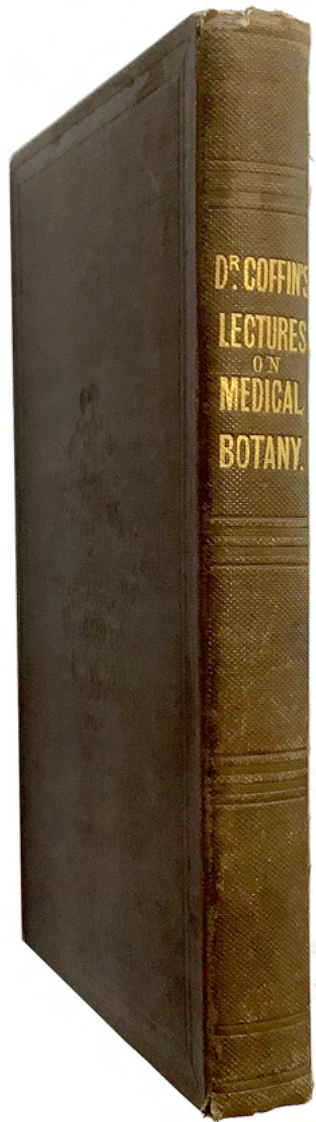
12. AYRES, William P., and MOORE, Thomas. *The Florists' Guide, and Gardeners' and Naturalists' Calendar*. [8], 192pp., 12 fine hand coloured plates by C. T. Rosenberg and printed by E. F. Cheffins, and text engravings. A very good copy in contemporary dark green half calf, marbled boards, broad raised bands with gilt floral tooling, and gilt label. Some rubbing and surface wear to the corners, and an old ink stain to the top edge of the book block, but only intruding very slightly onto the page surface towards the rear of the volume. With an inscription dated 1909 on the end-paper.
4to. William S. Orr and Co. 1850. £120.00

~ William P Ayres was gardener at Brooklands, Blackheath, Kent, and Thomas Moore was creator of the Botanic Garden, Chelsea. They were assisted in this work by a number of experts including J.O. Westwood, Arthur Henfrey, Mr Barnes of Stowmarket, and George Glenny (in judging Florists' Flowers).



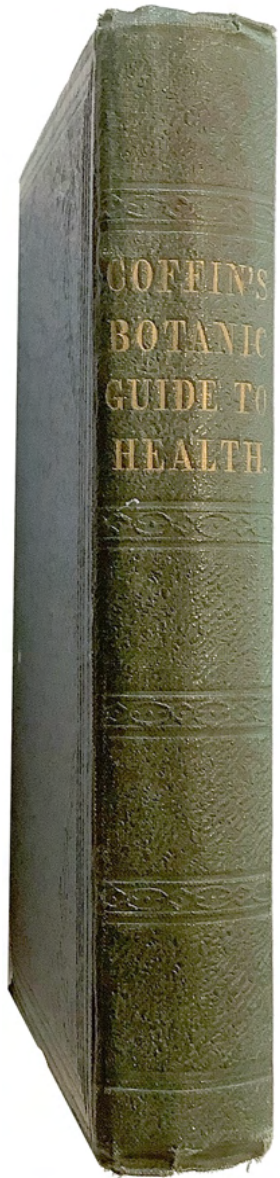


13. CAPER PLANT. An attractive decorative water colour of a caper plant and flower (Capparis Spinosa).
120mm x 165mm. c1850. £20.00 + vat



14. COFFIN, Albert Isaiah. *Medical Botany: a Course of Lectures delivered at Sussex Hall, during 1850*. First edition. xi, [3], 223, [1]p., *portrait frontispiece, and several text illustrations*. A very good clean copy in original blind stamped and gilt lettered brown cloth. Very slight wear to the head of the spine, and corner tips. Contemporary name of Thos: Jones on the end-paper, the date 1852 at the head of the title-page, and a few contemporary manuscript notes to the text. 8vo. W.B. Ford. [1851].

£45.00



15. COFFIN, Albert Isaiah. Botanic Guide to Health, and the Natural Pathology of Disease. (Twenty-fifth edition). xxiv, 384pp., frontispiece portrait. A good copy in original gilt lettered dark green cloth. Slight wear to the corner tips and rear joint, and several gatherings just a little proud in the binding.

8vo. published at the British Medico-Botanic Establishment, 47, Duke Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields. [1852].

£45.00

~ Medical botany was the most significant social movement of the 1840s to express its opposition to the professionalization of medicine by defending the traditional right of everyman to be his own physician. It had close links to herbalism, and was popularised in Britain chiefly by Albert Isaiah Coffin, an American disciple of Thomson. His followers, the Coffinites, believed that all disease could be traced to obstructions in the flow of bodily heat. Hot vapour baths, and especially emetics brought the obstruction to the surface. He organised the Friendly Botanic Society of Great Britain, and local societies in several northern towns.



16. NEWMAN, Edward. *A History of British Ferns, and Allied Plants*. First edition. xxxii, 424pp., woodcuts in the text. A very good copy bound in later half dark calf, marbled boards, raised bands, gilt label. 8vo. John Van Voorst. 1854. £65.00

~ Edward Newman, 1801-1876, was an English entomologist and botanist. He was born in Hampstead into a Quaker family. Both his parents were keen naturalists, and he was further encouraged to take an interest in the natural world at his boarding school in Painswick. He left school at sixteen to join his father's business in Guildford, moving to Deptford in 1826 to take over a rope-making business. Here he met many of the leading entomologists of the day, including Edward Doubleday, and was a founder member of the Entomological Club. In 1832 he was elected as editor of the club's journal, *The Entomological Magazine*, and the following year became a fellow of the Linnean Society and one of the founder members of the Entomological Society of London.



17. FERN PICTURE. An attractive framework of ferns surrounds a religious verse, "But the merciful goodness of the Lord endureth for ever and ever upon them that fear him and his righteousness upon children's children." In very good condition in a later sunken mount. Some very slight loss to fern tips in places, as is nearly always the case with such arrangements. 190mm x 150mm (image size), 260mm x 220mm (mount size). c.1858. £75.00+ vat

The calligraphy suggests that is almost certainly by Dorothy Nevill, It came with another picture which stated 'ferns grown at Dangstein'.

~ Lady Dorothy Fanny Nevill (1826-1913), writer, hostess, horticulturist and plant collector. She was the youngest of the five children of Horatio Walpole, 3rd Earl of Orford and Mary Fawkener, daughter of William Augustus Fawkener, sometime envoy extraordinary at St Petersburg and close friend of Empress Catherine.

In 1851 the Nevills acquired a large Sussex property, 'Dangstein' near Petersfield. Dorothy Nevill turned the estate garden into a horticultural landmark. Her exotic plants were housed in seventeen conservatories and were the subject of numerous articles in journals on horticulture. Through her plants she became friendly with both William and Joseph Hooker at Kew, and supplied Charles Darwin with rare plants for his researches.



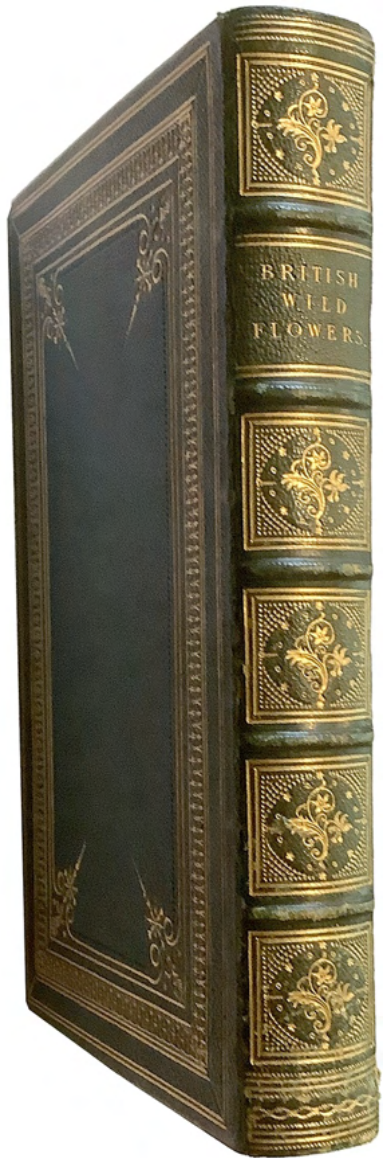
18. FERN PICTURE. An attractive framework of ferns surrounds a religious verse, "O Praise the Lord, ye angels of his, ye that excel in strength, ye that fulfil his commandment, and hearken unto the voice of his words." In very good condition in a later sunken mount. Some very slight loss to fern tips in places, as is nearly always the case with such arrangements. 190mm x 150mm (image size), 260mm x 220mm (mount size). c.1858.

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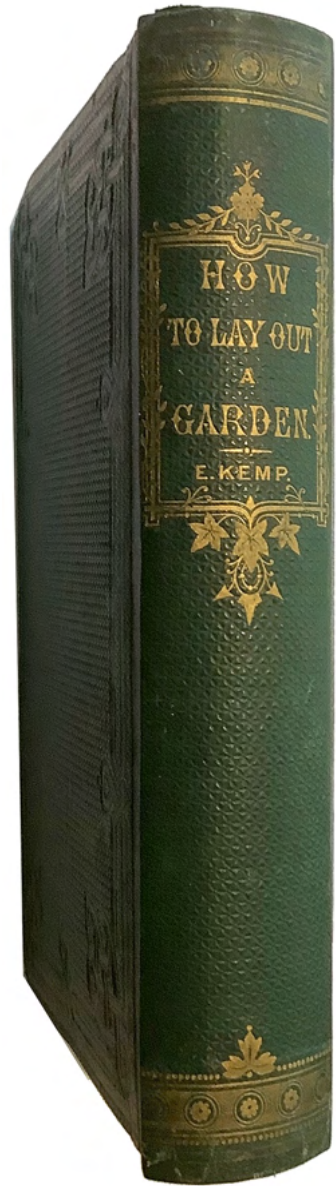
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19. SOWERBY, John E. *British Wild Flowers*. Illustrated by John E. Sowerby Described, with an introduction and a key to the natural orders, by C. Pierpoint Johnson. First edition. *xlix*, [3], 168pp., hand-coloured frontispiece, 2 black and white, and 80 hand-coloured plates depicting 1,600 figures. A publisher's slip has been tipped over the imprint on the title-page, reading 'John Van Voorst 1861.' A fine clean copy, bound in full contemporary dark green morocco, wide ornate gilt borders, gilt panelled spine, all-edges-gilt. 8vo. John E. Sowerby. 1860. £195.00

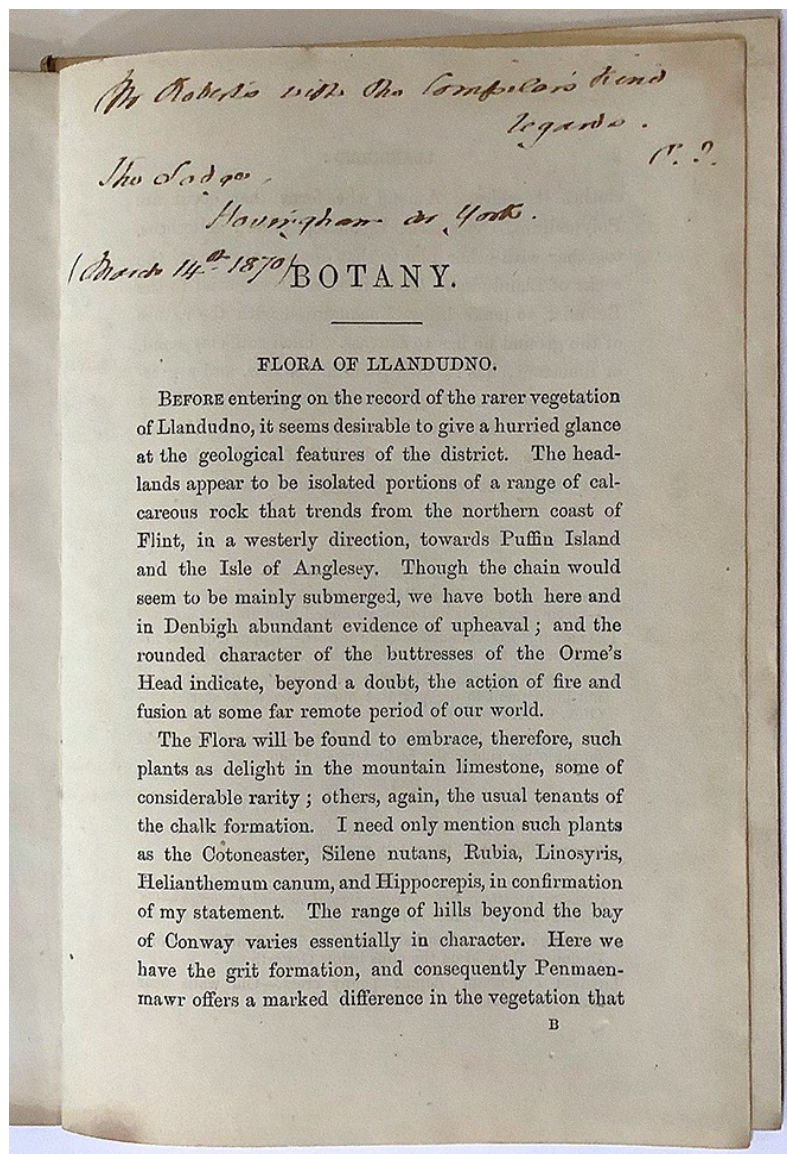


20. KEMP, Edward. *How to Lay Out a Small Garden: intended as a General Guide in Choosing, Forming, or Improving an Estate, (from a quarter of an acre to a hundred acres in extent,) with reference to both design and execution.* Third edition; greatly enlarged, and illustrated with numerous plans, sections, and sketches of gardens and garden objects. *xxxi, [1], 428pp., half-title., 249 illustrations in the text.* A very good copy in original dark green gilt decorated cloth, with bookseller's ticket of D. Wyllie & Son, and armorial book-plate of J.H. Adny. Just a little rubbed, and some slight foxing to the end-papers. The best edition, greatly enlarged.

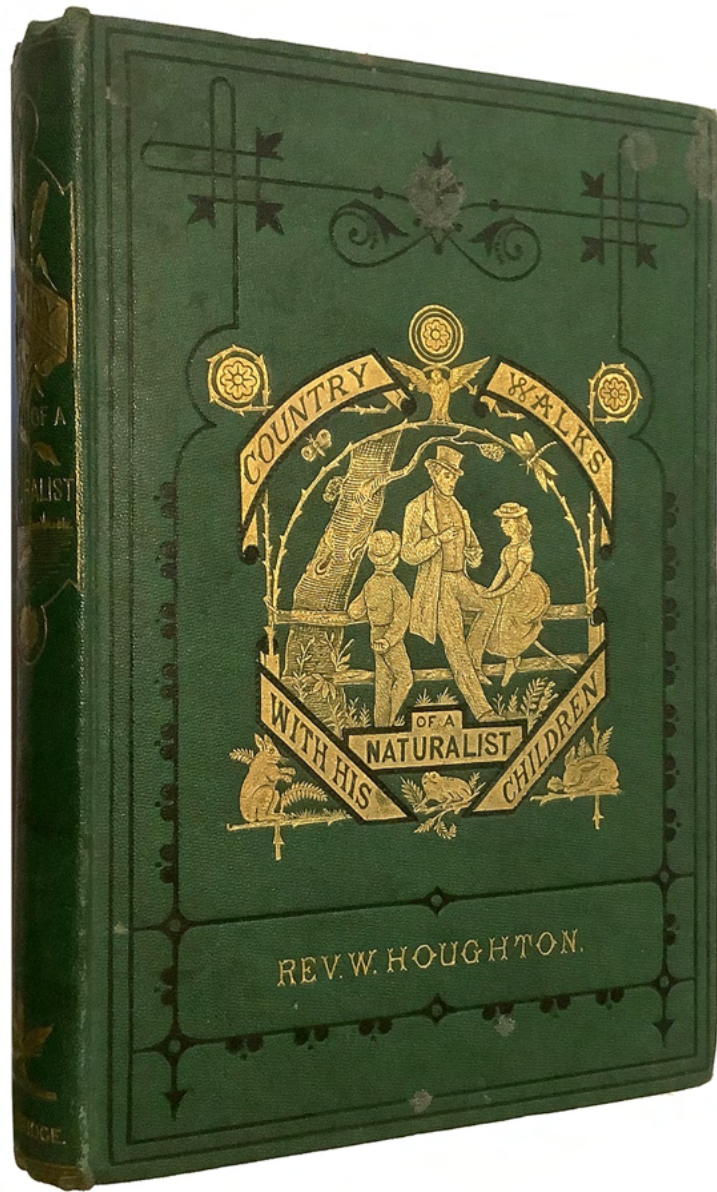
8vo. Bradbury and Evans. 1864.

£140.00

~ Edward Kemp (1817-1891). His technical training was gained in the gardens of the Royal Horticultural Society at Chiswick, under Dr. Lindley, and subsequently in apprenticeship at Chatsworth under Sir Joseph Paxton. In September, 1843, at the age of twenty-five, he was made superintendent of Birkenhead Park, Liverpool, and the remainder of his life was closely connected with that particular enterprise. He designed a number of private places, several of which are illustrated and described in the various editions of his books. His debut as a writer came in 1850, when he put out a small volume under the title "How to Lay out a Small Garden." This was an important work and became a great influence on the high-Victorian Mixed Style of garden design. By its second edition (1858) it had dropped the word 'small' and become a widely influential manual on the design of country estates. Among his major commissions were Hesketh Park, Southport, and Stanley Park, Liverpool, in which he continued Paxton's later trend towards increasing formality of design and the use of viewing terraces within the park. The third edition is considered the best, published in a much larger size "enlarging the size of the page, and giving the work altogether a more practical aspect." "A very comprehensive and carefully prepared alphabetical index is now appended...."

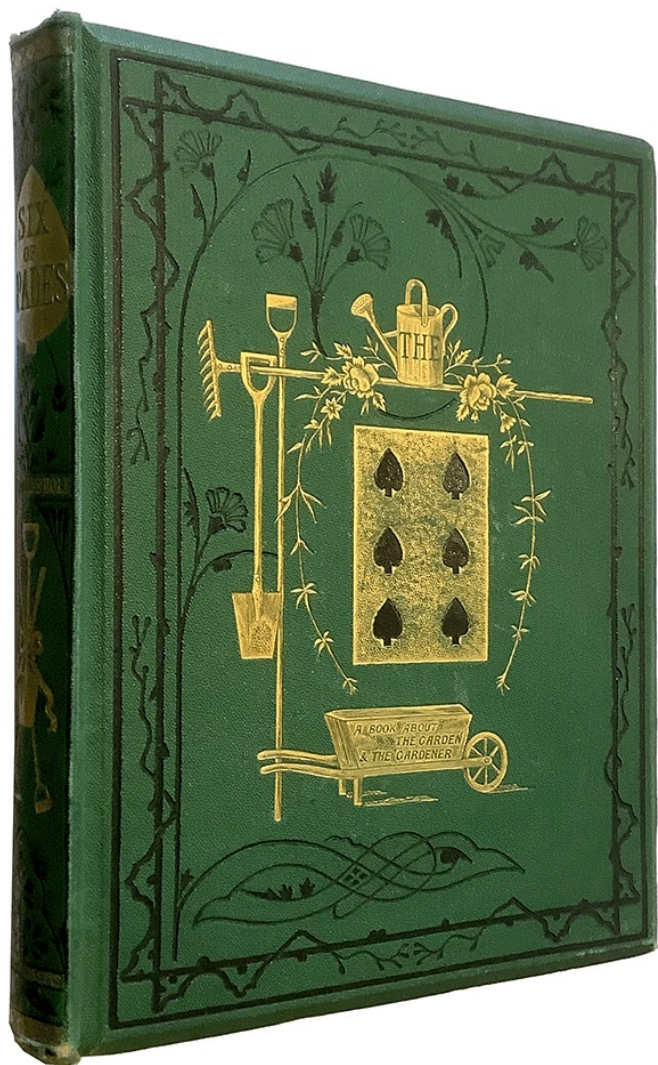


21. LODGE, Thomas. Botany. Flora of Llandudno. 42pp., drop-head title. Inscribed "Mr Roberts with the compiler's kind regards. Tho. Lodge, Hovingham, nr York, March 14th, 1870." Disbound. 8vo. Thomas Williams, Publisher, Lalandudno. [1870]. £30.00



22. HOUGHTON, W. *Country Walks of a Naturalist with his Children*. Illustrated with eight coloured plates and numerous wood engravings. Second edition. vi, 154, [14]pp adverts., 8 colour printed plates. A good copy in original dark green ornate decorative cloth, all-edges-gilt. The plates are rather proud in the binding, some with a little edge wear, and some foxing. 8vo. Groombridge and Sons. 1870. £40.00

~ "I have once more to thank Mr Gould for his kind permission to copy some of his drawings in his work on the Birds of Great Britain."



23. HOLE, S. Reynolds. *The Six of Spades. A Book about the Garden and the Gardener.* First edition. *viii, 236pp., half-title.* A very good copy in the most attractive gilt decorated dark green cloth, the binding in bright clean condition. Inscription dated 1874 on the verso of the half-title.
8vo. William Blackwood and Sons. 1872. £50.00

~ 'The Six of Spades' is the name of an imaginary club of six gardeners. The binding is often included in exhibitions as a fine example of a Victorian decorated binding.

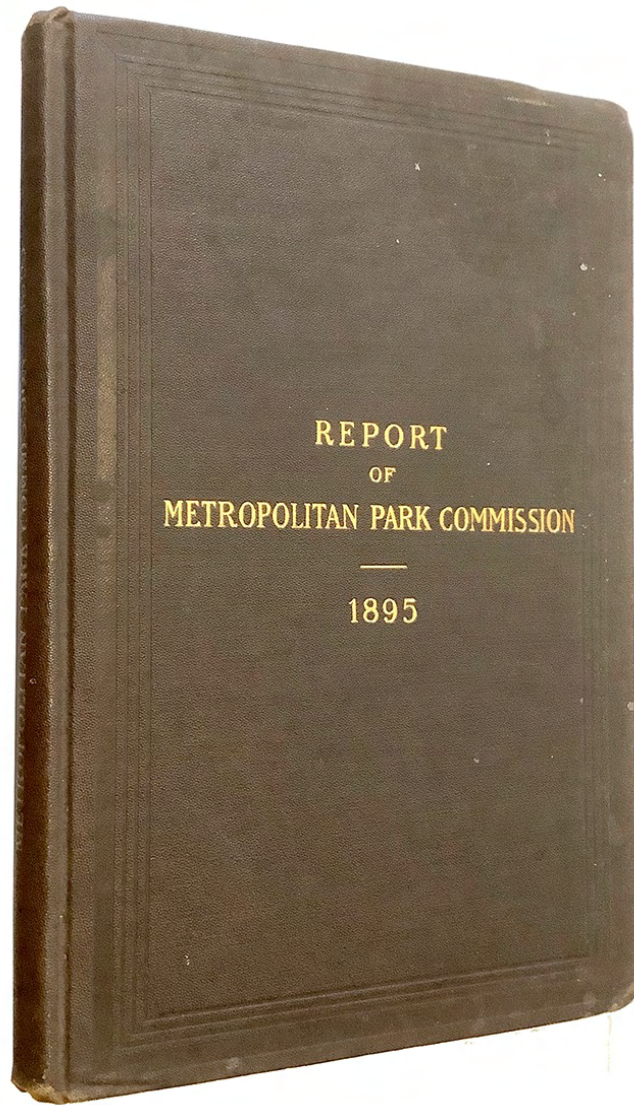


24. SOMERLEYTON HALL. View of Somerleyton Hall & Winter Gardens, Suffolk. Original 1880s albumen photograph matted to card showing a view of Somerleyton Hall, Suffolk, and another of its now gone winter garden.

Each measures approx 105mm x 145mm. c1880.

£25.00

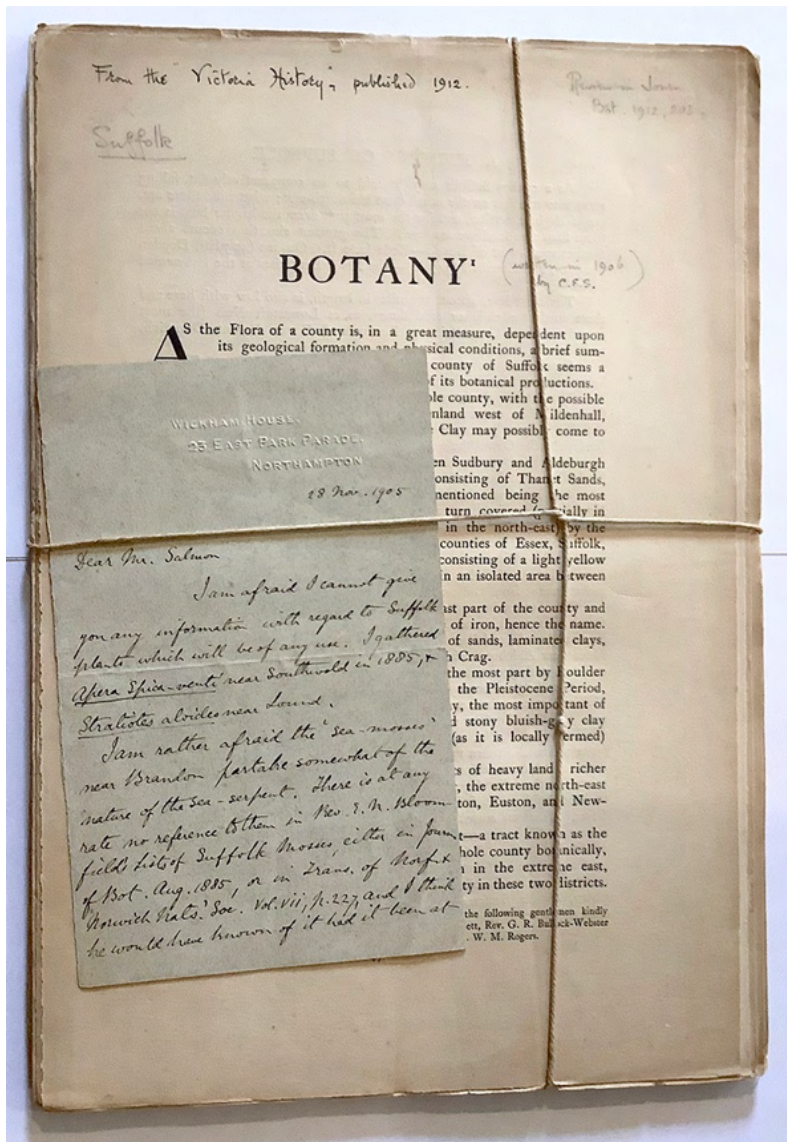
~ The Winter Garden, elaborately heated and lit by gas, was described in the estate sale catalogue (1861) as 'a crystal building in the Renaissance style with mosque dome' and 'unsurpassed by anything of its kind in Europe'. Both the Winter Garden and adjoining Palm House were largely dismantled in 1914.



25. [ADAMS, Charles Francis., Chairman]. Report of the Board of Metropolitan Park Commissioners. January, 1895. Public Document No. 48. 101, [1]p., *folding frontispiece, 10 plates and 6 folding plans (some coloured in outline)*. Original gilt lettered dark brown cloth. Some old water-staining to the upper margins but not extending over the text or plates. Scarce, Copac records Strathclyde only, and not recorded in FirstSearch. 8vo. Boston: Wright & Potter Printing Co. 1895. £95.00

~ In 1892, the Massachusetts Legislature authorized a Preliminary Board of a Metropolitan Park Commission to "consider the advisability of laying out ample open spaces for the use of the public, in the towns and cities in the vicinity of Boston." The Preliminary Board consisted of Charles Francis Adams (1835-1915) as Chairman, and Philip A. Chase (1834-1903) and William B. de las Casas (1857-1930) as associate board members. Sylvester Baxter (1850-1927) served as Secretary and Charles Eliot (1859-1897) as Landscape Architect.

This report includes On the Determination of the Boundaries; Proposed Reservations; Metropolitan Parkways; and has a number of appendices.



26. SALMON, C.E. Botany [of the County of Suffolk]. Two copies of the author's section which was published in the Victoria County History in 1912. These appear to be his own copies, with a note that they were written in 1906, and when reviewed. There is an accompanying letter written to him in 1905 by H.M. Dixon, providing him with information about local plants. folio. 1912. £45.00



27. CARTER, James & Co. The Blue Book of Gardening, produced by Carters Seeds of Raynes Park, London. 401pp of seed types with information and prices for each, together with similar information for their other gardening products, such as ornaments, tools, sprays, rollers, lawnmowers &c. It also has sections for the construction of a private putting course, grass seeds for golf courses. It is very well illustrated with full-page colour illustrations and black and white photographs. Loosely inserted is a letter and 28pp order form (with prices). Original gilt lettered blue boards, some marks, and head of spine worn, but in good clean state.

8vo. James Carter and Co. 1933.

£25.00



28. FLOWER FAMILIES. No. 278 Piatnik (Vienna) playing cards. "After the original paintings by Hubert Lechner (Vienna Academy)"; H. Deim. Made in Austria. 10 series each with four cards: Flowers of the Meadow; Alpine Flowers; Bulbous Plants; In the Garden; Flowers of the Marsh; Aquatic Plants; Climbers; Roses; Flowers of the Wood; Tuberous Plants. The titles in English, and French. In original, but rather worn slip-case which would originally have had a title label. The cards are in very good clean condition.

110mm x 65mm x 20mm. c1940.

£ 25.00

