

Garden Near Boston^{*}

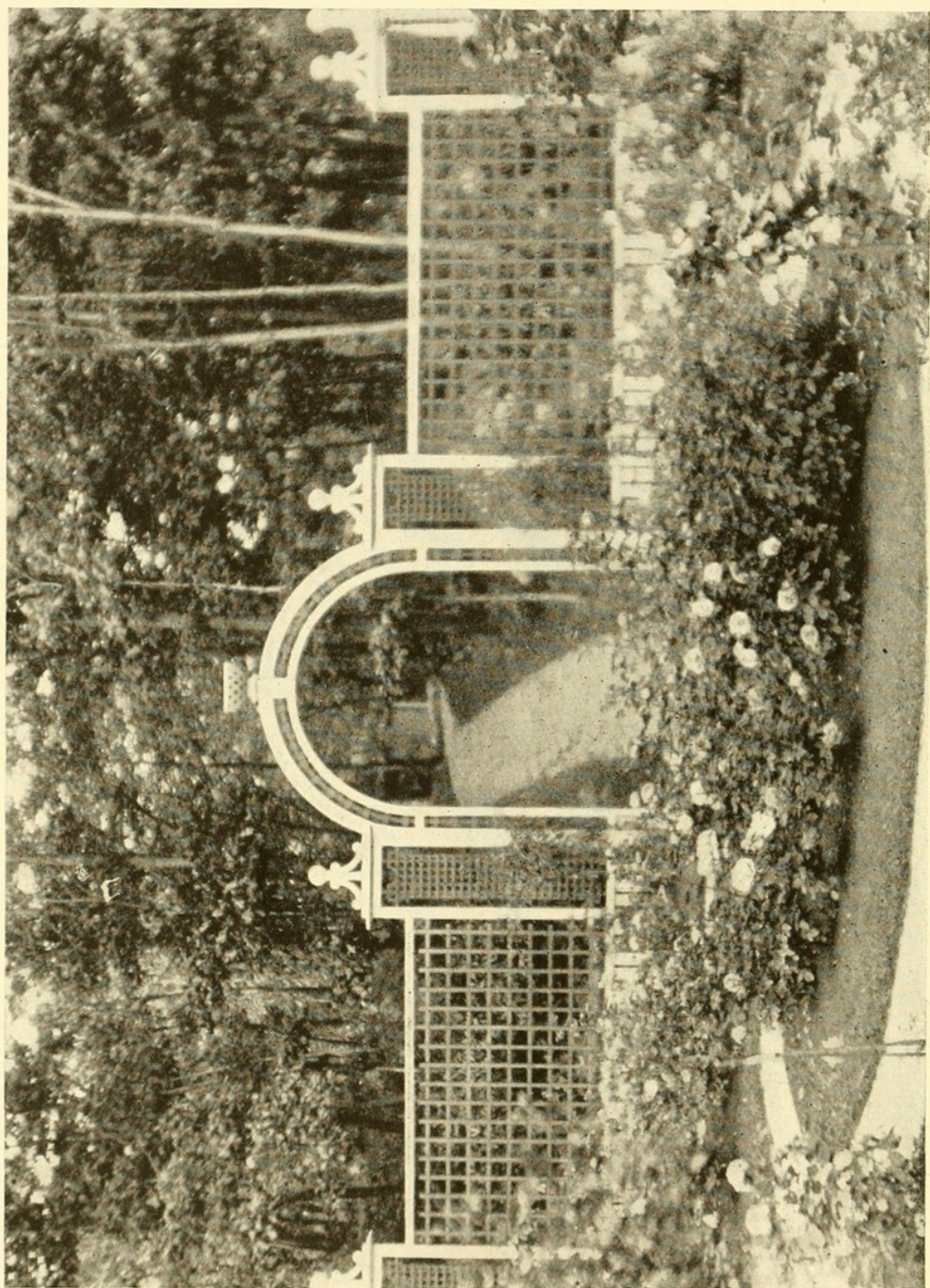
MODERN GARDENING BOOKS



A BOTANIQUE de J. J. Rousseau, ornée de soixante cinq planches d'après les peintures de P. J. Redouté." Apparently Redouté brought out this book to please himself, for it is a reprint of Rousseau's *Elementary Letters on Botany to a Lady*. It has sixty-five such beautiful illustrative plates, exquisitely drawn and colour-printed like the last. Were ever such beautiful things done for those who wished to adapt natural flowers to chintzes, needlework, or wallpapers? French artists, no matter of what school or of what period, always excel all others in the beauty of their actual draughtmanship. Among these illustrations there is a very fine old-fashioned dark-red single Chrysanthemum called *Astre de Chine*. I have never seen anything in the least like it growing. The Daisy and the Dandelion, too—were they ever more beautiful or more sympathetically rendered? Everything done is in honour of botany, nothing as a representation of a flower worth growing. The text is in French.

The order of the artist and author being just reversed from that in the work of his early days, *Le Jardin de la Malmaison*, the book begins with the following charming sentence: "Les poètes ont fondé dans l'opinion les seules monarchies héréditaires que le temps ait respectées: le lion est toujours le roi des animaux, l'aigle le monarque des airs, et la rose la reine des fleurs. Les droits des deux premiers établis sur la force et maintenus par elle avaient en eux-mêmes la raison suffisante de leur durée; la souveraineté de la rose, moins violemment reconnue et plus librement consentie, a quelque chose de plus honorable pour les fondateurs."

^{*} Garden of Mrs. C. L. Harding, Dedham, Massachusetts.



IN JUNE
DEDHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

Anyone who cares about roses ought to try and see this book at the Botanical Library of Natural History Museum at South Kensington, as it is very full of suggestions. Had I soil that suited roses, and room to grow them in, I should try and make a collection of the wild Roses of the world and the roses figured by Redouté in 1824, many of which I have never seen. The Banksia Rose, which now covers the walls all along the Riviera, is here called *Le Rosier de Lady Banks* (wife of the botanist, Sir Joseph Banks). There are Moss Roses and China Roses, and every form and kind of Eglantine; but nothing larger or more double than the Cabbage Rose. The Malmaison Rose, though called after Josephine's garden, must have been a much later introduction. In fact, in 1824, there were no Roses and no Strawberries in our sense of the word. Even what is now called the Old Maiden's Blush is not in the book. The *R. lucida*, which I grow successfully in Surrey (for it is easy of cultivation, and has a lovely foliage), the York and Lancaster, and the *centifolia* are all in this book.

I suppose few people have seen this book, otherwise I cannot imagine how anyone has ever had the courage to publish the modern illustrated Rose books with pictures that look so coarse and vulgar in comparison with these delicate coloured prints.

1804. *Exotic Botany*, by James Edward Smith, President of the Linnean Society; figures by James Sowerby. Two volumes in one. This book is, of course, an English one, but on the title-page is the following quotation from Rousseau's seventh "Promenade." I copy it, as it expresses the feeling of the times:—

"Il y a dans la botanique un charme qu'on ne sent que dans le plein calme des passions, mais qui suffit seul alors pour rendre la vie heureuse et douce; mais sitôt qu'on y mêle un motif d'intérêt ou de vanité . . . tout ce doux charme s'évanouit. On ne voit plus dans les plantes que des instruments de nos passions, on ne trouve plus aucun vrai plaisir dans leur étude . . . On ne s'occupe que de systèmes et de méthodes; matière éternelle de dispute, qui ne fait pas connaître une plante de plus . . . de la haine, les jalousies." etc.



IN SPRING
WILLOWS AND FRUIT TREES
WELD



1919. "Some Beautiful Examples of American Gardening: Garden Near Boston." *Journal of the International Garden Club* 3(1), 45–48.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/80595>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/334388>

Holding Institution

UMass Amherst Libraries (archive.org)

Sponsored by

Boston Library Consortium Member Libraries

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Not provided. Contact Holding Institution to verify copyright status.

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>.