

pears. Governor Phillip had the urgent responsibility of growing food crops immediately upon his arrival and an area was cleared near Sydney Cove where some of the introductions were planted. The area, however, was far too small for the growth of crops so other ground was selected to the east of Sydney Cove where a small stream and some alluvial soil gave promise of suitable conditions. The ground was cleared and to it were entrusted the first crops in Australia, the place soon being known as Farm Cove. In July 1788 Governor Phillip reported "a farm 9 acres in corn" and so began the history of Australian agriculture.

The area forms part of the present Botanic Gardens, the oblong beds of the Middle Gardens being preserved as more or less following the first furrows ploughed in Australia. In 1952 a stone and plaque were placed on the site to commemorate this part of our history (6J 4 q.).

INAUGURATION OF THE BOTANIC GARDENS

For the first few years of settlement the areas under cultivation were used primarily for supplying the Governor and officers with fruit and vegetables and for many years portion of the Gardens continued to be used for such purpose. In a plan endorsed by Governor Phillip in 1792 the farm at Farm Cove was named the Governor's Farm and early Governors tended to regard the areas at Farm Cove as adjuncts to Government House. Governor Phillip, however, set aside a large area for parks and gardens which was subsequently known as the Phillip Domain. This included the present Botanic Gardens and Domain, but extended far beyond the present boundaries, including Hyde Park and adjoining ground.

Subsequently the various areas became more definitely defined by roads, walls and fences. The Macquarie Wall was built through portion of the Phillip Domain during the early years and portion of this built about 1812 still remains along the northern side of the Spring Walk (6H 6u).

The official date for the inauguration of the Botanic Gardens as such is June 13th, 1816. This is the date inscribed on Mrs. Macquarie's Chair which is carved out of rock on the eastern point of Farm Cove. It marked the completion of Mrs. Macquarie's Road which was commenced in 1813 and which represented part of Macquarie's efforts to define the Domain and the Gardens. Charles Fraser was appointed to supervise the Gardens, although his actual title is in some doubt. He was known variously as Colonial Botanist and Superintendent in later years, but his task of supervision can be said to have begun in 1816. Thus although the official birthdate of the Gardens is taken as 1816 it can be claimed that portions of them have been under continuous cultivation since 1788.

COMPOSITION OF THE GARDENS

The Botanic Gardens in their present form consist of 4 portions, the Upper Garden, Middle Garden, Lower Garden and the Garden Palace Grounds. The Middle Garden is the oldest portion of the gardens and it was here that the first cultivation began. In 1825 about 5 acres of land west of the creek were added to it. The main entrance to it was at the point (7K4n) at present marked by 2 palms (*Livistona chinensis*) which were brought from the Island of Bourbon, now the Island of Reunion, in sugar barrels by Jules Bourbon in 1847.

The Middle Garden has always been closely cultivated. The well-known Spring Walk was first planted with azaleas and other plants in 1856 when the soil on the southern side of the wall was removed to a depth of 2½ feet and replaced with soil and compost from Rose Bay.

THE UPPER GARDEN

Originally the Upper Garden consisted mainly of a kitchen garden for early Governors, about 5 acres being devoted to this purpose. In addition various buildings such

as stables, workshops and official residences used in general maintenance of the Gardens were erected upon it. Space was also provided for the various propagating grounds and green feed for various animals and birds was grown. A garden road bordered by a paling fence led from the main entrance to the Middle Garden and this was the only portion to which the public had access.

It was not until 1876 that the area was made available to the general public. The present entrance gates (7L1s) were erected in 1872-1873, the cost being £408, and subsequently the adjacent areas were cleared and landscaped. Various stone dams were built in the creek between 1870 and 1880.

THE LOWER GARDEN

The Lower Garden was added to the Gardens as the need for expansion became pressing. Some of it was laid out by Charles Fraser, and Surveyor-General Mitchell's plan of 1833 shows it in a form roughly agreeing with the present boundaries.

The waters of the harbour, however, in those days came up nearly as far as the present refreshment kiosk and a great amount of reclamation was required. Silt dredged from the mouth of the Tank stream in Sydney Cove was used as filling, in addition to excavations from city buildings.

Indeed much of the soil in the Botanic Gardens came from outside sources. The natural soil except for a few patches was poor with rock close to the surface. The reclaimed areas of the Lower Gardens, especially where filled with silt, provided some of the best and deepest soil.

The present sea wall built of stone was commenced about 1848 and finally completed in its present form in 1878. Mrs. Macquarie's Road ran through the Lower Gardens along the stone wall bordering the Middle Garden, but was closed about 1850. The present broad walk running along the upper part of the Lower Garden on the southern and eastern sides corresponds roughly with the old road.

The line of Swamp Mahogonies (*Eucalyptus robusta*) bordering this road are still in existence on the northern side of the stone wall (7H8r). They were planted by Jack Wright who held a potato stall in the markets.

Some of the native trees or seedlings from them which grew originally on the area still survive. Probably some of these trees were growing when the First Fleet arrived. The small clump of Swamp Oaks (*Casuarina glauca*) growing near the Maiden Memorial Pavilion (7G7s) forms such a survival. The Forest Red Gum (*Eucalyptus tereticornis*) (8G4q) and the Bangalay (*Eucalyptus botryoides*) (3F6m) are probably other examples.

GARDEN PALACE GROUNDS

Originally this area was enclosed by a paling fence and used partly for grazing the Governor's stock. On it at various times were situated 3 windmills held on leases granted by Governor King, and some difficulty was experienced in finally ejecting the lessees. One of these windmills was situated approximately on the spot where the statuary "Huntsman and Dogs" now stands (2H3u). The State Bakery was also situated nearby.

In 1869 an ornamental rail fence was constructed along Macquarie Street, enclosing the grounds in a more fitting manner.

In 1879 the grounds were prepared for the International Exhibition and the imposing Garden Palace erected. This was destroyed by fire in 1882 and the grounds became known as the Garden Palace Grounds and virtually part of the Botanic Gardens. The main entrance gates of iron and stone opposite the Public Library were finished in 1889 and formed a very appropriate entrance. Above the centre gate is a representation of the Garden Palace.

In 1900 the last addition to the Botanic Gardens was made by the inclusion of

5 acres of land from the Inner Domain on the west side of Farm Cove. The widening of Macquarie Street, in 1912 resulted in a strip of land about 20 feet wide being taken from the Gardens.

ADDITIONS TO PLANT COLLECTIONS

The early development of the Gardens was stimulated by the great interest shown in Australian plants by botanists and nurserymen in other parts of the world. Most of the important botanic gardens and similar institutions considered it most desirable to have a "New Holland" collection of plants and this led to a brisk exchange of seeds and plants. The Sydney Gardens provided the centre for such exchange and gradually valuable collections were added to the existing plants.

The early officers-in-charge took part in expeditions which added naturally to the Gardens. Charles Fraser accompanied Oxley on his three exploring expeditions during 1817-1819, during which many districts were visited in New South Wales and many



One of the original cabinets used by Sir Joseph Banks. Frame above contains specimen of *Banksia ericifolia*, collected by Banks near Sydney in 1770. A picture of Sir Joseph Banks appears to the left of the cabinet. Photo: Australian Consolidated Press Ltd.



View from the Gardens looking towards Sydney Harbor Bridge. Queensland Bottle Tree, *Brachychiton rupestris*, on right and Red Gum on left. Photo: Australian News and Information Bureau.

specimens and plants obtained. Fraser also visited Tasmania, New Zealand, Norfolk Island, Western Australia and Queensland and carried out a very active exchange with overseas botanical institutions. Richard Cunningham lost his life while on Mitchell's second expedition to the Darling River, being killed by the blacks after having wandered away from the main party in his search for plants. Allan Cunningham accompanied Oxley on his expedition in 1817 during which he collected specimens of 450 different species. He spent several years from 1817-1822 on the survey ship "Mermaid" exploring and surveying the Australian coast line, collecting many plants and specimens. He explored many parts of New South Wales including the Illawarra, Blue Mountains, Bathurst and North Coast districts, going as far north as Moreton Bay in Queensland. He also visited New Zealand and Norfolk Island.

Charles Moore, during the 48 years he was in charge of the Gardens visited many districts in New South Wales, and collected in various Pacific Islands, including the New Hebrides, Solomon Islands and New Caledonia. He also visited Europe on three occasions. Many of the plants collected were added to the Sydney Gardens. Later directors continued the work of building up the collections, and at present time an exchange of seeds is being carried on with approximately 185 Australian and overseas institutions. The establishment of well-grown plants within the Gardens was no very easy

matter as the natural soil was poor in most parts and required much building up. Watering facilities were also inadequate. Moore in 1850 complained of the scarcity of water as he was limited in dry seasons to a few casks each day from the Hyde Park Fountain fed by Busgy's Bore. In 1852 Moore lamented the loss of most of his workmen who joined in the gold rush of that year.

Early regulations governing the conduct of the Gardens were few. Smoking was prohibited in 1848 and the ban remained until 1921. In 1838 a regulation was issued forbidding cultivation of vegetables in the Gardens, following on Allan Cunningham's protest and resignation. The Director in 1848 had the right to refuse entry to all persons "not cleanly and decently dressed; and all young persons not accompanied by some respectable adult".

SCIENTIFIC STATUS

Botanic Gardens require a scientific background in order to carry out their proper functions. The National Herbarium of New South Wales provides such scientific service for the Sydney Botanic Gardens. It contains the State's collection of plants and is the centre of research on systematic botany in New South Wales.

The Herbarium includes over 700,000 specimens, many of which are of considerable scientific and historical value. Research work has been active particularly since 1896 when J. H. Maiden assumed office, and as a consequence the Sydney Botanic Gardens have gained an international scientific status.

Apart from publication in the journals and proceedings of various scientific societies, many publications have been issued direct from the Herbarium, including Maiden's monumental "Critical Revision of the Genus *Eucalyptus*", the "Forest Flora of N.S.W." and other works; Blakeley's "Key to the Eucalypts"; Rupp's "Orchids of New South Wales"; and Anderson's "Trees of New South Wales". Since 1939 the results of research work have been published in the "Contributions from the New South Wales National Herbarium".

In continuation of the tradition of being of service to primary industry the botanical section identify and report on many thousands of weeds, poison plants, and fodder plants, sent in by farmers and pastoralists every year. In addition services are provided for the general public, State and Federal Departments, the University and local governing bodies.

The greater part of the Herbarium has been developed during the past 60 years. Prior to 1899 efforts to form a State Herbarium were of a very spasmodic nature, only a few thousand specimens being attached to the museum of the Sydney Botanic Gardens. In 1899, however, the present building (7K) was erected, and in the words of J. H. Maiden, Government Botanist at that time, "the Herbarium had at last a habitation and a home."

The first collections of New South Wales plants made by Banks and Solander in 1770 were lodged in the British Museum, and it was not until 1905 that a number of these were presented to the New South Wales Herbarium by the trustees of the British Museum. Other early collections made by Dr. John White, William Paterson, Robert Brown and George Caley were placed in various European herbaria.

In 1816 Allan Cunningham was appointed King's Botanist, and the large collections made by him were sent to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and to the British Museum. In the same year, on the establishment of the Sydney Botanic Gardens, Charles Fraser

was appointed Colonial Botanist and made fairly large collections of plants. Most of them, however, were subsequently lost through neglect, the residue being sent to England. The German naturalist, Dr. Ludwig Leichhardt, collected freely between 1844 and 1846, and although many of these specimens were sent to Germany, a number were placed in the Sydney Botanic Gardens Museum.



Forest Red Gum, *Eucalyptus tereticornis*. One of the survivors of the original vegetation of the area. Compare tree size and park bench to right. Photo: Australian Consolidated Press Ltd.

Charles Moore, on taking office as Colonial Botanist in 1847, stated that not a vestige remained of the herbarium formed by his predecessors. During his long term a small collection of plants was gradually accumulated, but on J. H. Maiden taking office there was still very little evidence of a representative State collection. A fairly large portfolio containing some 150 pages represents a survival of this collection.

On it is written in Maiden's handwriting: "One of twelve books of specimens which constituted the National Herbarium of New South Wales up to May, 1896". In the annual report of 1898 Maiden states that the number of named specimens in the Herbarium was probably less than 15,000.

In 1899 a new building was provided, and this was formally opened in 1900. From that time onwards systematic additions were made to the collections until at the present time the Herbarium contains over 700,000 specimens.

California Native Plant Garden

MARK ANTHONY

Descanso Gardens has long been famous for its camellias, azaleas and roses, but now under the guiding hand of Theodore Payne the California Native Plant Garden has been established. It is located on a ten acre site, rich in native growth, near the western boundary of the Gardens.

In order to facilitate this work the California Native Plant Gardens Committee comprised of: Dr Wm. S. Stewart, Arthur Barton, Percy Everett, Conrad Fanton, Theodore Payne, John L. Threlkeld, and Sim E. Jarvi, was formed and the Garden was formally dedicated on May 1, 1959.

After trails and roads were laid out, a boulder strewn stream was constructed through fern canyon to the little lake in the lower part of the Garden.

First the native pines, firs, junipers and cypress were set out; next came a sizable planting of California redwoods, both *S. sempervirens* and *S. gigantea*. Then ceanothus, in dozens of kinds, were planted. After these, came hundreds of native species, too numerous to mention.

The largest percent of these plants were donated by Mr. Payne from his nursery, but others came from the Santa Ana Botanic Garden or were grown here at Descanso. From our water canyon north of the Gardens we brought in a planting of Humboldt lilies that bloomed to perfection this spring. A large planting of native blue eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*) was also moved to the native area. Many of these new plants were quite small. Mr. Payne planted drifts of California poppy, lupin, baby blue eyes, godetia, clarkia, gilia, phocelia and coreopsis so as to have a carpet of flowers around and underneath until the plants became larger.

The plants are labelled with both common and botanical names so that people going through the Garden can learn what to plant in similar spots in their own gardens.

A rest area, covered with native grape vines, has just been finished on the edge of the Native Garden. This structure allows a person to rest leisurely and see the entire garden spread out before him.

Trails leading from the Native Garden continue into the back country behind the Gardens and open up an entirely new area to hikers and nature lovers alike.

The Native Plant Committee sponsors three or four lectures a year which highlight subjects dealing with California native plants.

Educational Programs

Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens

The 1960, Fall Semester of the Educational Programs began with the Adult Education Courses on September 12 and September 19. The following sample schedules of the various educational activities report the details of all programs.

This fall, the Department initiated its Professional Gardener School. It is too early to report in detail the progress of this newest venture. A resume of the entrance requirements and daily program is included for the record.

Dr. Louis B. Martin is in charge of all the educational activities for the Department. Mrs. Gertrude Woods supervises the Children's Program for the Arboretum and also aids in the supervision of the same program at Descanso Gardens. Mrs. Dorothy Pool is in direct charge of the Children's Program at Descanso Gardens.

In addition to the 'Formal' courses for children, there are special guided tours at both the Arboretum and Descanso Gardens for Elementary Grade level children. Mrs. Woods and Mrs. Pool direct this activity at their respective locations.

Adult Program

SCHEDULE OF COURSES — FALL, 1960

<i>Course</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Inclusive Dates</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Instructor</i>
ARBORETUM, FALL 1960: Co-sponsored with Arcadia Unified School District; Fee \$2.00 each course:				
1. Intro. Home Horticulture	M	Sept. 12-Dec. 12	7-10 PM	Don Woolley
2. Plant Propagation	T	Sept. 13-Dec. 13	7-9:00 PM	George Lewis
3. Home Landscaping	W	Sept. 14-Dec. 14	7-9:00 PM	Tom Parker
4. Ident. of Cultivated plants	W	Sept. 14-Dec. 14	7-9:00 PM	Dr. Enari
ARBORETUM, FALL 1960: No fee:				
5. Botanical Sketching	T	Sept. 13-Dec. 14	9:30-11:30 AM	Gerry Patten
ARBORETUM, FALL 1960: Co-sponsored with UCLA Extension; Fee \$25.00 for each course:				
6. Sprinkler Systems in Landscaping #836AB	M	Sept. 19-Dec. 12	7-9:30 PM	Norman Hammer
7. Plant Combination Theory #832AB	M	Sept. 19-Dec. 12	7-9:30 PM	Philip Chandler
8. Principles of Landscape Design #806AB	T	Sept. 20-Dec. 13	7-9:30 PM	Scott Wilson
DESCANSO GARDENS, FALL 1960: Co-sponsored with Pasadena City College, Extended Day; no fee:				
9. Intro. Home Landscaping	M	Sept. 12-Dec. 12	7-10 PM	Mark Anthony
10. Home Landscaping	M	Sept. 12-Dec. 12	7-10 PM	Frank Halverson
11. Botanical Sketching	M	Sept. 12-Dec. 12	7-10 PM	Gerry Patten
12. Orchid Culture	W	Sept. 14-Dec. 14	7-10 PM	Glenn Hiatt
DESCANSO GARDENS, FALL 1960: No fee:				
13. Botanical Sketching	Th	Sept. 15-Dec. 15	9:30-11:30 AM	Gerry Patten



Anderson, R. H. 1960. "The Sydney Botanic Garden." *Lasca leaves* 10, 74–82.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/130616>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/146707>

Holding Institution

Missouri Botanical Garden, Peter H. Raven Library

Sponsored by

Los Angeles Arboretum

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: The Arboretum Library at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>

Rights: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.