

SPRING ISSUE 1998

The Greyhill Project

Editor's Note:-

The Greyhill project is an impressive exercise in authenticity - restoration to a date, employing the technique and materials of that time. Such a labour of love is neither cost-effective nor acceptable to modern health, safety or building regulations.

With remarkable flair, Stuart Peachey has avoided the formidable obstacles to such a project. His ability to inspire teamwork has caused hundreds of people to give their volunteer labour over the years to be a part of this venture.

By not occupying the site, nor dwelling in the reconstructed buildings, he has eluded all the 20th century red tape of buildings regulations controls. The Greyhill site is an educational resource, peopled by a full range of historically clad workers only during its open weeks. (They actually live in a tented encampment on the edge of the site). His article and photographs give a glimpse of the project this year, and will doubtless be a source of great delight to members of the Gwent Branch who are planning a visit on 4th July 1998.

Rural Life before the Civil War: Restoration at Greyhill Farm

by Stuart Peachey

The Greyhill project's aim is, over a 40 period, to restore the site to its condition as a working farm of the 1630's to 1640's from buildings and produce down to weed varieties and wildlife. The benefits of the project are multiple including:

- 1) The restoration of a derelict landscape.
- 2) The provision of rare intensively traditionally organically managed habitats.
- 3) The preservation of rare historic cultivated varieties maintaining biodiversity.
- 4) Providing an educational resource for historical and earth science study for schools and academics.



The Labourer's cottage in early summer

The Greyhill site consists of fifteen acres, which used to form four farms with thirty very small fields. The fields included flower-rich hay meadows, small patches of coppice woodland, orchards, gardens and pasture. The fields were enclosed by about three miles of boundaries, hedges, dry stone walls and banks. There were at least sixteen buildings including barns and farmhouses, with yards, wells and ponds.

The site was abandoned about 100 years ago. Restoration work has been underway since 1987. Five farm buildings have now been completed and permanent charcoal burners platforms established in one wood. Nine orchards have been replanted with period varieties of apples, medlars, quinces, walnuts, pears, service, plum, bullace, greengage and cherry. Two woods have been brought into managed state, one as high forest and the other as coppice. Decayed hedges have been replanted and relaid and sections of drystone wall and bank restored. The pond and well have been restored and bracken encroachment has been controlled by multiple mowing in the bluebell rich meadows.

Two gardens are under restoration, one attached to a labourer's cottage on a terrace at about 500 feet altitude has been largely completed, while at 800 feet altitude work is in progress on a tenant farmer's [husbandman's] garden. The aim is to provide a contrast between the two social levels. Research for the project formed the basis of a 4-volume set of pamphlets on cottage and farm gardens and their plants, 1580-1660.

The husbandman's garden contains a range of "luxury" plants not found in the labourer's garden, such as box bushes and frivolities such as a crude bower formed from a clump of 12 foot high bullace sucker saplings which have been bent and laid to provide a shady retreat and then planted round with aromatics



Restoration of the stables of the husbandman's farm

such as honeysuckle.

The husbandman's garden merges with a very small plum and damson orchard which will be developed to show the period habit of gardening in the orchards. Both gardens contain bee walls and the use of gardens not just for growing, but for multiple functions such as drying washing over bushes and bee ranching is being emphasised. As work is continued on the husbandman's buildings over the next two years this garden will be extended and completed.

All the work is carried out by volunteers and the site is grateful to the Henry Doubleday Research Association and Brogdale for assistance with plant varieties and grafting stock.

Stuart Peachey's pamphlets on Cottage and Farm Gardens can be purchased from the Author. 117 Farleigh Road, Backwell, Bristol, BS48 3PG.

In search of the Names & Identities of Lost Designers

Way back in 1818 in the Gentleman's Magazine 'Historicus' bewailed the lack of information about the landscape gardeners and designers who had shaped the parks and gardens of the country. 'Historicus' requested readers to provide biographical sketches or references on a range of Landscape Gardeners. Sadly, perusal of later volumes indicates that hard information was not forthcoming from the shires.

The situation is hardly better today with no register equivalent to the Dictionary of British Architects to which we can turn. The well-known names in garden design are a mere handful. Names of less well-known gardeners surface, if we are lucky, in estate records, or surviving correspondence. One such treat is the discovery described by John Davies in the article below. In supplying it he hopes to elicit further information from other readers.

Was William Winde working at Ruperra? by John Davies

The fantastic terraced gardens at Powis Castle are generally attributed to William Winde (1647-1722) who also built the great arcaded terrace at Cliveden in Buckinghamshire. There are also reasons to think that he worked at Chirk Castle, Denbighshire, in the 1670s.

A letter that Winde wrote to Lady Bridgeman extolling his garden work suggests that he may have been responsible for another garden in Wales. *"When I was quartered in Kent and employed in altering the Earl of Winchelsea's house at Eastwell.... I transplanted trees to a considerable bigness which did very well and the same at Sir Charles Kemishe orchard at Ruperra in Wales."*

Ruperra Castle, Glamorganshire, was built in 1626 by Sir Thomas Morgan who had served as steward of the household to the second Earl of Pembroke. This connection with a courtier will have familiarized him with the compact rectangular houses of Robert Smythson and the fashion for Jacobean chivalry which created Lulworth Castle, Dorset, in 1608. Ruperra was burned in 1785 so we do not know if Winde worked on the interior. It was remodelled by Thomas Hardwick, and finally abandoned in the early 20th century, and now stands as a shell.

The idea that one of the great Baroque garden designers worked at Ruperra is an exciting one, and it is to be hoped that further investigations can be made.

And who was Mr Hancocke?

by Caroline Palmer

Laidlaw and Palmer, working at Picton Castle have encountered evidence of one Mr Hancocke engaged in garden works in 1693 at several sites in Pembrokeshire - Picton Castle, Haverfordwest and in building a 'Water Follye' at Landshipping.

Tantalising snippets such as these may elicit a flood of knowledge from readers familiar with other sites.

The editor proposes to institute a regular column, in which we can float the names of lost designers and perhaps bring their identity to the light. It is hoped that readers will respond with their observations. The fact that a designer unknown to one writer may be familer to another through some quite obvious source should be no impediment to contributing your knowledge.

Contributions on a postcard, to the Editor please.

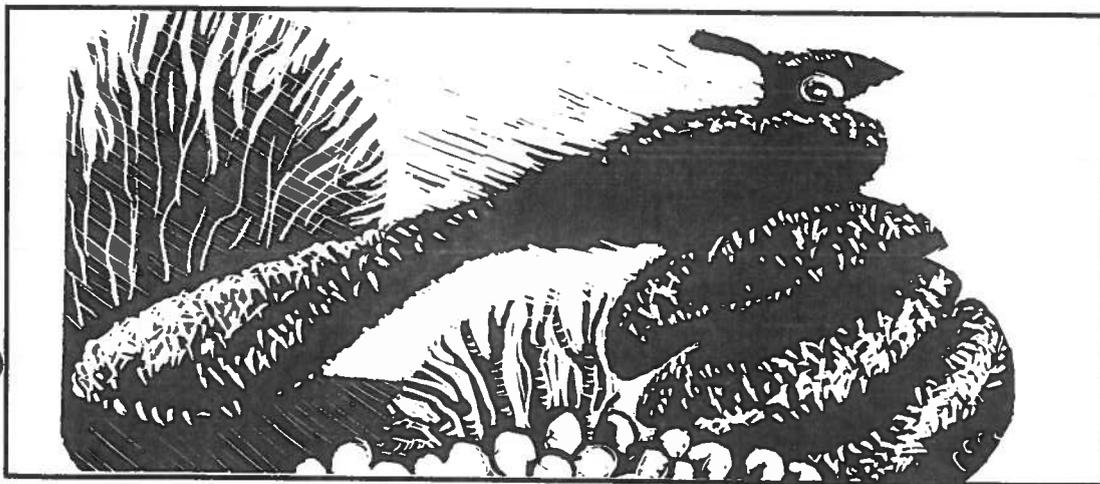
Topiary in Wales

By Julia Horton Evans

The art of Topiary (the clipping and training of trees), one of the oldest garden art forms, was introduced to Britain by the Romans. A garden designer was described by the Romans as a "Toparius".

The Dark Ages saw the demise of "all things beautiful" and it was not until the Renaissance that Italian gardens were adorned with borders and galleries of shaped and clipped cypress. In the sixteenth century the French became obsessed with topiary as a symbol of man's superiority by shaping nature to his own design, and The Dutch, (as now in the twentieth century), seized the opportunity to exploit an emerging market and developed nurseries to supply the garden makers of Europe and Britain, with the raw materials which were to establish the major estates and gardens. The seventeenth century saw a major revival of topiary and, by its end, no major British garden was without its hedges of recognisable leafy figures of bushes clipped with enthusiastic precision.

During the eighteenth century, the emphasis in major estates moved to "landscapes" and many of the topiary gardens were lost. However, the art was preserved in many cottage gardens where they are to be seen today. Peacocks grow at cottage doors, cats, dogs and cockerels stand alongside roadsides throughout the countryside.



At the end of the nineteenth century the Italianate garden was revived, resurrecting decorative formality, and "old fashioned" charm to the garden.

Topiary, in the context of Great Britain, is always thought of today as being an exclusively English phenomenon, with books and articles written only about "English topiary gardens". Topiary in Wales appears to be a well guarded secret! In the Yellow Book of "Gardens in England and Wales open for Charity", out of 196 gardens in Wales only twice is the word 'topiary' mentioned, while much is made of "formal clipped hedges", an entirely different concept. However, we must ask ourselves does a "formal clipped hedge" qualify as "topiary" and what indeed does it consist of? Owners of gardens seem happy to advertise the fact that they have "formal borders" etc. etc. and, in some places where it is known that topiary exists,

(including National Trust properties in Wales), this fact is never mentioned nor does it seem possible to get information or confirmation of its existence!

Topiary is making an overdue and welcome return to popularity at the moment, albeit, in the main, in potted pre-clipped standard shapes. In my current research, which I am aiming to publish as an illustrated work on **Topiary in Wales** for the Millennium. I have been delighted to receive information and photographs of some highly original works undertaken, not only on major country estates, but in both front and back gardens of all sorts of houses, bungalows and cottages in Wales.

Response has been good, (although not overwhelming), to my letter sent to all newspapers in Wales, and to my broadcast appeal on BBC's "Woman's Hour", but replies I have received, together with photographs, have been more than encouraging in my quest to prove that Wales has as much, or more, to offer in examples of topiary than our neighbours. Not only in quality, but also diversity. Formality in some cases has made way for considerable humour, and this, I feel, is something that we in Wales should be proud to boast about. Not just the accepted formality but also an original and independent approach to what is, after all, an ancient and environmentally acceptable art!

I would welcome any assistance, advice and information from members of the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust and their friends on any topiary in any gardens in Wales, no matter how grand or small. Not only those that you already know but those you might spot in your travels around the Principality. Examples of topiary can range from exciting new projects, or ancient

unidentifiable shapes, to humble blobs! After all, humble blobs could become the peacock or the steam engine shape in the future. Also we mustn't think that topiary is exclusively fashioned from yew, holly or box. I have one photograph of a man sitting astride the horse he has shaped from forsythia. This is seen as naked twigs in the winter, green in the summer and has a short sharp burst of being bright yellow earlier in the year!

I have also been delighted to receive wonderful stories and old photographs of topiary which no longer exist. Please send me any old photographs, with historic detail, you may feel pertinent. All letters will be acknowledged and any photographs returned.

Write to Julia Horton Evans at Penclawdd Court, Llanfihangel Crucorney, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire NP7 7LB.
Telephone: 01873 890719 Fax: 01873 890848.

The Leaflet Launch in the Orangery

The launch, on time, of the lavishly produced Guide to the Historic Parks and Gardens of Wales was a source of keen satisfaction to the five partners, and was marked by a celebration in the Orangery at Powis Castle. Champagne was generously donated by Mr David Harden, who must have been keenly aware of just how hard our Chairman (his wife) had worked upon bringing this about.

The Orangery, though conveniently empty to shelter guests during a sudden downpour, should, of course, in April have been congested with fine tub-grown orange trees, awaiting their release onto the terraces when the last frost and hail was past.

The National Trust has contributed the following paragraphs 'Oranges at Powis Castle', and hopes to stimulate the interest of some generous donors.



*Left to Right: Peter Broomhead (National Trust),
John Mitchell (Principality Building Society),
Bettina Harden (Chairman, W.H.G.T.),
Derek Wilson (National Grid),
Rob Owen (Countryside Council for Wales)*

Oranges Soon at Powis Castle?

Designed as the centrepiece to the terraces at Powis Castle and inspired by the classic formal gardens of Italy and France in the 17th century, the Orangery at Powis remains the focal point to the finest remaining example of Baroque garden architecture in the British Isles.

Apart from its magnificent architectural contribution to the design, the Orangery performed a function in housing oranges grown both for their heady perfume when in flower, and of course for what was considered, at that time, a very exotic fruit.

Typical of Orangeries of that period, the design of the building included windows on one side only, which casts insufficient natural light to ripen the wood or to develop the fruit.

The purpose however was purely to overwinter the orange plants, for once all danger of frost was past they would be placed outside to decorate the Orangery forecourt, and gather the light and heat they needed, during the summer months.

Though the Orangery commands the most prestigious position within the garden, its content is sadly lacking. If funds can be found, we could once more restore the traditional purpose to this Orangery, and add yet further to the beauty and diversity of this most vibrant garden.

Our estimated needs are as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------|-------|
| Eight orange trees 4' - 5' at | £90 each | £720 |
| Eight orange tubs | at £300 each | £2400 |
| Seven interior pots | at £150 each | £1050 |

AGM at Penpont

The idyllic setting of Penpont House on the bank of the Usk near Brecon was the venue for the well-attended Trust AGM on 9 May 1998. Members who had watched the BBC drama *Heaven on Earth* (about an over-stressed advertising executive who retreats to the Amish-style community in which his wife grew up and rises to become its crazed and destructive leader) found themselves on familiar ground, for the remarkably unaltered range of stables, workshops and walled gardens formed the location for the film.

The meeting was held in the principal rooms of the 17th century house, and followed by a lavish buffet lunch, and an erudite talk by Christopher Dingwall, Conservation Officer for the Garden History Society, Scotland. Those who had fondly believed that Wales was the sole cradle of the Picturesque were compelled to concede that Scottish landowners also had not been slow to embellish their landscapes with hermitages and view-houses in picturesque style.

Reports from Branches

BRECON AND RADNOR

June (date to be confirmed)

Visit to Stanage Park, Knighton, talk and tour of the garden.

Monday 20 July - Thursday 23 July

The Branch will be manning the WHGT Stand in the Flower tent at the Royal Welsh Show at Builth Wells.

August (date to be confirmed)

Visit to Monaughty, Radnorshire, talk and tour of garden.

CEREDIGION

Members met at Llanerchaeron on 14 February for a talk by Peter Davis on 'Postcards and Past Gardens'. Many Ceredigion examples were shown on slides and the material was copied for display at the WHGT day school on Cottage Gardens in March. On 21 March branch members visited the gardens at Aberglasney which are currently undergoing restoration funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. An excellent lunch was served at the the Nag's Head Pentrefelin and the group was joined by members the Mid and South Glamorgan branch.

Sunday 7 June

Picnic at Lodge Park, Tre'r-ddol, former medieval deer park on the banks of the Dyfi estuary.

Leaders: Ros Laidlaw and Caroline Palmer.

Tuesday 9 June

Lecture on the National Botanic Garden of Wales at Middleton Hall by Prof. Dianne Edwards. Edward Llwyd Building, University of Wales, Aberystwyth 7.30pm. In association with the Friends of Ceredigion Museum.

Saturday 27 June

An Information day will be held at Hafod. The final draft Management Plan has been approved by the Hafod Advisory Committee and it is expected work on the project will soon be resumed. Contact Michael Norman 01558 650735.

CLWYD

Sunday 31 May

Expedition to Bryn Bella, Tremeirchion

Saturday 27 June

Visit to Bryn-y-Neuadd, Llanfairfechan

Contact Mrs E. Bartlett, Leeswood Hall. Mold 01352 758023

The Planned Study Day with the Montgomery Branch has not proved possible to arrange at this time.

GWENT

The Chairman, Charles Smart reports: Two recent lectures attracted sizeable audiences and brought in new members. Numbers now stand at 60 and a further membership drive is planned on the occasion of a WHGT exhibition at the Monmouth Museum from 15-25 April. The display boards sponsored by British Gas for the Royal Welsh Show will be on show. The Branch is involved in discussion over the future of the Nelson Garden, but progress on resolving future custodianship has been slow. With the help of other local societies the Garden will be opened to the public on Sunday afternoons, 14 June, 5 July, and 9 August 2-6pm.

The Branch will be joined by the Mid and South Glamorgan Branch to visit the Greyhill Project near Chepstow on July 4.

GWYNEDD

Saturday 30 May

Guided Walk at Glynllifon Park 2.30pm.

Saturday 20 June

Anglesey Gardens Day: 11am Maes y Porth, 2pm Pencarreg, 3pm Plas Cadnant. Various lunch possibilities nearby.

Contact Events Organiser, Margaret Mason on 01758 721577

MID AND SOUTH GLAMORGAN

Saturday 23 May - Sunday 24 May Talygarn House, Pontyclun. Garden open. A garden party with refreshments, brass band and choir at 3 pm on Saturday marks the centenary of the death of George Clark. Derrick Kingham is organising a garden trail round the extensive grounds, arboretum and lakes, and would welcome help from other members of the branch. (Contact Derrick Kingham 01446 228889 for details)

Saturday 4 July

Visit to the Greyhill Project, near Chepstow, by invitation of the Gwent Branch.

Saturday 18 July

Visit to Raglan Castle and Clytha.

(contact Peter Elmes 01222 512102 for details)

Sunday 20 September

Visit to Duffryn, where garden restoration is under way with a large grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund

Chairman, Peter Elmes writes:

The branch is badly in need of new active committee members. Recently it has achieved a tree survey at Talygarn, assisted by work done earlier by Mary Gilham. The branch plans a much needed survey at Ash Hall, Ystradowen, and visits to several other gardens.

PEMBROKESHIRE

Sylvia Thomas Ferrand reports:

The winter programme of lectures was a great success. The final lecture, in a last minute change of programme, was given by Dr Tim Palmer on Masonry and Building Stone in the Garden, when his wife Caroline, the advertised speaker, succumbed to 'flu. This enthralling talk was followed by an animated and protracted discussion which had to be forcibly curtailed!

Two Pembrokeshire gardens are considered under threat: Upton zCastle Gardens, where danger has been averted by the formation of the 'Friends of Carew and Upton Castle Gardens', and Trewarren garden near Milford, where action to be taken is under consideration.

Wednesday 17 June 2.00pm

Haverfordwest Priory Gardens. Guided visit with Dr Sian Rees, CADW Archaeologist in charge of excavations.

Saturday 18 July Raglan Castle and Clytha Park

Guided visit with CADW garden expert and author of *The Historic Gardens of Wales*, Elizabeth Whittle. Meet at 11.15am and 2.30pm, various lunch opportunities at Raglan, or The Clytha Arms. Contact Sylvia Thomas Ferrand 01834 813331.

Saturday 12 September

A day at Picton Castle. More details later.

Garden Archaeology in South Wales

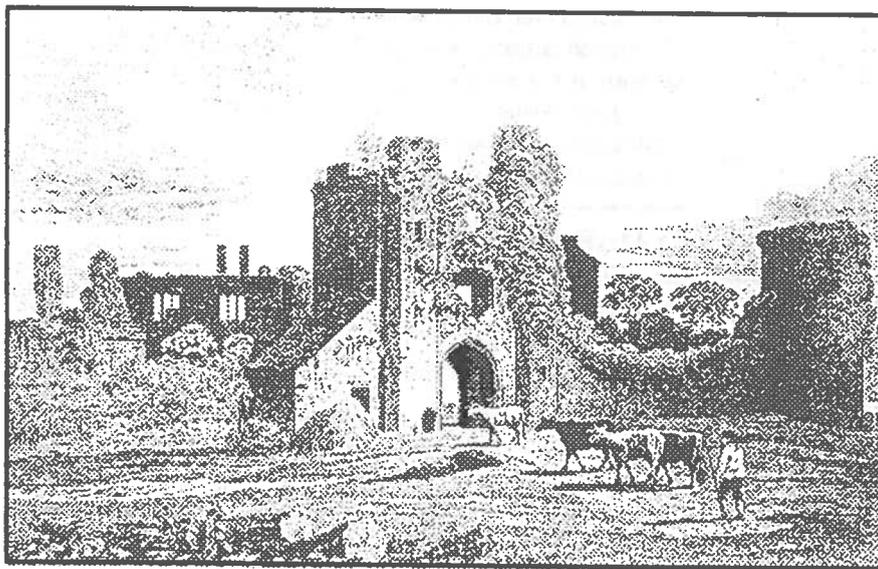
By Martin Locock

Introduction

Although garden archaeology is perceived in some quarters as a new phenomenon, conventional archaeologists working on important houses of the past have, naturally, encountered garden features in their excavations. Fortunately, the methodology of stratigraphic (layer-by-layer) excavation and the detailed recording of deposits means that even when the excavator does not recognise buried garden features, these can be identified by examining the published accounts. As a result, a review of the excavations carried out by Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust since its creation in 1974 has revealed a body of research which fills out an earlier summary by Briggs (1991).

Pencoed Castle

The site of Pencoed Castle, Gwent, is dominated by the moated manor house of that name, a standing structure of predominately 16th century date, which is a Listed Building. In 1990, in advance of a development proposal, an archaeological desktop study and field evaluation was undertaken by Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust on behalf of the owner. Searches of documentary and cartographic sources identified a series of changes in the layout of the site over the post-medieval period, and aerial photographs held by the Welsh Office revealed a group



*Pencoed Castle, Monmouthshire by F. Stockdale
Published by Longman & Co. July 1823*

of six square features to the south of the building complex, and on the east, running south from the building, was a series of linear features ending in a larger circular area. These features are interpreted as the remains of an elaborate formal garden, with square parterres, and a possible long series of ponds to the west, perhaps similar to Westbury Court, Glos. This area was not investigated by excavation, but the development of the landscape can be followed in a series of estate maps from 1751 onwards. Excavations in the central courtyard of the building complex revealed a series of yard surfaces, but no garden features. The archaeological work has thus been able to identify a series of gardens around Pencoed Castle (Marvell and Maylan 1990).

The garden is now included on the Cadw/ICOMOS Register of Historic Landscapes, Parks and Gardens in Wales.

Panteg Castle

A mound, interpreted by previous workers as the motte of a medieval castle, and protected as such as a Scheduled Ancient Monument, lies in the grounds of The Rectory, Panteg, Gwent, which is a Listed Building of 18th century date. As part of a refurbishment programme, the Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust was commissioned to carry out an investigation of the feature to determine its true nature. The feature was found to be crowned by a circular structure with stone foundations, interpreted as a 19th century summerhouse; an interior footing, probably for a statue, also survived, built of brick. The mound itself was concluded to be natural in origin, rather than the viewing mound implied by Briggs (1991, 150). The site has now been de-Scheduled (Maylan and Sell 1989).

Margam Park

The Country Park of Margam Park, West Glamorgan, owned by West Glamorgan County Council, retains many features of its 19th century layout, including the 1787 Orangery building (which is the longest in the world, and is a Grade I Listed Building) and a wooded Deer Park. Paintings of the 18th century have allowed the study of the earlier park and gardens which were replaced by the present layout (Moore and Moore 1974). In addition, relic features such as avenues can be seen on early Ordnance Survey maps. This information has been supplemented by a series of archaeological observations over a long period, whenever construction work involved ground disturbance. When the County Council was refurbishing the Orangery in 1976, several walls were exposed, and these are interpreted as part of a Cistercian monastery, the first building on the site; in addition, various drains and water channels were found, some of which are likely to be part of the elaborate 18th century gardens (Jones 1976, 40).

Similar features were noted further to the south of the Orangery, in the park, during the laying of a service pipe (Dowdell 1976, 41). Subsequent excavations to the west of the Orangery encountered remains of a deserted medieval village, as well as possible 13th century monastic structures. A monastic pond was also found. Of the later features, a section of stone-built water channel, interpreted as the feeder for one of the stone-lined ponds shown on the paintings, was also located. The silts filling the pond were waterlogged (Hough 1977, 42; 1978, 24-27).

When a new access road was built in 1986, further buried features, including a trackway and a probable boundary ditch, were identified by archaeologists carrying out a watching brief.

Although these individual details do not yet form a coherent plan, the accuracy of the paintings as a guide to the earlier gardens has been established, and as work continues a more complete plan will emerge.

Dewstow House

The unusual early 20th century garden of Dewstow House, with its artificial grottoes, is well-known (Whittle 1992, 78). It was the creation of Henry Oakley, designed to house his important collection of ferns. The present owner, Mr G Kathrens, commissioned Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust to carry out an archaeological field evaluation in an area to the northeast of the house as part of a planning application. The evaluation encountered a back-filled tunnel which had originally connected two of the grottoes; apart from this structure, the only garden feature was a gravel path (Page and Locock 1992). The garden is included on the Cadw/ICOMOS Register of Historic Landscapes, Parks and Gardens in Wales.

The Gnoll

The Gnoll estate, a planned 18th and 19th century landscape, lies on the outskirts of the town of Neath, West Glamorgan. A field evaluation was carried out for Neath Borough Council, the present owners, to allow proposals for display to be drawn up. Two areas were investigated: a supposed industrial area to the west of the Lower Great Pond, and the summit of the Gnoll, now known as the Old Bowling Green.

In the industrial area, a mill building shown on a plan of 1730 was successfully located. It was a substantial masonry structure, with two phases of floor. Underlying the structure was an earlier stone-faced channel, partially culverted, interpreted as a 17th century tailrace from a mill further upstream.

Trenches excavated at the Old Bowling Green were intended to assess the likelihood of the site's having been the location of an early medieval castle, and also to test for the presence of a reservoir shown on a plan of 1720, but omitted from the 1730 plan. No medieval evidence was recovered, and it is concluded that there was no castle on the site. The reservoir proved to be a large rock-cut chamber, 15m diameter, 3m deep, probably part of a pressurised water supply to Gnoll House, perhaps used to run a fountain. No further features of interest were encountered (Locock 1992). The garden is included on the Cadw/ICOMOS Register of Historic Landscapes, Parks and Gardens in Wales.

Conclusion

It is clear that South Wales is fortunate in having a number of important historic gardens, and it is to be hoped that by involving archaeologists in work on these sites the fullest possible understanding of their functioning and layout will be produced in the future. The deposits associated with gardens are sometimes vulnerable, and it would be a great pity if ill-considered restoration and development were allowed to destroy this irreplaceable resource.

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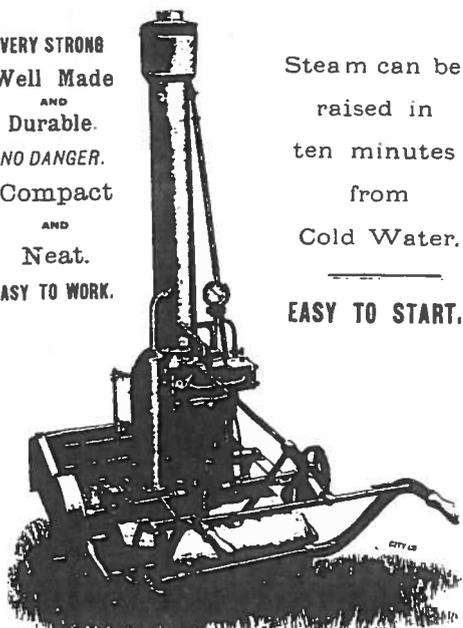
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The above represents one of Sumner's patent Steam lawn mowers and roller. As will be seen the engine and boiler is fitted over the machine, and can when desired be fitted to existing Machines.

From *Antiques in the Garden*
(See Book Review over page)

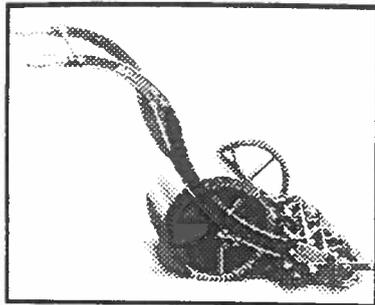
Book Review

Antiques from the Garden by Alistair Morris

Antique Collectors Club
1996 £25.00

ISBN 1 870673 17 4

In 1830 Edwin Budding, an engineer, invented the lawnmower, a landmark in garden history which was soon followed by a diversity of different chain driven and gear driver devices. By the late nineteenth century there were steam powered lawnmowers, and horse drawn lawnmowers for larger lawns, supplied with leather pony boots at 25/- a set, which prevented the horse hooves cutting into the turf. Garden rollers of stone with twisted wrought iron handles usually date from the eighteenth century. Right at the end of the century cast iron took the place of stone, and later advances in manoeuvrability were achieved with the double cylinder cast iron roller with rounded edges. These historical insights were just what I was hoping for in this book, and only wish there was a greater amount of text of this scholarly and interpretive nature.



*Budding's Patent Lawnmower
circa 1832*

The author is a director of Sotheby's, and the book is divided into ten chapters embracing garden structures, decorative features, water features, watering pots, cans and systems, containers, cloches and forcing pots, greenhouses and frames, garden furniture, tools, tools for lawns and borders, toys, novelties and ephemera. For the most part it is a book of illustrations of garden items which might conceivably find their way to a saleroom, and each illustration is accompanied by a brief description, similar, but for the lack of a contemporary value estimate, to that you would find in a Miller's Antiques Guide. The pace is broken at intervals with reproductions of pages from nineteenth and early twentieth century garden catalogues, and with details from notable artworks illustrative of the eighteenth or nineteenth century garden. Here and there are also full page compositional photographs featuring assortments of garden syringes, watering barrows, terracotta pots, or daisy grubbers artfully arranged very much in the style of a *Country Living* illustration. Unblemished by numbers dotting the photographs, the captions to these are not easy to decipher.

This is a book to leaf through, and should you find the twin of an item familiar to you, you will be delighted, and may gain a little further information such as the name of the manufacturer from its caption. However the picture-led design, and lack of an index can make it a frustrating task to seek enlightenment on a topic of choice. I sought through half a book of captions before locating an example of terracotta or artificial stone by Pulham of Broxbourne. Some sections, such as the that on the cast iron seats manufactured by Coalbrookdale are pleasingly comprehensive, others, such as the single page devoted to weathervanes, frustratingly superficial. J.C. Loudon, we are informed, disapproved of weathervanes in the garden, feeling they represented the opposite associations to

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- Gwent:** Mr Charles Smart (01600 740387)
- Gwynedd:** Mrs Joan K. Jones (01766 522766)
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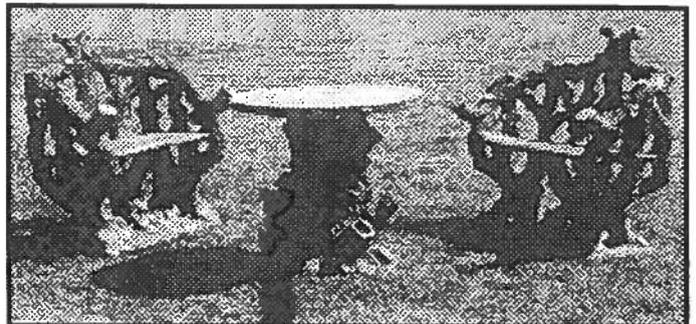


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stillness and repose. This seems insufficient excuse to represent two centuries with just two examples, sparingly described.

Perhaps the truth is that there are at least ten books waiting to be written, on the ten classes of garden artefacts designated in these chapters. Possibly too, there is a great need for research: manufacturers, materials and styles being frequently difficult to identify, except to the nearest century. However I believe that the virtual lack of interpretive text is a great defect, and would happily have sacrificed the magazine-style colour photographs in favour of a stronger historical thread linking the examples presented.

Caroline Palmer



*Late 19th Century glazed earthenware garden furniture
manufactured by Moss End, Glasgow*

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