

Gardening, Botany & the Rural Life

From a C17th Country House Library, and the Bloomsbury Set...

1. La Quintinie (Jean de) The Compleat Gard'ner; or, Directions for cultivating and right ordering of fruit-gardens and kitchen-gardens; with divers reflections on several parts of husbandry. In six books... To which is added his Treatise of orange-trees, with the raising of melons, omitted in the French editions. Made English by John Evelyn Esquire, illustrated with copper plates. London: Printed for Matthew Gillyflower [...] and James Partridge [...] 1693, FIRST EDITION IN ENGLISH, 2 vols. and 2 parts (see below) in 1 vol., titlepage printed in red and black, with an engraved portrait frontispiece, 11 engraved plates, 2 of them folding, 8 engraved garden-scene head pieces and 1 engraved illustration in the text in the penultimate part, and several small

woodcut plans and diagrams in the text, piece torn out of top of frontispiece, entering the plate-mark but not affecting the engraved surface, frontispiece partially detached, leaf b^{***} (a singleton) not properly sewn in and extruding a little at the fore-edge, where it is a little darkened and frayed, a few leaves browned, mainly towards the end, pp. [xliv], 106, ff 107-110, pp. 111-114, ff. 115-117, 116, 119-184, [4]; 116, 137-204, [4]; 4; 80, folio, handsome contemporary speckled and panelled calf, tooled blind, spine richly gilt in compartments, red label, blind foliate roll at board edges, red sprinkled edges; leather a little rubbed on boards and hinges, but a very attractive sound copy. (Henrey I, 218; Hunt 388; Keynes 103; Wing L431)

The County County of the Count

£6000

An attractive copy of a landmark work in the literature of gardening, with important provenance.

The author of this treatise, Jean Baptiste de la Quintinie 'was one of the great French agriculturists of the 17th century. He was also interested in horticulture and gardens, and Louis XIV felt his work was so important that he created for him the post of Directeur Général des Potagers Royaux. Though La Quintinie held this post with distinction for forty years, his modesty was such that he published nothing of his own during his life time. This was rectified when shortly after his death when *Instructions pour les Jardins fruitiers at Potagers* was brought out in 1690 [by his son, Michel]. It was so practical and filled such a need that it went into many editions including the [present] translation by La Quintinie's great admirer and friend, John Evelyn [(1620-1706)]' (Hunt). The volume is profusely illustrated with the images which appeared in the French, but with text rendered into English, the illustrations include a fine plan of an orchard, detailed diagrams of implements, methods for taking cuttings etc., as well as evocative engraved headpieces which depict scenes from the garden at Versailles.

An engraving of melons is new to this edition. The Hunt Catalogue draws attention to the canny advertisement by Mrs. Gillyflower for garden tools, remarking 'We hope the tools were better put together than the book.' Indeed, the pagination speaks eloquently of the disorder of the publication. The titlepage states 'in Six Parts', and so there are, but they are divided into 2 volumes (the 2nd volume not having a title-page however). These 2 vols. are followed by 4 pages on melons, which are followed in turn by the treatise on orange trees: this last part is actually in 2 parts, though not so designated, slightly over half of it being given over to 'Reflections Upon some Parts of Agriculture'. This edition sees the first appearance in print of Quintinie's 'Treatise of Orange-trees' and the notes on melons, the latter of which were supposedly based on conversations between Quintinie and Evelyn.

Now known principally as a courtier and diarist, Evelyn was himself a keen gardener, with famously magnificent grounds at his Wotton estate. Evelyn had published his own work on gardening; his *Discourse on Forest Trees* (1664) ran to several editions. His collaboration with Quintinie speaks to the close ties between the courts of Charles II and Louis XIV, and the complex crosscurrents which underpinned garden design. Already an important text in this context, the present copy speaks directly to this process. It belonged to the diplomat, courtier and colonial administrator William Blathwayt (1649-1717). Born into a family of Protestant merchants and lawyers, Blathwayt became Secretary of War, and was a key figure in American affairs. John Evelyn and Blathwayt knew one another, and Evelyn recorded the experience of dining with Blathwayt at his London townhouse in 1687: "I din'd at Mr. Blathwayt's.... This gentleman is Secretary of [sic] War, Clerk of the

from Blashways, Egr

Counsel, etc., having raised himselfe by his

industrie from very moderate circumstances. He is a very proper, handsome person, and very dextrous in businesse, and besides all this, has married a greate fortune." (*Diary of John Evelyn*, p. 56)

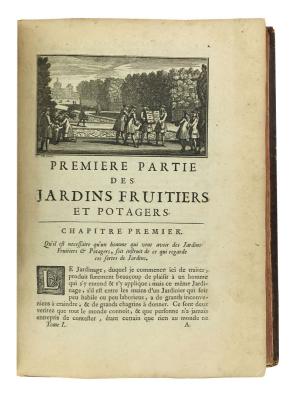
The 'greate fortune' acquired by his marriage to Mary Wynter included her father's estate of Dyrham Park, in Gloucestershire (now managed by the National Trust). Blathwayt completely remodelled the house and gardens, transforming it into a masterpiece of British baroque. He employed another of Louis XIV's gardeners and a colleague of Quintinie, Andre Le Nôtre, to landscape the gardens in the same Franco-Dutch style as was found at Versailles, with a kitchen garden and orchards which also aped Quintinie's potager. Blathwayt had an extensive library, although his many of his books were sold by his descendants in the eighteenth century.

More recently, the book belonged to Sir Nicholas Beauchamp Bagenal of the Bloomsbury set (see next item), though without mark of ownership.

This is an an important copy of a text which speaks to seventeenth-century Anglo-French cultural (as well as horticultural) cross-pollination, and to the long tradition of gardeners reading gardeners.



Owned by a member of the Bloomsbury Set La Quintinie (Jean Baptiste de) Instruction pour les jardins Fruitiers et Potagers, Fruitiers et Potagers avec un Traité des Orangers, et des Réfléxions sur l'Agriculture [...] Nouvelle Edition revüe, corrigée, et augmentée d'une Instruction pour la Culture des Fleurs. Paris: Chez Clousier, 1739. engraved and woodcut ornaments and illustrations within the text; some quires browned due to paper stock, neat tissue repair to the folding plate in vol. 1 and the end leaf of vol. 2; pp. [8], 48, [8], 591, [1]; [12]; 4to; contemporary smooth mottled calf, boards ruled blinds, spine gilt in compartments with raised bands, red spine labels, marbled endpapers, red edges; joints a little tender with some cracking to the upper hinge on volume II; spine ends defective and corners bumped.



£1000

A corrected and expanded edition (first published 1690) of this hugely successful treatise by Louis XIV's gardener Jean-Baptiste de La Quintinie (1626-1688).

La Quintinie worked as gardener to Louis XIV for more than forty years, during which time he oversaw the development of the potager, or kitchen garden, at Versailles. Constructed between 1677 and 1683, this provided fresh produce for the vast and demanding royal court. He was thought to be able to work agricultural miracles, producing asparagus in December and strawberries in April. This book, published by La Quintinie's son Michel, introduced his

methods to a wide audience, with detailed instructions for planting, pruning and espaliering fruit trees, and cultivating vegetables. Later editions, such as the present copy, added sections on the cultivation of melons, which were a notoriously fickle crop.

This copy belonged to Sir Nicholas Beauchamp Bagenal (1891-1973), known as Nick. It carries his ownership inscription as well as a dedicatory note to his second wife Joan Bagenal (née Williams), dated 1968. Along with his first wife, the artist Barbara Hiles Bagenal (1891–1984), Nick was a member of the Bloomsbury Set, and an adopter of the bohemian lifestyle espoused by that group. He was an affectionate correspondent (and likely, at one time, a lover) of Virginia Woolf, and Barbara was a particularly close friend of Dora Carrington, and a rare heterosexual love interest of John Maynard Keynes.

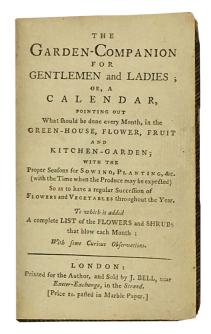
Bagenal was himself a horticulturist of some repute, and was based at the National Institute of Agricultural Botany's East Malling Research Station in Kent. The station was founded in 1919, as a charitable



trust, to promote the improvement of British crops. Bagenal specialised in the cultivation of fruit trees, and was the author of the popular work *Fruit Growing: Modern Cultural Methods* (1939). The current book and Bagenal's are part of a European horticultural tradition, which reveal La Quintinie's seventeenth-century methods as startlingly modern.

A Garden Calendar

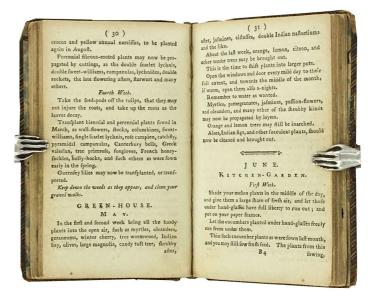
[Trusler, John], The Garden-Companion For Gentlemen and Ladies; or, a Calendar, pointing out what should be done every Month, in the Green-House, Flower, Fruit and Kitchen-Garden; with the proper Seasons for Sowing, Planting, &c. (with the Time when the Produce may be expected) so as to have a regular Succession of Flowers and Vegetables throughout the Year. To which is added a compete List of Flowers and Shrubs that blow each Month: with some curious Observations. London: Printed for the Author, and Sold by J. Bell... [N.d., c. 1770]. Uniformly a little browned, some marginal annotations, but a very good copy; pp. 69, [3, advertisements]; 12mo.; contemporary tree-calf, sparingly but attractively gilt tooled on spine and at the extremities of the boards; rather scuffed, with the hinges and the corners both showing signs of wear, good



£750

An early and unrecorded edition of a charming pocket-sized gardening calendar. Such calendars proliferated in the late eighteenth century, providing monthly (and, as here, weekly) tasks for the budding home-horticulturist. Gardening was increasingly viewed as a polite occupation, and these manuals were designed to appeal to a growing middle class; the owners of small country houses, villas, and houses in the proto-suburbs. The work reflects the common arrangement of gardens at the time, with sections on kitchen gardens, pleasure-or-flower gardens, and green houses. Trusler taps into the gendered expectations of gardening; gentlemen will bend the earth to their will and

'supply their tables with everything in season', while ladies will enjoy growing and arranging flowers, and find that it 'contributes to their health'. The introduction confidently concludes: 'If they carry this book about with them, and have recourse to it occasionally, when they walk in the garden, they, in a very little time, will be masters of the whole of it'.



There is no other record of this edition. In volume II of her *British Botanical* and *Horticultural Literature before 1800*, Blanche Henrey notes having seen only a seventh edition, published c. 1795, with a 'Trusler at the Literary Press' imprint (vol. II, p. 469). She also cites the book's advertisement in Trusler's *Elements of Modern Gardening* (1784), from which she extrapolates his authorship of the work. The present copy has no authorial attribution, and is doubtless an early production, if not the first edition. This copy stayed in one Buckinghamshire family for several generations; notes to the endleaves state that it belonged to a gentleman of Chalfont St. Peter, and was used by his great-granddaughter.

(ESTC reference, for the later edition: T40422).

British flowers and where to find them

4. [How (William)], Phytologia Britannica, natales exhibens indigenarum stirpium sponte emergentium. London: Richard Cotes for Octavian Pulleyn, 1650, FIRST (ONLY) EDITION, woodcut device on title, without the initial blank, text printed in a mixture of Roman, Italic, and Black letter, 4 leaves with small holes affecting a few letters, pp. [iii-xvi], 133, [1], small 8vo, contemporary calf, rebacked, corners worn, crackling of covers, contemporary signature at head of title of Edward Heaston, later indecipherable library stamp in outer margin of title, but otherwise a sound clean copy, (Henrey 290; ESTC R14016)

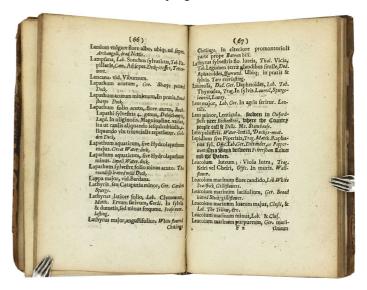
£650

First edition of this important seventeenth-century record of British flora. 'In the main a verbatim reprint of Johnson's *Mercurius Botanicus*. William How augmented the list with a number of other records of plants, a number [of which] are held to be of interest and value' (Henrey).

In presenting both Latin and English terms for plant life, How's work offers a fascinating snapshot of botanical vernacular terminology; thus, 'Geranium Haematodes' becomes 'bloody cranes-bill'. and so on. Of particular interest are the specified localities where the plants may be found, for example,

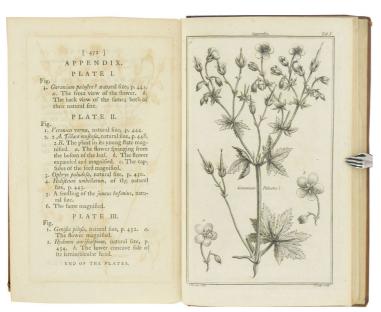
'Hedgehogg Persley [...] in the corn fields around Bath'. The locations are both geographically very broad, and at the same time extraordinarily specific. For

example, 'Turritis minor' or 'The lesser towers mustard' is to be found 'in a lane between Wulwich and Carleton'. This not only paints a distinctly bucolic picture of an area of London now known for its concrete plant, but also raises questions about knowledge-gathering in this period, and whether the author was well-travelled, or crowd sourced the information from like-minded botanists.



By a Norwich Apothecary

5. (**Linnaeus.**) **ROSE** (**Hugh**) The Elements of Botany: Containing The History of the Science: With Accurate Definitions of all the Terms of Art, exemplified in Eleven Copper-Plates; The Theory of Vegetables; The scientific Arrangement of Plants, and Names used in Botany... To which is added, An Appendix, Wherein are described some Plants lately found in Norfolk and Suffolk, illustrated with three additional Copper-Plates, all taken from the Life.



T. Cadell... and M. Hingeston, 1775, FIRST EDITION, 14 engraved plates, occasional spotting, pp. xii, 472, [14 plate leaves interspersed], 8vo contemporary calf, spine with raised bands and faded label, text block fore-edge with ink mark at upper edge, board edges and joints slightly rubbed, good (ESTC T113524)

£525

An influential translation of Linnaeus by Hugh Rose, a Norwich apothecary, which, in

several sections, adds credence to William Smellie's assertion (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 1773) that 'obscenity is the very basis of the Linnean system': Rose describes the filaments as 'spermatic vessels', the antherae as testicles, the style as the virgina, though his treatment of 'The Nuptials of Plants'' section reverts to a more figurative approach: 'The calyx then is the marriage bed... The corolla, or petals, are the curtains.' Sir James Smith, founder of the Linnaen Society, acknowledged the influence of Rose on his early development. (*The Poetry of Erasmas Darwin*, Priestman, 2016)

6. Smith (James Edward) A Grammar of Botany. Illustrative of Artificial, as well as natural, classification, with an explanation of Jussieu's System. Longman, Hurst, Rees, Orme, and Brown, 1821, FIRST EDITION, 21 hand-coloured plates, leaves faintly damp mottled throughout, pastedown with book plate of Alfred, Viscount Milner, K.G., pp. xx, [21 plate leaves], 242, [ii], 8vo, contemporary calf, rebacked retaining spine with gilt-ruled bands and gilt-lettered morocco label, good

£175

A follow-up to the highly successful *An Introduction to Physiological and Systematical Botany*, 1807, by the present author, founder of the Linnean Society, which focuses particularly on natural classification and the affinity of plants. A rather exhaustive contemporary review from *The Edinburgh Monthly Review* (vol. 5, 1821), praises both the author for publishing this material

separately, rather than including it in a fifth edition, 'There is nothing of the trading spirit in Sir James Smith. His mind is too high to stoop to such practices' and the quality of the illustrations; 'The plates... are most excellently adapted to the purpose. They are beautifully executed and scientifically drawn; and the coloured copies are admirably finished.' The review also highlights the growing popularity of botany at this time, no longer the reserve of 'medical men', but an essential part of a rounded education.

Quite scarce, no copies in US institutions according to WorldCat.



Retire to the Country

7. Wright (George) Retired Pleasures, in prose and verse, addressed to the lovers of a country life; with occasional notes and illustrations. *London:* Printed for C. Stalker, and J. Buckland, 1787, FIRST EDITION, with an engraved frontispiece, complete with initial blank, half-title, and terminal advertisement leaf, small piece missing out of fore-margin of I3, touching a few letters on verso, some damp-staining, a bit of spotting, notably to title and frontispiece, modern calf backed boards, pp. xi, 213, [2], 12mo; modern dark brown half calf over marbled boards, black label lettered in gilt; (ESTC T145820)

£500



A very scarce bucolic work which espouses the serenity and pleasure of rural life and entreats its readers to retire to the country. Partly an anthology, in prose and verse.

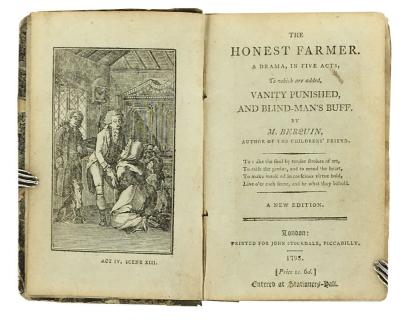
Thomson is a favourite (Wright had edited an edition of *The Seasons* 1776), several poems are 'by a Lady.'

5 copies in the UK recorded in ESTC, 2 in the US, Cornell and Kansas.

Farming on the Stage

8. Berquin [(**Arnaud**)] The Honest Farmer. A Drama, in five Acts, to which are added, Vanity punished, and Blind-Man's Buff [...] *London: John Stockdale, Piccadilly, 1798, frontispiece engraving, front free endpaper with contemporary presentation inscription;* pp. [iv], 176, 12mo; *contemporary marbled paper-backed boards* (ESTC: T107461) **£650**

The first British edition of this play for children, with a rural setting. This five act morality play was penned by the French children's author Arnaud Berquin (1747-1791). Berquin's most famous work, *L'Ami des Enfants* (1782) was first translated into English and bowdlerised by Mary Stockdale and published by her father John Stockdale as *The Looking-glass for the Mind* (1783). It may be safely assumed that the present work is a similar joint production by Mary and her father.



The play focuses on the fortunes of

kindly farmer Throwgood and his family, as they contend with the loss of their cattle and the whims of their landlord Squire Sparks.

An English edition was also published in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1794, which is also scarce. ESTC records just five copies of the present edition.

The Philosophy of Corn

9. Wolfius (Dr., i.e. Christian, Freiherr von Wolff) A Discovery of the true Cause of the wonderful Multiplication of Corn; with some general Remarks upon the Nature of Trees and Plants. London: Printed for J. Roberts, 1734, with an attractive engraved frontispiece of a prodigious corn (wheat) plant, frontispiece offset onto title, woodcut head and tailpieces, and initials; pp. [viii], 50, 8vo; modern calf backed boards, spine lettered in gilt, very good. (ESTC T131469)

£650

First edition and a very attractive copy of this scarce early eighteenth-century treatise on corn, by the eminent German philosopher Christian Freiherr von Wolff (1679-1754).

Wolff references many continental books on crop husbandry - Spanish, French, and other German authors are all cited - critiquing these for their failure to derive conclusions from nature. He is conscious not to repeat these mistakes himself, and takes pains to emphasise that he has made a close study of corn in the field, beginning in the year 1716. In his chapter 'of blighted corn', he explains how he has taken blackened corn husks and kept them in his

bedchamber, ascertaining that the blight is caused by an overabundance of moisture. This scientific method underpins this short treatise, which ends as both a detailed study of the plant in question, and bibliography (albeit critical) of other authors in the field.

Wolff's life work spanned almost every scholarly subject of his time, displayed and unfolded according to his demonstrative-deductive, mathematical method, which perhaps represents the peak of Enlightenment rationality in Germany. This is said to be a translation of *Erläuterung der Entdeckung der wahren Ursach von der wunderbahren Vermehrung des Getredes*, but we have found no trace of a German publication either in WorldCat or KVK. In KVK the title is represented in German libraries solely in microforms or electronic versions of the present title.

Scarce, with just fifteen copies listed on ESTC.



Quatruped veterinary medicine

10. (Farriery.) TAPLIN IMPROVED; or, a Compendium of Farriery. Wherein is fully explained the nature and structure of that useful creature, a horse; with the diseases and accidents he is liable to; and the methods of cure. Exemplified by ten Elegant Cuts, Each the Full figure of a Horse. Describing all the various Parts of that Noble Animal. Likewise rules for Breeding and Training of Colts: Practical Receipts for the Cure of Common Distempers incident to Oxen, Cows, Calves, Sheep, Lambs, Hogs, &c. By an Experienced Farrier London: Printed by H. Harrison, for N. Frobisher, in the Pavement, York. 1792. with 8 folding plates, 1 as frontispiece, 2 containing 2 images, all more or less damaged at the folds, only one with any real loss (of a horse's right hind leg), some old fairly crude repairs (one using a fragment strip from the side of a sheet of Penny Reds, c. 1857), but withal an unsophisticated copy which is internally clear; pp. iv, [5-] 144, 12mo; untrimmed in original paper-backed boards, paper lost at the foot of the spine, loss of surface to covers, top of rear fly-leaf torn away, good

A scarce little book about the care of horses and other quadrupeds, with attractive line-engraved illustrations.

The title is a canny reference - doubtless intended to boost sales - to William Taplin, author of the hugely successful *Gentleman's Stable Directory* (first published 1788). Whilst the author may have read Taplin, this work is unique in its emphasis of maladies and cures. It provides a compendium of ailments and their remedies, by which we learn various tricks such as how to make 'horse ointment', how 'to cure the mad staggers', and how to manage a horse 'that is feeble and faint'. The author also offers receipts for common

complaints in oxen, hogs, sheep, and dogs. He has a broad range of veterinary solutions, including 'for oxen that are galled or bruised in the neck by the yoke'; 'for a bullock that has the bloody scour, or the bloody flux'; 'to destroy ticks or tickells in sheep', for 'the gargut, or blood, in swine'; how 'to feed a hog for lard'; a new 'a purge for a dog if you imagine he hath been poisoned', and many more. The final chapter is simply entitled 'Moles', but he offers advice only for their destruction.

As well as numerous recipes, the author gives advices on the tricks of dealers, and how to avoid being swindled by the same.



Worldcat contains only one listing for it, at Texas A&M. Likely a reissue of the first edition of 1790 (BL, and Science Museum only in ESTC), with a new title page.

