



Ken Spelman Books Ltd

# *Ferns & Fern Collecting*

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## Pteridomania, or Fern Madness.

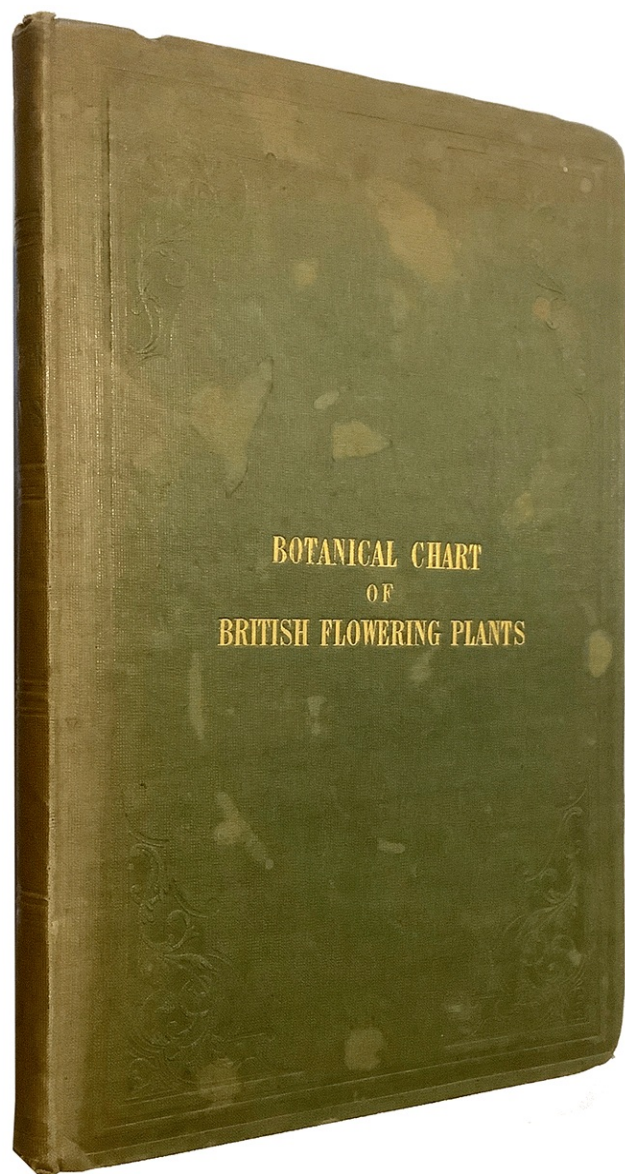
“By the late 1830s, the British countryside was attracting increasing numbers of amateur and professional botanists. It was a time when it was considered that studying the 'Natural Wonders of Creation' was an appropriate way of praising God. The study of flowers and other plants was considered to be fairly safe by the Church and could be pursued by mixed groups including men and women, whereas the study of animals was frowned upon as it might lead to embarrassing situations and 'unsuitable parallels' being drawn between the activities of animals and people! Charles Kingsley, author of *The Water-Babies*, christened it Pteridomania, or fern madness. (Although his own daughter wrote on the subject, see item: 8.)

New British plant discoveries were published in periodicals, particularly *The Phytologist*, which first appeared in 1841. Ferns proved to be a particularly fruitful group of plants for new records because they had been relatively little studied compared with flowering plants. Also, they were most diverse and abundant in the wilder, wetter, western and northern parts of Britain which were becoming more accessible through the development of better roads and, subsequently, in the late 1840s and 1850s, the railway network. Developments in printing also led to the production of cheaper illustrated identification books and tourist guides, which further encouraged botanising excursions.

Locals made a little money from the craze by guiding tourists to fern localities. But some realised that it was more profitable to keep the sites secret. They supplied the 'addict' with sought-after rarities, while asserting that it was far too dangerous for the lady or gentleman to find the plants themselves. Writer Margaret Plues recalled that her specimen of maidenhair fern came from Ilfracombe, “but I had not the delight of finding it. The donkey-women make a monopoly of it, and sell it to all Fern-lovers. It was in vain to coax and wheedle, to promise a larger sum for the pleasure of gathering it myself.”

Even when visitors returned home there were ways to supply their continuing fern needs. Ladies from Devon, such as Miss Griffiths and Miss Clyde from Barnstaple, advertised mail order operations in *Myra's Journal of Dress and Fashion*, offering “Devonshire Ferns. Twenty roots, six varieties for one shilling, or 100 roots, nine varieties for five shillings.” Professional fern touts scoured the countryside for huge numbers of ferns, sent them up to the cities in hampers on trains, and then sold them in the streets, or hawked them from door to door. In 1896 *The Gardeners' Chronicle* reported how, as there was then no bye-law against taking ferns from the wild, two fern stealers – who had hidden 5 cwt of roots in an outhouse – had been charged at Totnes with damaging Devonshire hedges. They were sentenced to four and six weeks' hard labour each.”

Ref: Sarah Whittingham, *Fern Fever: The Story of Pteridomania*



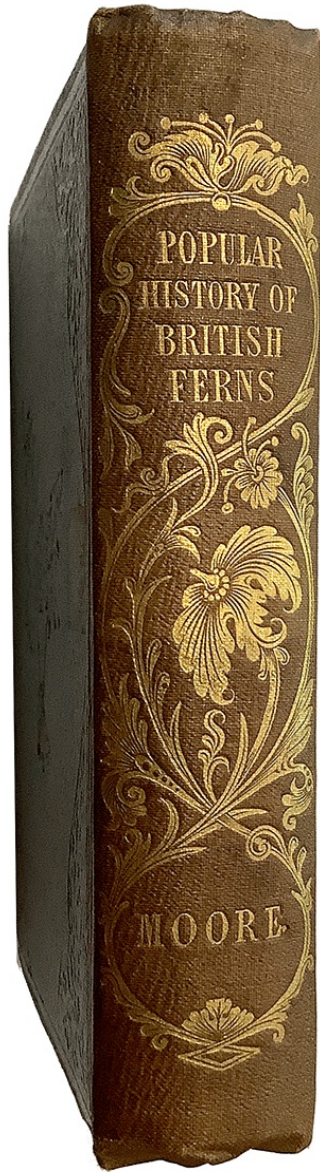
“Her botanical chart is ingeniously devised...”

1. KNAPP, Frances Holliday, Miss. *The Botanical Chart of British Flowering Plants and Ferns: shewing at one view their chief characteristics; generic and specific names, with the derivation; their localities, properties, etc.* First edition. x, [2], 81 double-page charts, [1], 84-90, [4]pp adverts. A very good clean copy bound in marked original blind stamped and gilt lettered cloth. 8vo. Bath: Binns and Goodwin. 1846. £50.00

~ Frances was the daughter of Joseph John Knapp and Mary Ann Novosielski (of Bath). On the death of her father in 1818, her uncle James Knapp became her guardian. George Knapp, of Devonshire Buildings in Bath is the only family member listed in the subscribers, which also records many local names, predominantly ladies. Ref: "*A History of the Chief English Families Bearing the Name Knapp*" by Oswald Greenway Knapp, privately printed for the author by St.Catherine's Press, London, 1911.

“Her botanical chart is ingeniously devised, and admirable as well as faithfully executed. Although condensed into a tabular arrangement, it is simple and perspicuous, as well as comprehensive.” *The Gentleman’s Magazine*, Volume 181, 1847.





“Among the works which a taste for the study of ferns  
has produced this stands at the head beyond all comparison.”

2. MOORE, Thomas. A Popular History of the British Ferns and the Allied Plants, comprising the club-mosses, pepperworts, and horsetails. First edition. 354, [2], 8pp adverts., 20 coloured plates. A very good copy in original blind and gilt stamped cloth. Bookseller's small corner label of Varty & Owen, on the inner front board.

8vo. Reeve and Benham. 1851.

£95.00

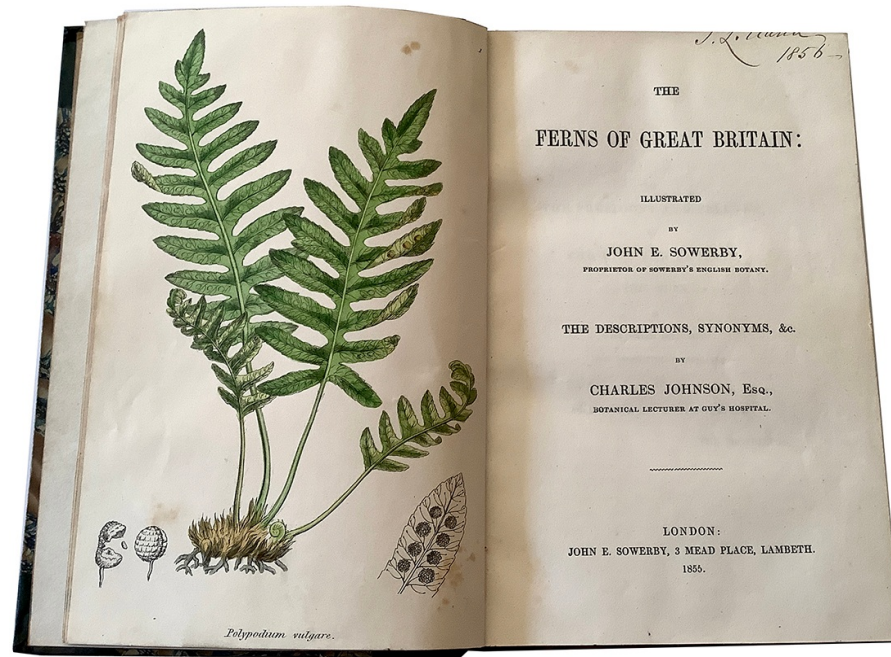
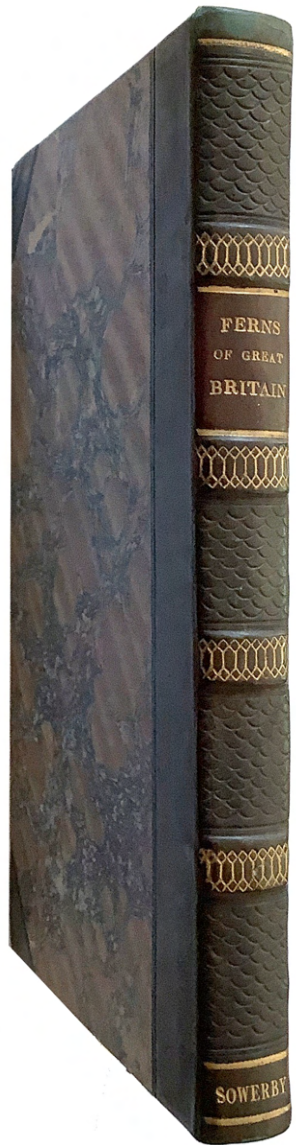
~ Dedicated to N.B. Ward “whose invention of close glazed cases has extended the cultivation of ferns to the parlour, the window-sill, and the city court-yard...” “Among the works which a taste for the study of ferns has produced this stands at the head beyond all comparison.” The Gardener's Chronicle, review in 1851.





3. 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. £120.00

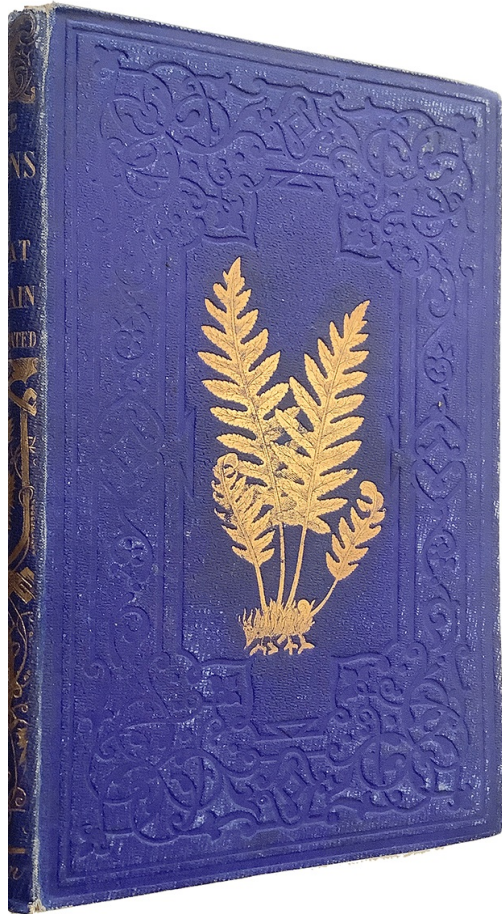
~ Edward Newman, 1801-1876, was an English entomologist and botanist. He was born in Hampstead into a Quaker family. Both his parents were keen naturalists, and he was further encouraged to take an interest in the natural world at his boarding school in Painswick. He left school at sixteen to join his 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.



4. SOWERBY, John Edward. *The Ferns of Great Britain*. Illustrated by John E. Sowerby, proprietor of Sowerby's English Botany. The descriptions, synonyms, &c by Charles Johnson, Esq., botanical lecturer at Guy's Hospital. First edition. [4], 87, [1]p., *hand-coloured frontispiece and 49 uncoloured plates*. A very good copy bound in contemporary dark green half calf, marbled boards and edges. Blind tooled spine with wide gilt bands and red morocco label. Some scattered foxing. Ownership name dated 1856 at head of the title-page. 8vo. John E. Sowerby. 1855. £120.00

~ John Edward Sowerby (1825-1870) was a botanical illustrator and publisher. A member of the Sowerby family, he was eldest son of Charles Edward Sowerby and grandson of James Sowerby. John inherited a taste for botanical drawing, and in 1841 produced his first work - the plates for his father's *Illustrated Catalogue of British Plants*.





5. SOWERBY, John Edward. *The Ferns of Great Britain*. Illustrated by John E. Sowerby, proprietor of Sowerby's English Botany. The descriptions, synonyms, &c by Charles Johnson, Esq., botanical lecturer at Guy's Hospital. First edition. [4], 87, [1]p., *hand-coloured frontispiece and 49 uncoloured plates*. Original blue cloth blocked in blind and pictorially in gilt. A little rubbing to extremities otherwise very good. Book-plate on front paste-down of Gerrard Ansdell (1853-1936), author of *A Trip to the Highlands of Viti Levu*, 1882.

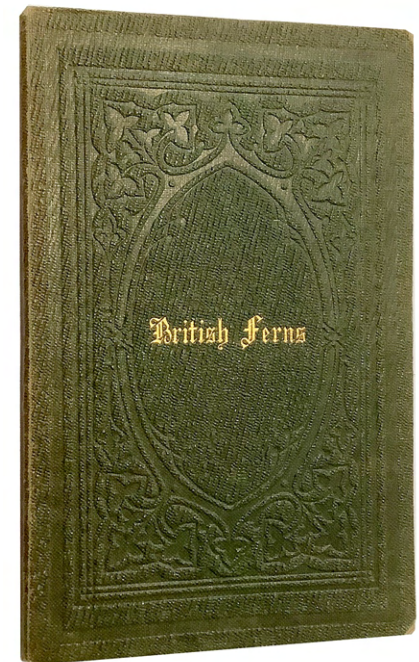
8vo. John E. Sowerby. 1855.

£95.00

6. [BOSANQUET, Edwin]. *A Plain and Easy account of the British Ferns: wherein each species is particularly described under its respective genus, and the characteristics of those genera given in words of common use: with a glossary of technical terms, serving as a key to larger treatises*. Second edition, enlarged and re-arranged. With illustrations. 64pp., *frontispiece and 8 plates*. A near fine copy in original blind stamped and gilt lettered dark green limp cloth, all-edges-gilt. Very scarce.

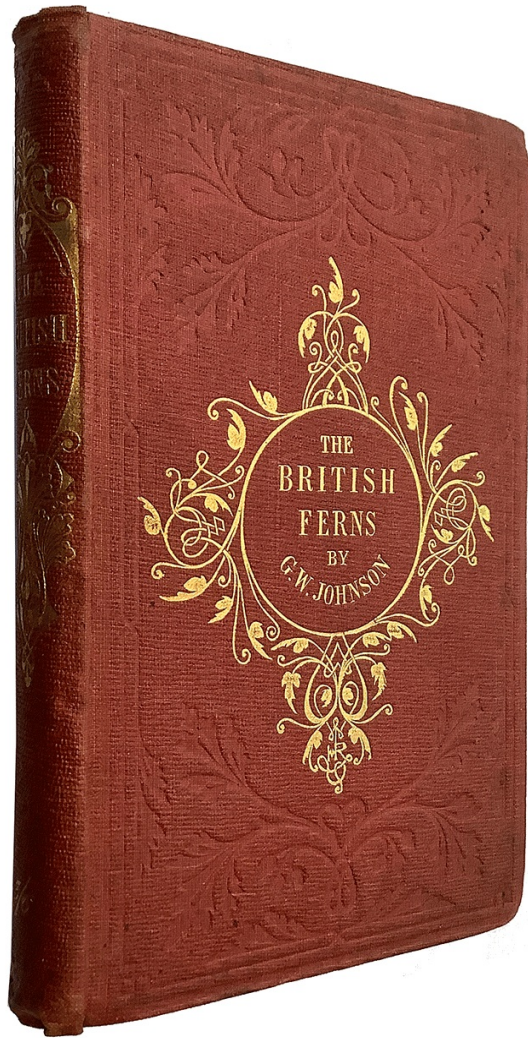
8vo. Robert Hardwicke. [1855].

£120.00



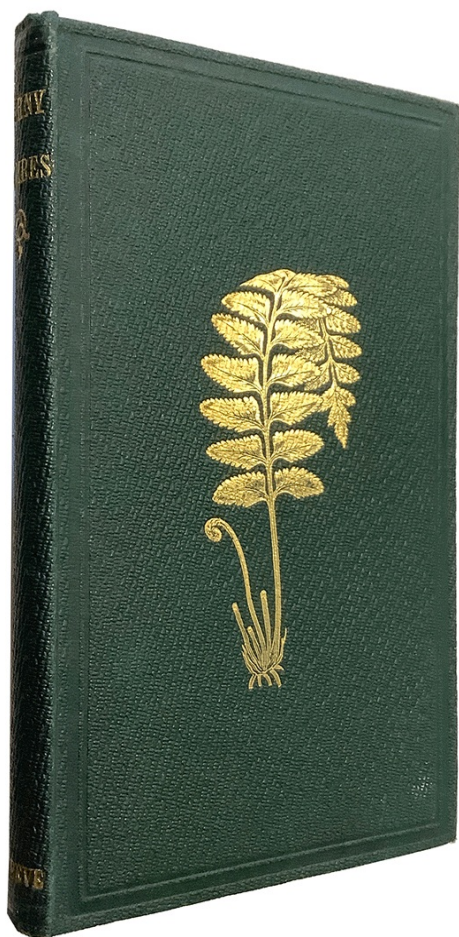
~ First published in 1854, this edition now contains illustrations. The new preface, dated August 1855, is written from Forscote Rectory, Somerset. Edwin Bosanquet, 1799-1872, was initially a curate at Denham, Norfolk, then vicar of Harston in 1844, before moving to Forscote, near Bath in 1848.





7. JOHNSON, Geroge W. *The British Ferns* popularly described, and illustrated by engravings of every species. Second edition. *vi*, 284pp., *half-title.*, 48 engraved plates by E. Whimper. A very good copy in original blind and gilt stamped red cloth, all-edges-gilt. 8vo. Cottage Gardener Office. 1857. £75.00

~ The illustrator appears to be Emily Whimper, wife of Josiah Wood Whimper. She was an artist and exhibited landscapes in London from 1877 to 1885, and Josiah was a wood-engraver, and book illustrator. She also illustrated Mary and Elizabeth Kirby's work, *Caterpillars, Butterflies, & Moths*. [1860].



8. CHANTER, Charlotte (Kingsley), Mrs. Ferny Combes. A ramble after ferns in the glens and valleys of Devonshire. Third edition. [6], 118, 24pp *publisher's catalogue.*, *half-title.*, *charming chromolithograph frontispiece of the Entrance to Clovelly*, *7 coloured plates of varieties of ferns*, and *a double-page map*. A fine copy in bright original dark green gilt cloth. The work is dedicated by Charlotte to her parents Charles and Mrs Kingsley.  
12mo. Lovell Reeve. 1857. £140.00



~ Charlotte Chanter, was daughter of Reverend Charles Kingsley, who was rector in Clovelly. The illustrations are after her own drawings, and the text is designed 'to lead the youthful... with a woman's hand, to the Ferny Combes and Dells of Devon...'





Fern pictures by the daughter of Horatio Walpole, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Orford, and who supplied Charles Darwin with plant specimens

9. FERN PICTURE. A large framed elaborate framework of ferns surrounds an inscription: "Leaves of the Vicus Religiosa Sacred Popul tree of India. Grown, prepared, designed, and painted at Dangstein." In very good condition framed, and in a later sunken mount. 335mm x 235mm (image size), 460mm x 350mm (frame size). 1858. £350.00+ vat

~ Lady Dorothy Fanny Nevill (1826-1913), writer, hostess, horticulturist and plant collector. She was the youngest of the five children of Horatio Walpole, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



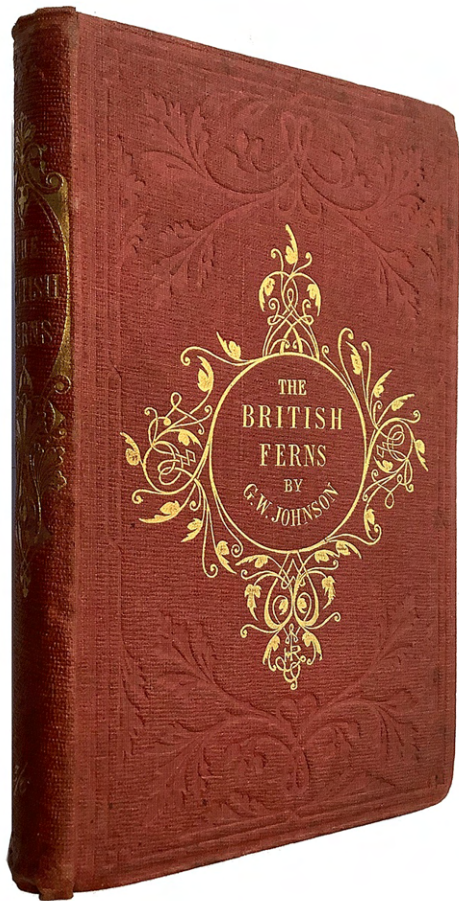


10. FERN PICTURE. An attractive framework of ferns surrounds a religious verse, "O Praise the Lord, ye angels of his, ye that excel in strength, ye that fulfil his commandment, and hearken unto the voice of his words." In very good condition in a later sunken mount. Some very slight loss to fern tips in places, as is nearly always the case with such arrangements. 190mm x 150mm (image size), 260mm x 220mm (mount size). c.1858. £150.00+vat

~ The calligraphy suggests that is almost certainly by Dorothy Nevill, and came with the identified picture above.

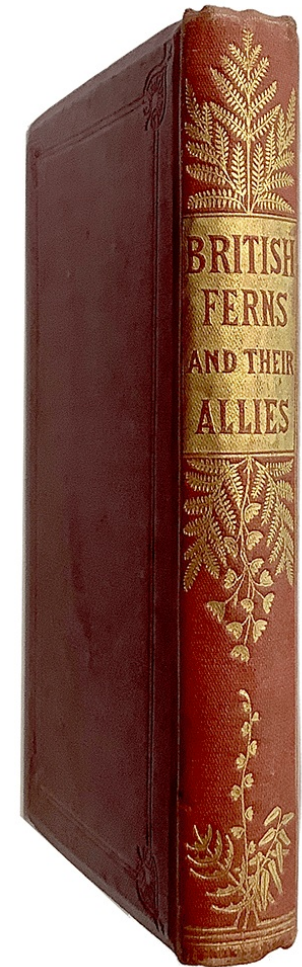
11. FERN PICTURE. An attractive framework of ferns surrounds a religious verse, "But the merciful goodness of the Lord endureth for ever and ever upon them that fear him and his righteousness upon children's children." In very good condition in a later sunken mount. Some very slight loss to fern tips in places, as is nearly always the case with such arrangements. 190mm x 150mm (image size), 260mm x 220mm (mount size). c.1858. £150.00 + vat

~ The calligraphy suggests that is almost certainly by Dorothy Nevill, and came with the identified picture above.



12. JOHNSON, George W. *The British Ferns: popularly described, and illustrated by engravings of every species; a complete history of the family as regards their characteristics, peculiarities, natural places of growth and the most successful methods of cultivating them.* Third edition. [2], vi, 284pp., half-title., 48 line engraved plates. Fine original blind and gilt stamped red cloth. Some contemporary notes relating to ferns on the rear end-paper and to a number of the entries.  
small 8vo. Cottage Gardener Office. 1859. £65.00

13. MOORE, Thomas. *British Ferns and their Allies... comprising the ferns, club-mosses, pepperworts and horsetails.* First edition. iv, 187, [1]pp., 12 colour printed plates by W.S. Coleman, printed in colours by Evans. A good copy in original blind and gilt decorated cloth. The binding is slightly marked with three splashes to the upper board, but a clean copy internally.  
8vo. George Routledge & Sons. [1859]. £95.00



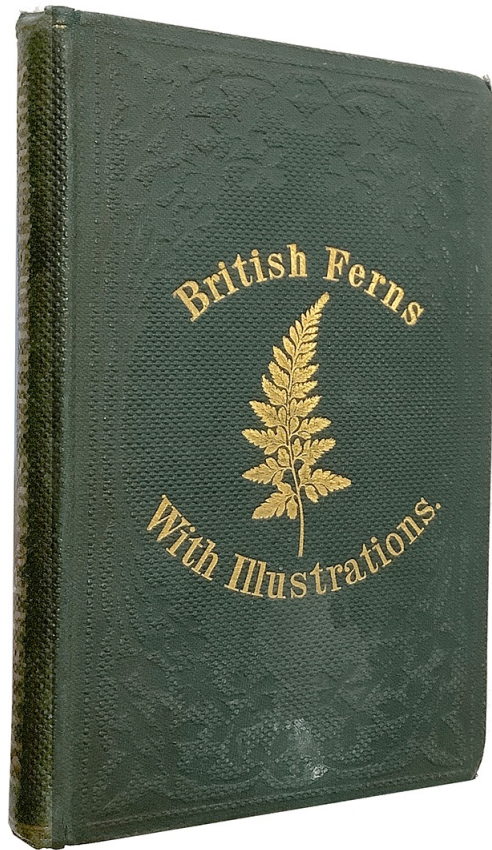




14. ALBUM. A charming small hand-made keepsake of 10 mounted ferns, each with a printed title in latin and its common name, pasted at the foot of each sheet. In an original gilt patterned paper portfolio with linen ties, and an oval engraving, printed in green, of a fern mounted onto the upper cover. In very good clean condition, with just slight loss to one of the specimens.  
150mm x 100mm. c1860. £250.00

~ The examples are of prickly shield-fern, common polypody, common hart's tongue, black-stalked spleenwort, northern hard-fern, lady-fern, male shield-fern, common maidenhair, sea spleenwort, and eagle winged brake.





15. LANKESTER, Phebe. *A Plain and Easy Account of the British Ferns; together with their classification, arrangement of genera, structure, and functions; and, a glossary of technical and other terms. With illustrations.* xv, [1], 108, [4]pp adverts., half-title., frontispiece and 8 hand-coloured plates. A very good copy in original blind and gilt stamped dark green cloth, all-edges-gilt. Slight mark to foot of the upper board.  
small 8vo. Robert Hardwicke. c1860. £65.00

~ A heavily revised edition of Edwin Bosanquet's earlier manual (1854).



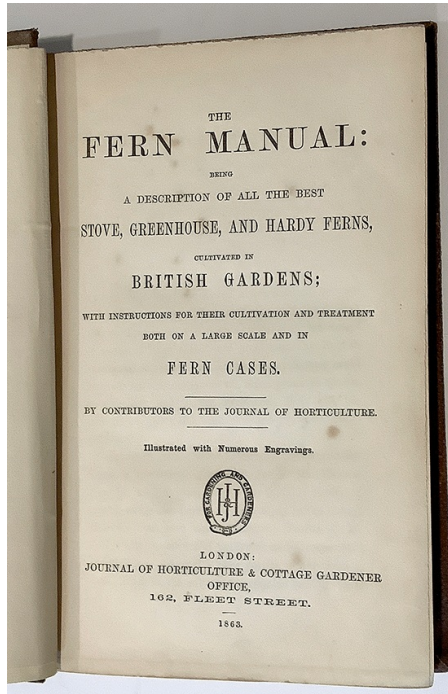
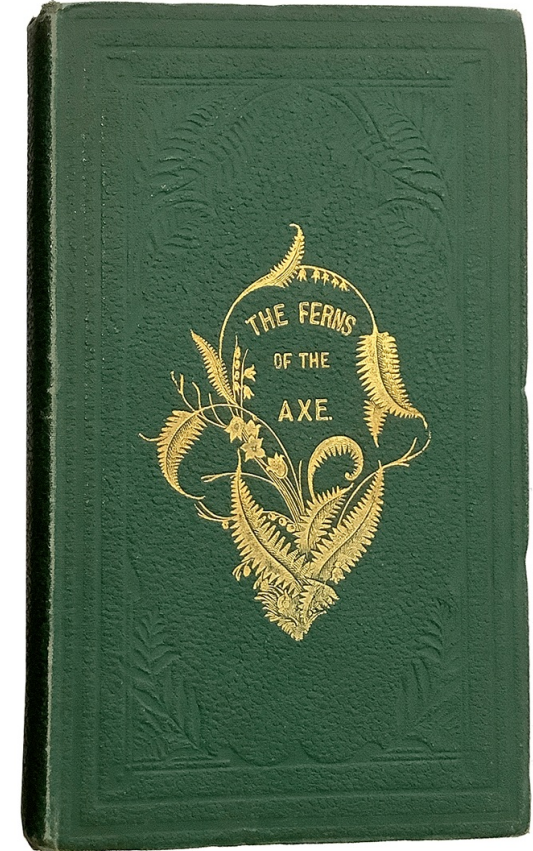
16. MOURNING BROOCH. An antique Victorian black metal mourning brooch in the shape of a fern, lettered in gilt 'Albert'. With original pin which is a little rusty. Perhaps this was worn in memory of Prince Albert who died in 1861, but more likely for a personal loss. The fern motif symbolised sorrow.  
c50mm x 25mm. c1861. £75.00+ vat

17. EDWARDS, Zachary James. The Ferns of the Axe and its Tributaries also of Lyme, Charmouth, Uplyme and Monkton Wyld With an Account of the Flower Lobelia Urens Found Wild Near Axminster and Nowhere Else in Great Britain. First edition. [4], 126pp, 4 plates. A very good copy in original gilt decorated dark green cloth.

8vo. Hamilton, Adams, and Co. 1862.

£75.00

~ This is largely based on his observations of nature as he walked from his house in Axminster to his parish church in Combyne.



18. [APPLEBY, Thomas]. The Fern Manual; Being a Description of All the Best Stove, Greenhouse and Hardy Ferns, cultivated in British Gardens; with instructions for their cultivation and treatment both on a large scale and in Fern Cases. By contributors to The Journal of Horticulture. Illustrated with numerous engravings. First edition. xxii, 216pp., half-title., 80 text illustrations. Original blind stamped and gilt lettered pebble-grain cloth. Slight wear to the joints, and some mottling to the covers. Inner joints worn. Book-plate. Scarce.

8vo. Journal of Horticulture & Cottage Gardener Office. 1863. £95.00

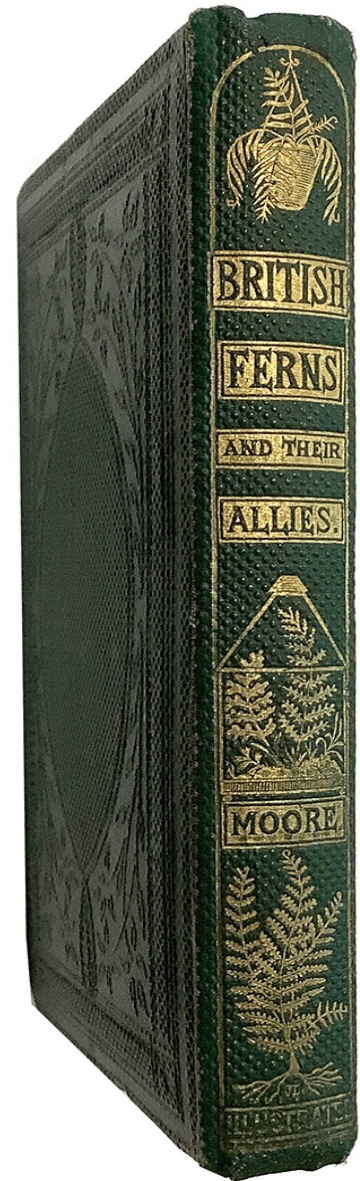
Copac records 4 locations (Science Museum, Nat Hist Museum, Kew, and Nat Museum of Wales.)

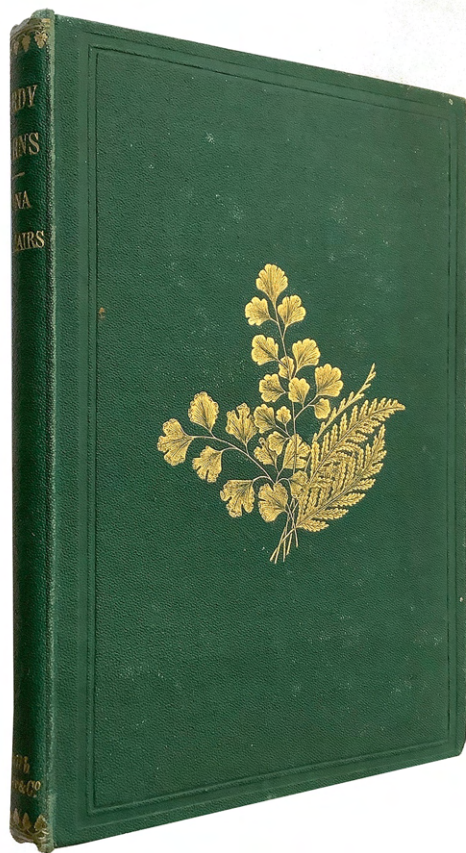




19. MOORE, Thomas. *British Ferns and their Allies...* comprising the ferns, club-mosses, pepperworts and horsetails. *iv*, 187, [1]pp., 12 colour printed plates by W.S. Coleman, printed in colours by Evans. A good copy in original blind and gilt decorated cloth. The binding is rather dull, but a clean copy internally. Some foxing to the reverse of the frontispiece. First published in 1859, this is the second edition. 8vo. Routledge, Warne, & Routledge. 1861. £45.00

20. MOORE, Thomas. *British Ferns and their Allies...* comprising the ferns, club-mosses, pepperworts and horsetails. *iv*, 187, [1]pp., 12 colour printed plates by W.S. Coleman, printed in colours by Evans. A very good copy in bright original blind and gilt decorated dark green cloth. Some slight foxing, and one gathering a little proud in the binding. First published in 1859, this is the third edition. 8vo. Routledge, Warne, & Routledge. 1863. £65.00





"The poor Ferns, like the wolves in olden time, have a price set upon their heads, and they in like manner will soon altogether disappear. We must have 'Fern laws', and preserve them like game."

21. BELLAIRS, Nona. *Hardy Ferns: how I Collected and Cultivated Them*. First edition. xii, 128, [4]pp adverts noting 'manuals for ladies', half-title., colour lithographed frontispiece. A very good copy in bright original gilt decorated dark green cloth. Ownership inscription dated 1885 on the front-end-paper, presenting the book to a niece from her aunt. Scarce. 8vo. Smith, Elder, and Co. 1865. £120.00

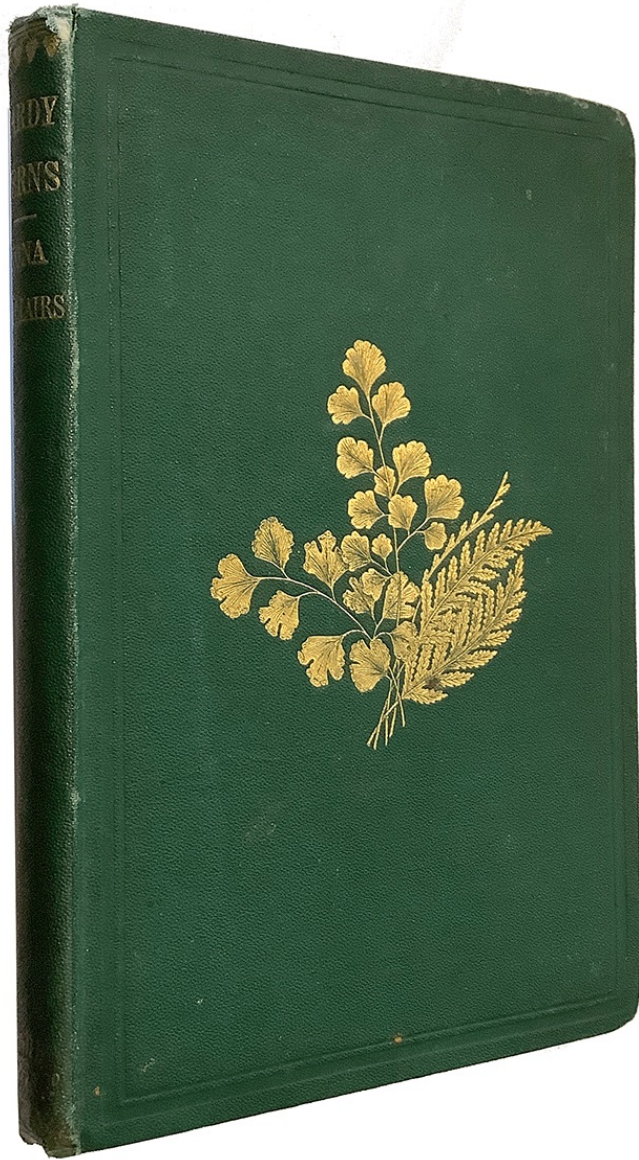
~ Nona Bellairs (1824-1897) was the daughter of the Rev. Henry Bellairs, of Bedworth, Warwickshire. In her book she asserted that the south-west, particularly Cornwall, was the best area for them, and recommends a 'Codrington Lens... about sixteen shillings' to aid with identification. She called for protection of ferns, some of which were becoming very rare due to overcollecting, writing: "The poor Ferns, like the wolves in olden time, have a price set upon their heads, and

they in like manner will soon altogether disappear. We must have 'Fern laws', and preserve them like game."

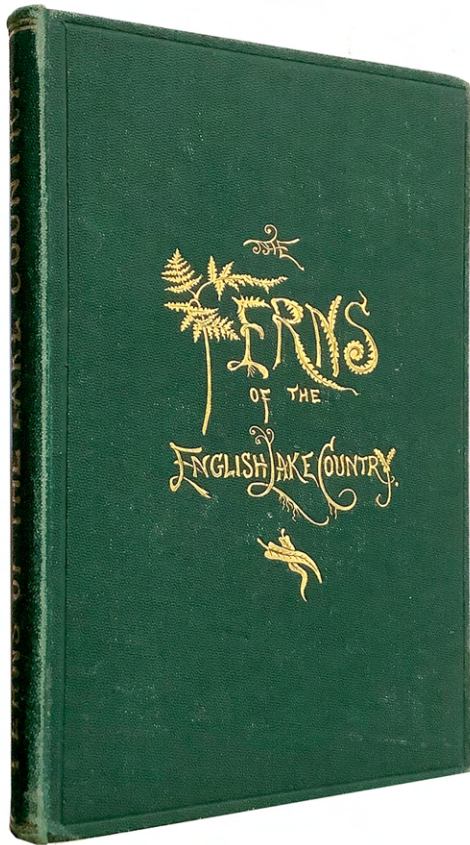
It appears that her guide was known to Kilvert, and he may have used it on his fern hunting expeditions to Cornwall. ref: Toman, John. *Kilvert's World of Wonders: growing up in Mid-Victorian England*, 2014.







22. BELLAIRS, Nona. *Hardy Ferns: how I Collected and Cultivated Them*. First edition. *xii, 128, [4]pp adverts noting 'manuals for ladies', half-title., colour lithographed frontispiece*. A good copy in slightly rubbed original gilt decorated dark green cloth. Light wear to the head of the spine, and foxing to the reverse of the frontispiece, and the final few leaves. Near contemporary ownership name on the front-end-paper. 8vo. Smith, Elder, and Co. 1865. £95.00

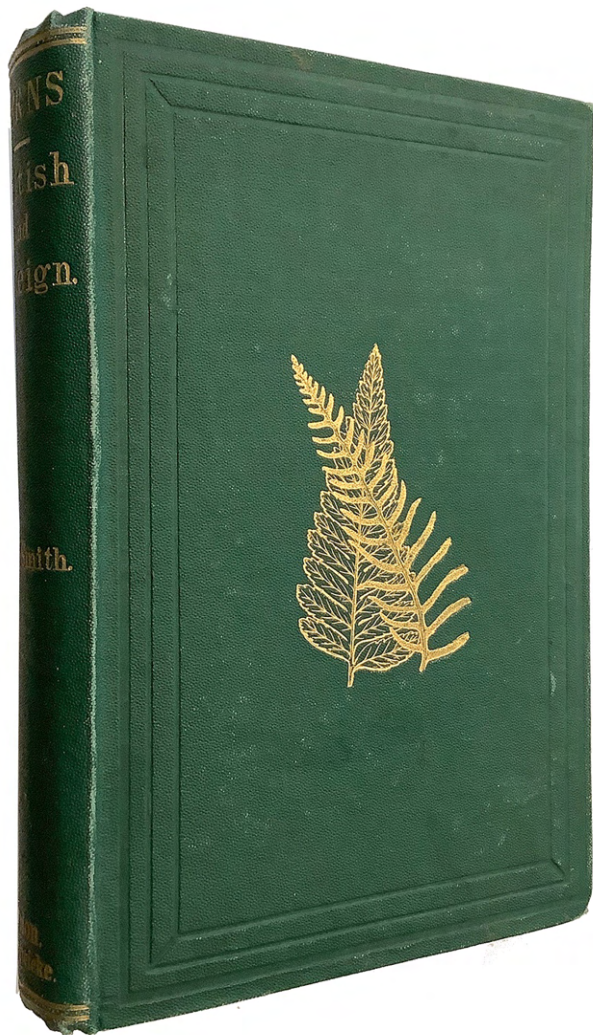


23. LINTON, William James. *The Ferns of the English Lake Country: with a list of varieties.* [2], ii, ii, 124, xii pp adverts for Garnett's publications., frontispiece, title-page vignette, and figures in the text. A very good copy in slightly rubbed original blind and gilt decorated dark green cloth. Some foxing, particularly to the edge of the book-block. Front end-paper removed at some time. small 8vo. Windermere. J. Garnett. 1865. £95.00

~ A Chartist, republican poet, and wood-engraver, Linton issued this self-illustrated work from Brantwood in the Lake. It was later owned by John Ruskin.

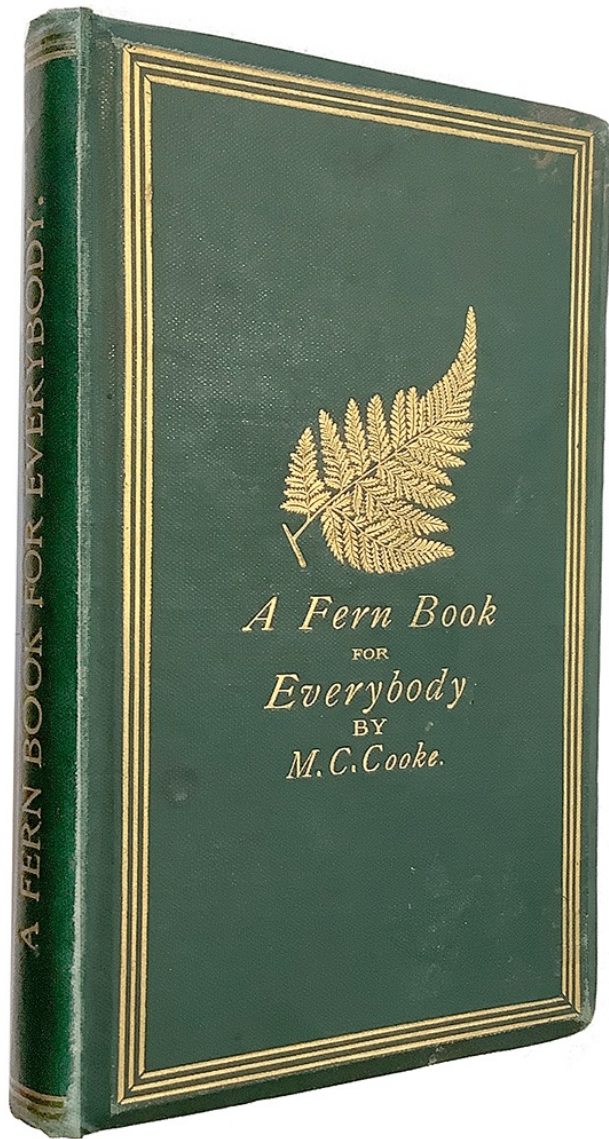
In 1850, age 38, he was able to purchase a rundown and neglected Brantwood for a mortgaged one thousand pounds. The move to the Lake District a couple of years earlier seems to have been motivated partly by the need to distance himself from creditors in London, partly by the need to find a more benign climate for his consumptive wife and also by a liking for the area developed on walking holidays in the years before. Brantwood seems to have been a place of great freedom for the family, a bucolic interlude. His wife was often incapacitated; the older children did not go to school and their tutoring at home was more than a little erratic, reliant on a Polish emigre revolutionary who lodged with the family (along with several other similarly exotic expatriates). Linton would take all seven children on long rambles to teach them of art, nature and science. Neither boys nor girls had their hair cut, and all wore long blue smocks, regardless of gender. He could not afford much furniture, repair or maintenance for the house, but did manage to install his own press to produce his own books, pamphlets and magazines and continued his engraving work with frequent visits to London.





24. SMITH, John. Ferns: British & Foreign. Their history, organography, classification, and enumeration. With a treatise on their cultivation, etc, etc. xi, [1], 412pp., *half-title*., *numerous text illustrations*. A very good copy in original dark green gilt lettered cloth. 8vo. Robert Hardwicke. 1866. £65.00

~ John Smith, Curator of Kew had been taking an interest in the cultivated tropical ferns in his charge, many raised from spores from herbarium specimens. He prepared a new scheme of classification and continued to study ferns, and to add to the collection of living plants at Kew. By 1865, when he was obliged through failing sight to retire, he had seen more than 1,000 species of ferns in a living condition, on which he published this work in 1866.



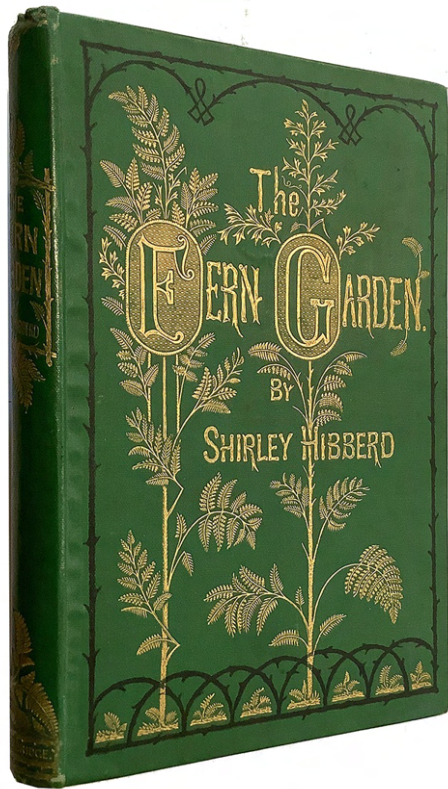
25. COOKE, Mordecai Cubitt. *A Fern Book for Everybody*. Containing all the British Ferns. With the foreign species suitable for a fernery. [4], 124p., 12 coloured plates, and numerous text illustrations. A very good copy in original dark green gilt decorated cloth, all-edge-gilt. Some foxing to the end-papers, and the tissue-guard to the frontispiece. Scarce.

8vo. Frederick Warne and Company. 1868.

£120.00

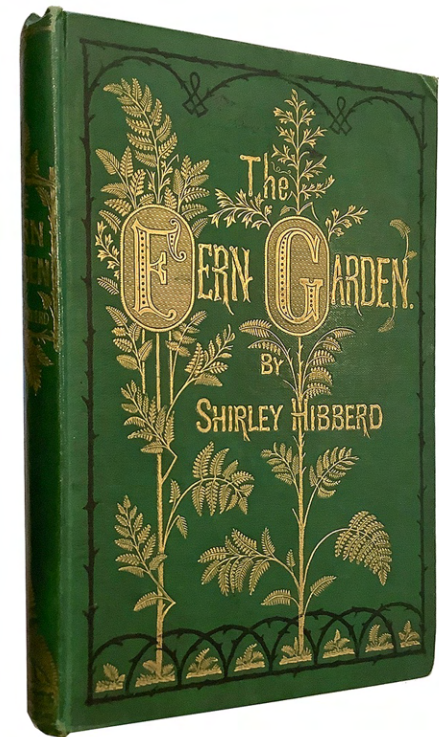
~ First published in 1867, this dated '1868' edition is unrecorded in Copac. Born in 1825 in Horning, in Norfolk, Mordecai Cubitt Cooke received very little in the way of formal education, but living in the countryside and with the help of personal tutoring in botany, languages and mathematics by an uncle, he soon acquired a broad interest in nature. After serving an apprenticeship in the drapery trade and spending some time as a lawyers clerk, Cooke became a schoolteacher in Lambeth until 1860, when he switched to a career in museums, spending the final 12 years of his official working life in the botany department of the Kew Gardens museum.



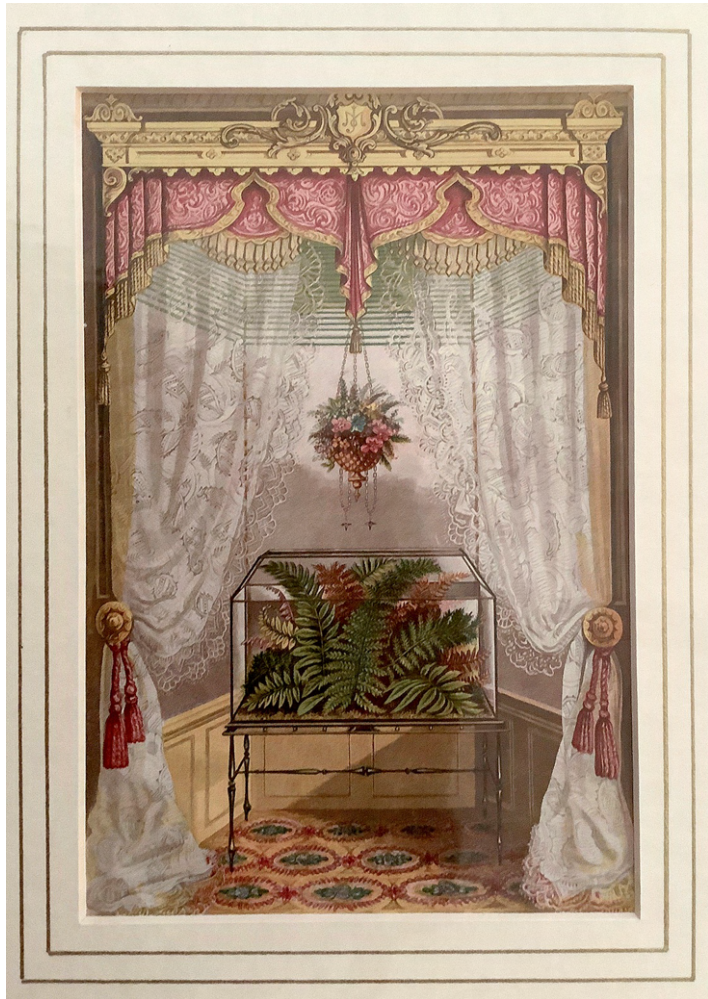


26. HIBBERD, Shirley. *The Fern Garden. How to make, keep, and enjoy it; or, fern culture made easy.* v, 148, [6]pp adverts., 8 colour printed plates by Fawcett of Driffield, and numerous full-page and vignette woodcuts. A near fine copy in original green cloth, decorated in black and gilt. [McLean, R. Benjamin Fawcett, 61]  
8vo. Groombridge and Sons. 1869. £120.00

The first edition, acclaimed as 'the highest point in the craft of fernery' of which no fewer than eight editions were published in the space of the next ten years. It owed its success in no small part to the author's beguiling style, with phrases such as 'plumy emerald green pets glistening with health and beadings of warm dew.'



27. HIBBERD, Shirley. *The Fern Garden. How to make, keep, and enjoy it; or, fern culture made easy.* v, 148, [6]pp adverts., 8 colour printed plates by Fawcett of Driffield, and numerous full-page and vignette woodcuts. A very good copy in original ornate green cloth, decorated in black and gilt. Attractive cut out green book-label of Frances P. Winter on the front-end-paper, and later signature on the verso. [McLean, R. Benjamin Fawcett, 61]  
8vo. Groombridge and Sons. 1869. £100.00



28. FERN 'WARDIAN' CASE. An attractive Victorian chromolithograph depicting a display of ferns in a glass 'Wardian' case. The illustration features a bay window, with full-length, white lace curtains topped with an elegant burgundy patterned valance. The top of the valance is attached to an ornate golden yellow frame moulding. Each of the three panels of glass windows has a green blind that is pulled up to allow plenty of daylight to come into the room. A basket of flowers is hanging from the ceiling in the centre of the window. Several large ferns are growing in a wardian case on a metal stand that is placed on a colourful patterned carpet. A crest at the top of the pelmet bears the initials J.M.

Engraved surface: 140mm x 206mm. In wide ivory mount with double gold lines (width of mount 68mm x 80mm at the lower margin). c1870. £75.00 + vat

This engraving, "Wardian Case Containing Ferns Used" appeared in Cassell's Household Guide, c1870.

~ Dr Ward, an enthusiastic naturalist, was keen to grow a variety of plants but always encountered difficulty due to the appalling conditions caused by the Industrial Revolution. An avid collector of herbarium, he was dismayed to discover that his attempts to grow ferns in his London garden were hindered by the nearby industrial pollution which led to acid rain and poor air quality. Whilst his plants were failing to thrive in the adverse conditions of industrial Britain, Dr Ward continued his passion for botany indoors, adding to collections which he stored in air-tight glass jars, including keeping cocoons of moths.

He later observed by accident that one of the jars had a fern spore and grass seedling which had miraculously germinated whilst contained within the jar. After witnessing

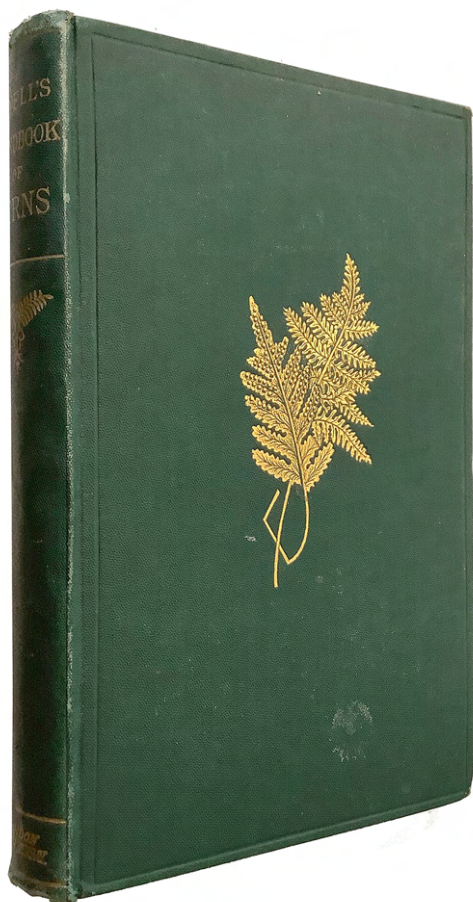
this accidental scientific experiment, Dr Ward sought to find a way to mimic the qualities of the jar and create a vessel in which to grow plants. With the help of a carpenter, a glazed case was created, one that resulted in the successful growth of a fern. This was quite remarkable. The Wardian case, as it became known was essentially a protective container, an early example of a terrarium which would revolutionise the world of botany.



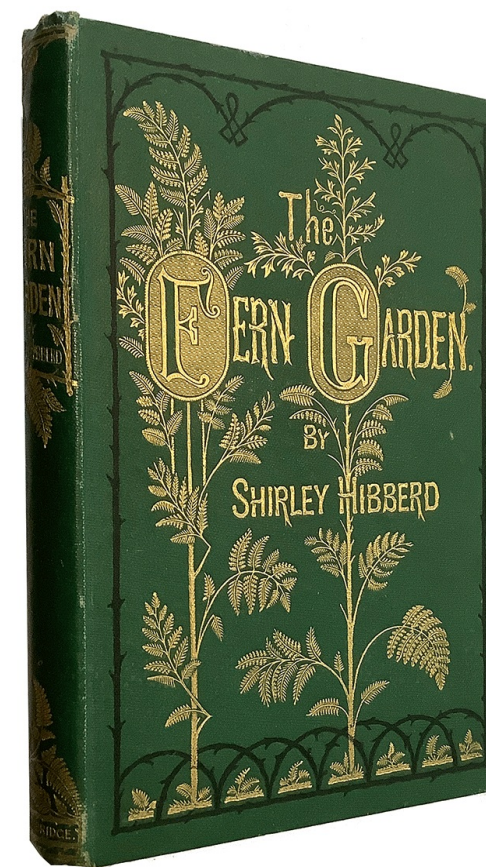


29. FERN PRESS. A good example of a 19<sup>th</sup> century mauchline ware press. The bevelled boards are decorated with ferns on one side, and flowers on the other, and held together with green silk ties. Very scarce, and the first original example we have seen.  
140mm x 135mm. c1870.

£250.00

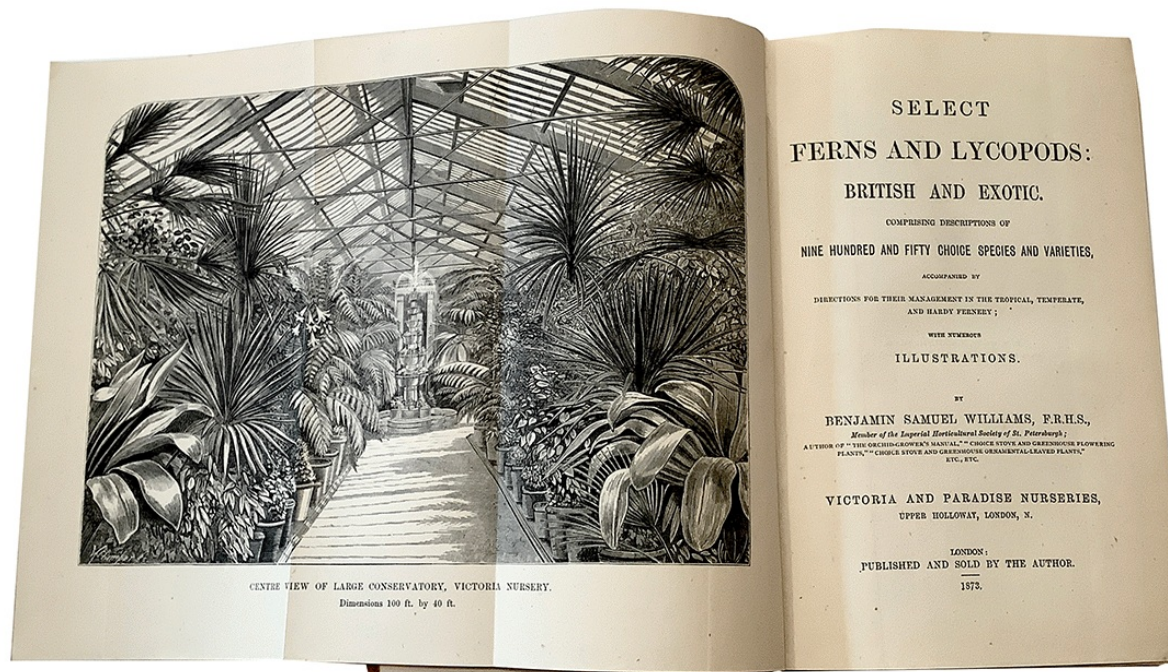


30. LYELL, K.M. A Geographical Handbook of all the known Ferns with tables to show their distribution. x, [2], 225, [1], [2]pp adverts., half-title., frontispiece pictorial title-page. Original dark green gilt cloth, some slight wear to the head and tail of the spine, and later owner's book-plate. Scarce. 8vo. John Murray. 1870. £75.00



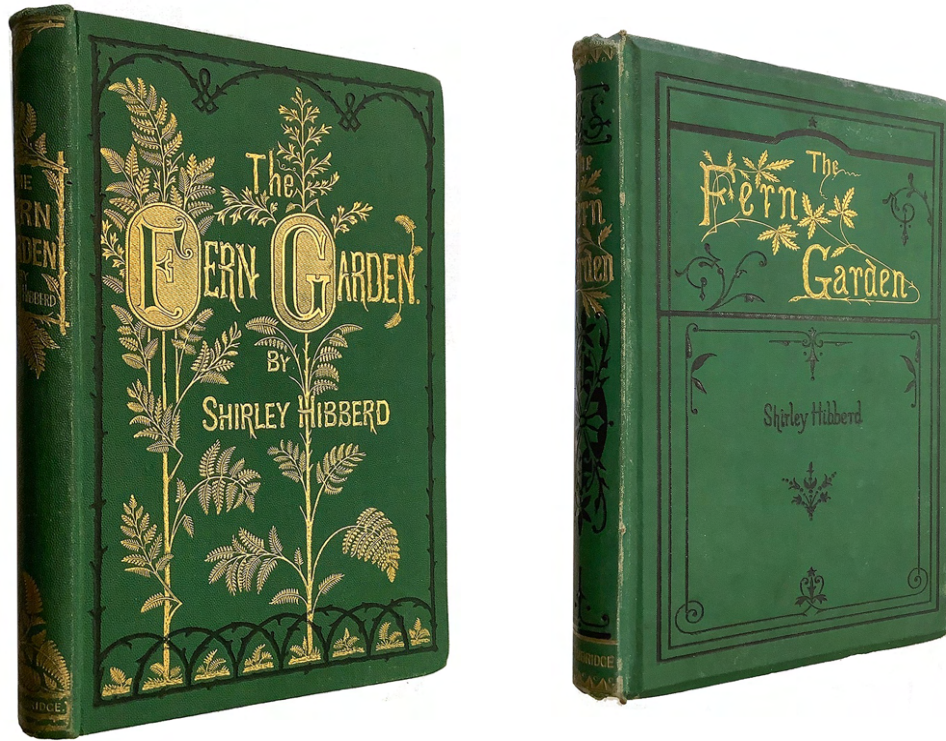
31. HIBBERD, James Shirley. The Fern Garden. How to make, keep, and enjoy it; or, fern culture made easy. Second edition. vi, 148, [8]pp adverts., preliminary advert leaf., 8 colour printed plates by Fawcett of Driffield, and numerous full-page and vignette woodcuts. A very good copy in original green cloth, decorated in black and gilt. Some slight foxing and minor rubbing. [McLean, R. Benjamin Fawcett, 61]. 8vo. Groombridge and Sons. 1870. £80.00





32. WILLIAMS, Benjamin Samuel. *Select Ferns and Lycopods: British and Exotic*. Comprising descriptions of nine hundred and fifty choice species and varieties, accompanied by directions for their management in the tropical, temperate, and hardy fernery; with numerous illustrations. *viii*, 253, [1], *xii pp adverts.*, *half-title.*, *folding frontispiece*, 25 plates (6 folding), and 4 text engravings. A very good clean copy in original gilt lettered cloth. Spine a little faded. Private owner's book-plate. 8vo. Published and sold by the Author. 1873. £45.00

~ First published in 1868 by Benjamin Samuel Williams, an English nurseryman. He was a specialist on orchids, and his father was gardener to the botanist Robert Warner.



33. HIBBERD, Shirley. *The Fern Garden. How to make, keep, and enjoy it; or, fern culture made easy.* Fifth edition. *vi, 148, [6]pp adverts., preliminary advert leaf., 8 colour printed plates by Fawcett of Driffield, and 40 full-page and vignette woodcuts.* A near fine copy in original green cloth, decorated in black and gilt.  
8vo. Groombridge and Sons. 1875. £75.00

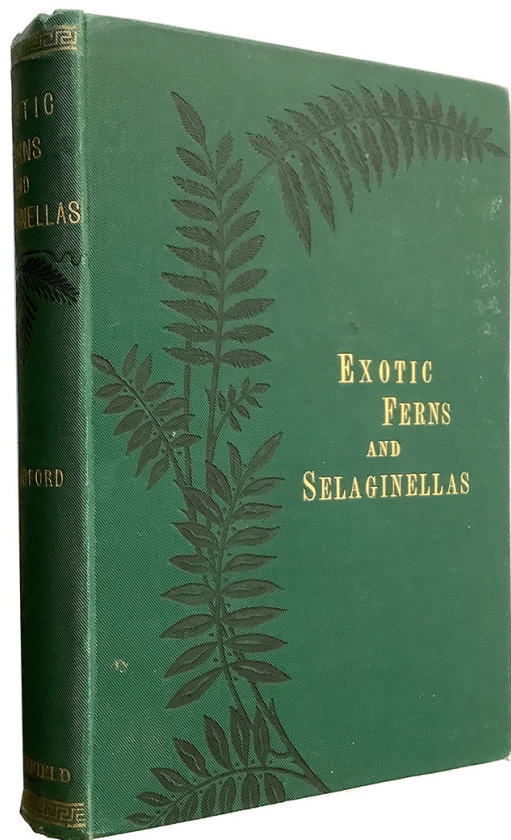
34. HIBBERD, James Shirley. *The Fern Garden. How to make, keep, and enjoy it; or, fern culture made easy.* Eighth edition. *vi, 148, [4]pp adverts., 8 colour printed plates by Fawcett of Driffield, and numerous full-page and vignette woodcuts.* A good copy in original green cloth, less ornately decorated in black and gilt. Some slight rubbing. [McLean, R. Benjamin Fawcett, 61]. Sunday School Library bookplate  
8vo. Groombridge and Sons. 1879. £65.00





35. FERNS. Three decorative items, one dated 'from Alice, Christmas 1882'.
- a. Arrangement of ferns and mosses set against black card. 165mm x 105mm.
  - b. Nature printed fern. 90mm x 60mm.
  - c. Ferns in a decorative china pot - painted on vellum. 110mm x 75mm.

£150.00 + vat



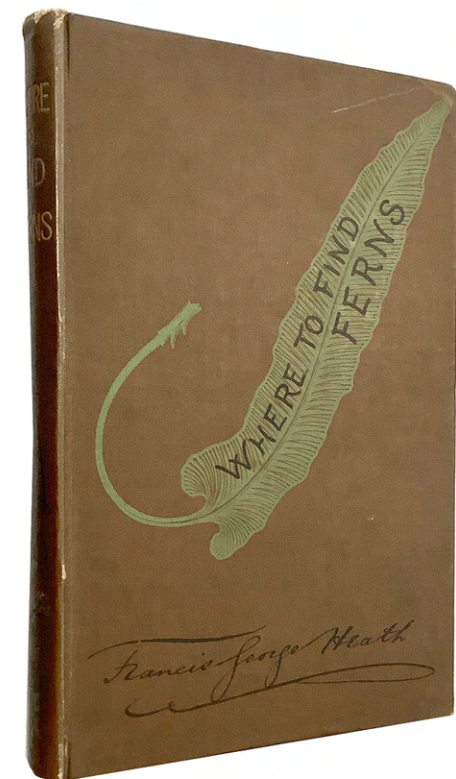
a family copy

36. SANDFORD, E. *A Manual of Exotic Ferns & Selaginella*. Comprising descriptions of over one thousand species and varieties, and upwards of six hundred synonyms; also notes on their history, culture, & management. First edition. 286pp. A very good copy in original dark green gilt lettered cloth decorated in black with a fern design on the upper board. Scarce. 8vo. H.J. Infield. [1882]. £50.00

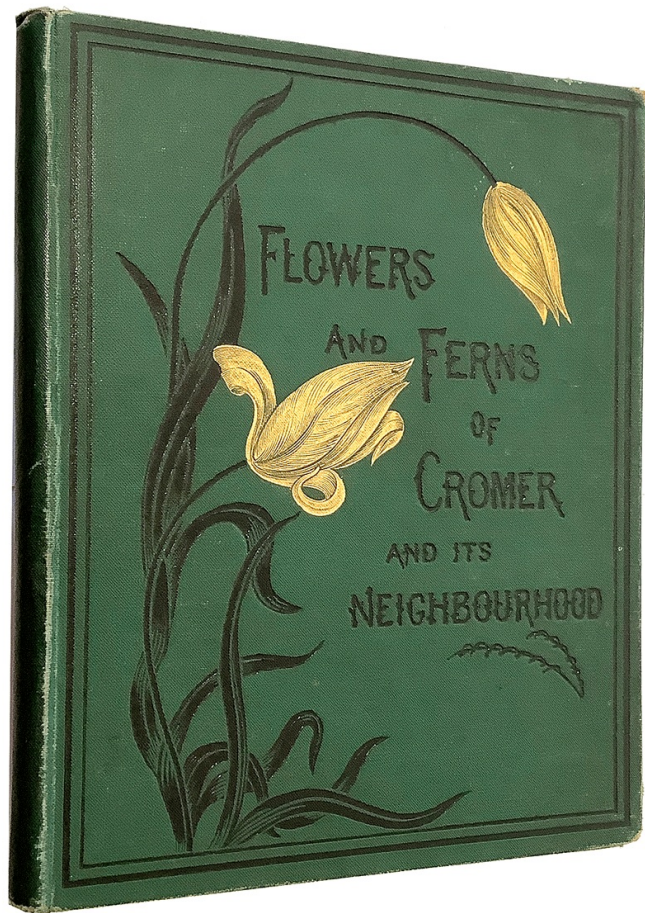
~ Sandford was gardener to C.J. Fletcher of Dale Park, Sussex. This appears to be a family copy with the name Helen Fletcher on the front end paper.

37. HEATH, Francis George. *Where to Find Ferns with a Special Chapter on the Ferns round London*. First edition. iv, 153, [1], 4pp adverts., illustrations throughout the text (landscape vignettes and fern illustrations). A good copy in original decorative cloth, slightly rubbed. Scarce. 8vo. S.P.C.K. 1885. £45.00

~ Francis George Heath. Heath (1843–1913) was a civil servant, a pioneer of the Open Space Movement, and author of around two-dozen books on rural life and natural history, including eight best-sellers on ferns. His first effort, *The Fern Paradise: A Plea for the Culture of Ferns* (1875), ran to eight editions (the last one in 1908). *The Fern World* (1877) ran to twelve editions, the last published in 1910. The romance of Heath's descriptions, together with charming illustrations, encouraged many to follow him to 'Fern-land'.

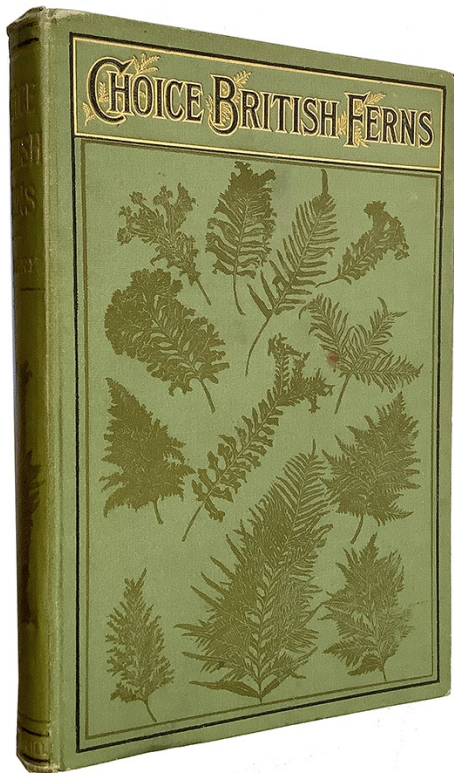






38. PIGOTT, Blanche Anne Frances. *Flowers & Ferns of Cromer and its Neighbourhood*. 99, [1]p., *half-title*. A very good copy in original dark green cloth, decorated in black and gilt. Some wear to the extremities. Stamp of W.H. Burrell, Chemist, Sheringham, at the head of the title-page, and two small obituary cuttings on the end-paper. Scarce. It would appear that the local chemist stocked her book. 8vo. Jarrold and Sons. [1885]. £45.00

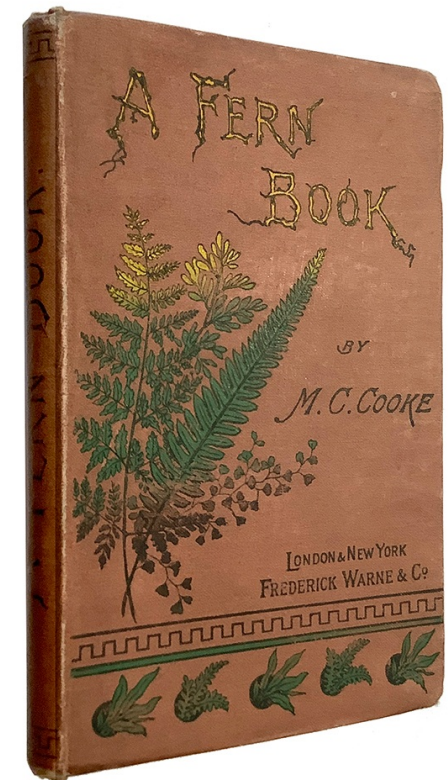
~ Blanche Pigott (born 1848), philanthropist and amateur botanist, lived at the Old House, Upper Sheringham. "A lady well known both in London and Norfolk for her noble and self-sacrificing work.", especially in aiding Jewish women. *Reminiscences*, By Constance Battersea, 1922. She was also a founder of the Norfolk Women's Armenian Relief Fund.



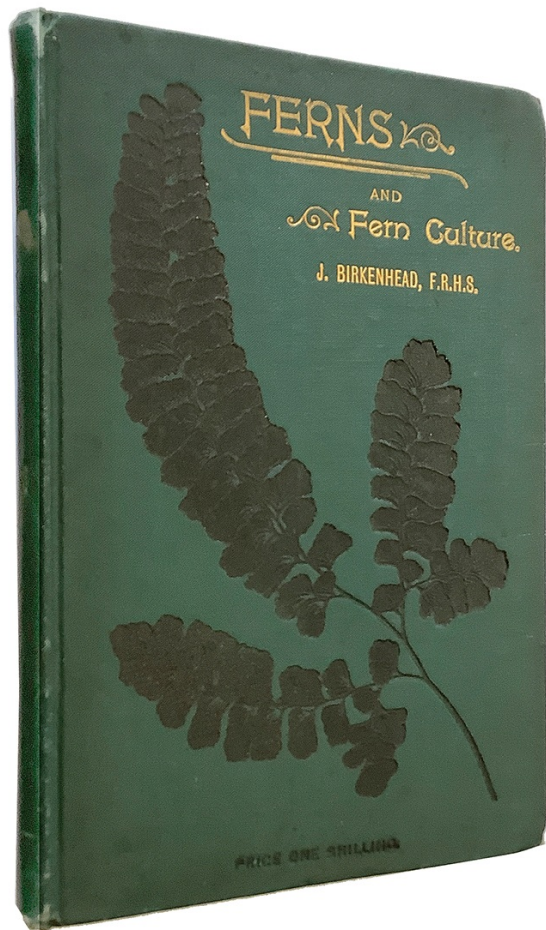
39. DRUERY, Charles T. *Choice British Ferns: their varieties and culture*. With illustrations of about 120 select forms. *iv*, 167, [5], [16]pp *adverts.*, 6 *plates*, and *text illustrations*. A very good copy in original sage green decorative cloth, lettered in black and gilt. One gathering partly loose in the binding. 8vo. L. Upcott Gill. 1888. £40.00

40. COOKE, Mordecai Cubitt. *A Fern Book for Everybody*. Containing all the British Ferns. With the foreign species suitable for a fernery. [4], 124p., 12 *coloured plates*, and *numerous text illustrations*. A good copy in original decorated cloth, some slight rubbing. 8vo. Frederick Warne and Company. 1889. £40.00

~ First published in 1867. Born in 1825 in Horning, in Norfolk, Mordecai Cubitt Cooke received very little in the way of formal education, but living in the countryside and with the help of personal tutoring in botany, languages and mathematics by an uncle, he soon acquired a broad interest in nature. After serving an apprenticeship in the drapery trade and spending some time as a lawyers clerk, Cooke became a schoolteacher in Lambeth until 1860, when he switched to a career in museums, spending the final 12 years of his official working life in the botany department of the Kew Gardens museum.



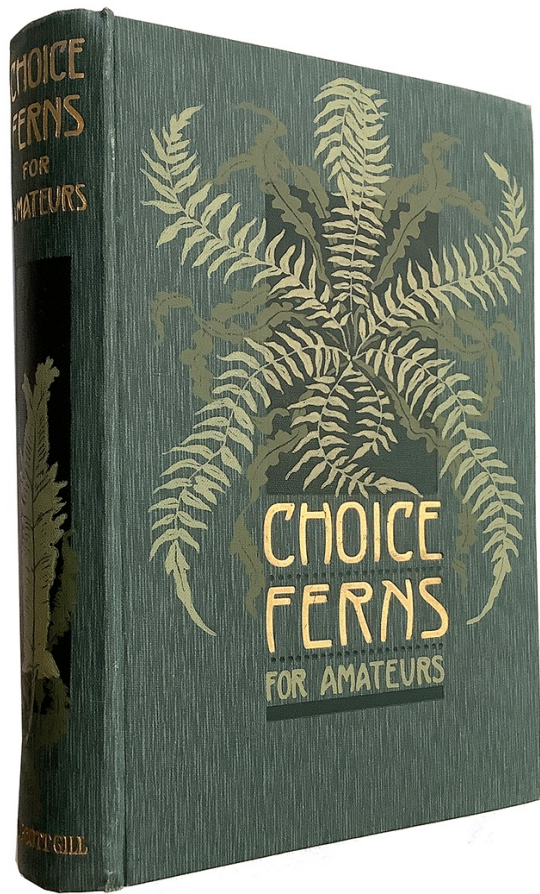




41. BIRKENHEAD, John. *Ferns and Fern Culture: their native habitats, organisation, habits of growth, compost for different genera; cultivation in pots, baskets, rockwork, walls; in stove, greenhouse, dwelling-house, and outdoor ferneries; potting, watering, propagation, etc. Selections of ferns suitable for stove, warm, cool and cold greenhouses; for baskets, walls, exhibition, wardian cases, dwelling-houses, and outdoor ferneries. Insect pests and their eradication, &c.* First edition. 127, [1], [20]pp *illustrated adverts., numerous text illustrations.* A very good copy in original dark green cloth, decorated in black, and gilt lettered. Some slight rubbing.

8vo. May be had from the Author, Fern Nursery, Sale, Manchester. [1892]. £40.00

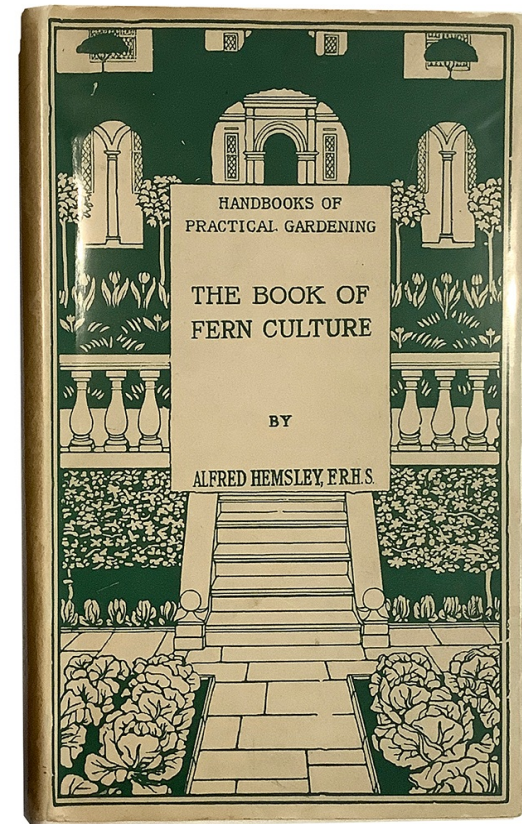
~ John Birkenhead went into business with his brother and established a fern nursery near Manchester that grew to become the largest and best known of its kind in the world. The upsurge in the popularity of ferns in the late nineteenth century must have owed much to the entrepreneurial and horticultural skills of the Birkenhead brothers. see: W. and J. Birkenhead 'Ferns a Speciality', by N. A. Hall, 1983.



42. SCHNEIDER, George. Choice Ferns for Amateurs: their culture and management in the open and under glass. Abridged from the 'Book of Choice Ferns'. Illustrated with numerous wood engravings and half-tones. [8], 330, [3], 16, [2]pp., half-title., 124 text illustrations. A near fine copy in original decorative cloth. Scarce.  
8vo. L. Upcott Gill. 1905. £50.00

decorative green cloth designed by E.H. New. With a fine dust-wrapper.  
8vo. John Lane. 1908.

43. HEMSLEY, Alfred. The Book of Fern Culture. First edition. [4], 112pp., half-title., frontispiece and four plates. A fine copy in original



£40.00