

Winterthur Library

An Introduction to Resources



Garden History and Design

The library's collection of printed material on gardening, developed from the core collection owned by Winterthur founder H. F. du Pont, focuses on American landscape theory and design of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and on the English and European works that influenced them. Eighteenth-century source books include Richard Bradley's *New Improvements of Planting and Gardening, both Philosophical and Practical* and John Lawrence's *Clergyman's Recreation*, both published in London in 1717.

Many nineteenth-century gardening books in the collection are noteworthy not only for their description of the theory and practice of landscape gardening but also for their superb color plates. The illustrations of gardens and outdoor structures as well as plants and animals represent the best of nineteenth-century color printing. One early example is Humphry Repton's *Fragments on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening* (1816).

The periodical collection contains many important titles including *The Gardener's Magazine and Register*, or, *Rural and Domestic Improvement*, published from 1826 to 1839, and the English magazine *The Garden*, published from 1871 to 1927.



Shaker's Genuine Vegetable and Flower Seeds (Mount Lebanon, N.Y., n.d.)
Edward Deming Andrews Memorial Shaker Collection, Winterthur Library.

Garden Ornament and Supplies

The Winterthur Library's collections of trade catalogues and advertising ephemera include many items concerning the decoration and maintenance of the garden. From the 1835 catalogue for Austin's Artificial Stone Works, which includes fish ponds, flowerpots, and sundials, to late nineteenth-century ads for wrought iron garden furniture, the material reflects the changing taste of the home gardener. Advertisements for seeds, plants, and other garden supplies are also in the collection. In addition, the Decorative Arts Photographic Collection at Winterthur has hundreds of photographs of garden furniture, primarily wrought iron work in the rustic and Victorian styles.

The Shaker Garden

Of special interest are the gardening resources in the Edward Deming Andrews Memorial Shaker Collection. The collection contains both manuscript and published writings on gardening as well as hundreds of seed packets and labels for seeds and medicinal products produced by the Shakers. Elisha Myrick's manuscript, "A Diary Kept for the Use and Convenience of the Herb Department," was



Humphry Repton, *Fragments on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening* (London: J. Taylor, 1816). Printed Book Collection, Winterthur Library.

written at the Harvard Shaker community between 1853 and 1857. Myrick discusses planting, weather, and the daily routines of the herb gardener.

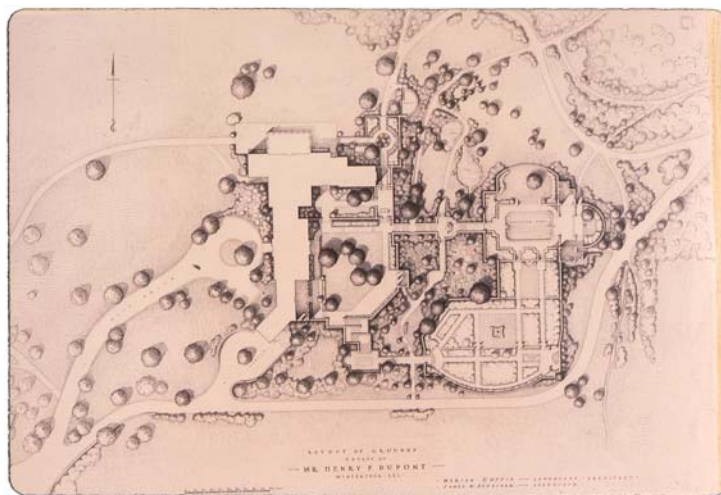
In 1836 Charles F. Crosman published *The Gardener's Manual: Containing Plain and Practical Directions for the Cultivation and Management of Some of the Most Useful Culinary Vegetables; to Which Is Prefixed a Catalogue of the Various Kinds of Garden Seeds Raised in the United Society at New Lebanon....* The first of a series of Shaker gardening guides, it was sold outside the village along with Shaker seeds and other garden products.

The Winterthur Garden

H. F. du Pont's lifelong interest in gardening is reflected in the collections of the library and the Archives. Influenced by English garden theorists Gertrude Jekyll and William Robinson, du Pont adopted the English emphasis on color and the natural landscape. In the 1930s du Pont sought the advice of landscape architect Marian Cruger Coffin while planning a garden to complement the expansion of the Winterthur house. This collaboration continued until Coffin's death in 1957.



Sundial Garden, 1965. Winterthur Archives, Winterthur Library.



Layout of Grounds. Marian Coffin. Winterthur Archives, Winterthur Library.

The many books on garden history and design that du Pont purchased have become a core part of the library collection. An unpublished manuscript in the library recreates du Pont's horticultural library. Du Pont's notes and plans for the gardens are available for study in the Winterthur Archives. Included is a collection of four hundred autochromes, produced between 1910 and 1916, that record the color and design of the Winterthur landscape.

Winterthur also houses the papers of landscape architect Marian Cruger Coffin. This collection of correspondence, specifications, drawings, planting lists, and photographs records her work for such notable clients as Marshall Field, Frederick Frelinghuysen, Childs Frick, and Frederick Vanderbilt as well as H. F. du Pont.



Winterthur Library is located in the Crowninshield Research Building, accessible from the main entrance to Winterthur Museum & Country Estate.

Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:30 am–4:30 pm

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