



Australian Garden History Society ACT Monaro Riverina Branch

Digitising Early Australian Gardening Books for Trove

Project Outline



An illustration by Signor Guglielmo Autoriello from the *Hand-Book of Australian Horticulture* by Henry Alfred James, 1892 (photo, Greg Johnson).

Digitising Early Australian Gardening Books for Trove

An Australian Garden History Society ACT Monaro Riverina Branch Project

Time frame: July 2018-June 2019 (Can be extended to 1 July 2020 under the MOU between AGHS ACTMR and NLA)

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National Library of Australia Contacts:

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Kerry Ball, Philip Jackson (Digitisation team)

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Aim of project: To support digitisation and incorporation into Trove of early Australian gardening and horticulture literature

Background

Early gardening books, like much of Australia's early print media, are as scarce as hen's teeth. Australia is fortunate that the efforts of early collectors and benefactors such as [David Scott Mitchell](#) (1836-1907), [Edward Petherick](#) (1847-1917) and [John Alexander Ferguson](#) (1881-1969) and his wife Bessie, nee Robertson, daughter of the Bookseller, [George Robertson](#) (1860-1933), as well as the librarian, book collector and bibliographer, [Victor Crittenden](#) (1925-2014), and our State and Commonwealth Libraries have ensured that much of Australia's early gardening literature has been recorded and preserved.

Gardening books and journals, perhaps more than other genres, are however subject to the vagaries of gardener and nature, left in the rain, smeared with soil, nibbled by mice, written in and on, and nearly thumbed to death. Combine that with small print numbers and poor quality paper in the first place, and the need to conserve and preserve those copies that remain is paramount!

To ensure that these horticultural treasures can be accessed more widely, the ACT Monaro Riverina (ACTMR) branch of the Australian Garden History Society is partnering with the National Library of Australia to digitise 35 early Australian gardening publications and include them in [Trove](#).

The Project is part of the AGHS ACTMR Branch's AGHS-2020 commitment. This is the start of an ambitious plan to digitise more of early gardening literature from the National Library and other collections.

Project Detail

The project is to be delivered under a Memorandum of Understanding between the Australian Garden History Society and the National Library of Australia for the digitisation of historic garden-related material held by the National Library, and their delivery via Trove (Appendix A. The MOU is in effect from 1 July 2018 to 1 July 2020.

Project Delivery

Working collaboratively, the Library will undertake digitisation of titles selected by AGHS ACTMR (Attachment B) on the understanding that:

- The project is funded by AGHS ACTMR in accordance with the NLA's Trove Partnership program.
- Unrestricted public access can be provided to the digitised content through Trove.
- Where the source of the content (for instance, the original title) is still in copyright, the AGHS must negotiate and document reproduction licence and permission with the copyright owners (N.B. None of the material in the initial phase is in copyright).
- The Library has the right to manage the content for access in whatever way it considers appropriate.
- If the AGHS requires a copy of the master file of contributed content, this can only be provided at the time the content is processed into Trove.
- Once made available in Trove, no content will be removed or suppressed except for legal reasons.
- The Library will acknowledge the funding source of contributed content in Trove through its recognition of digitisation support processes.
- Where the source material used for the Project is microfilm, while the Library will endeavour to use the best copy source microfilm available for the Project, it is not feasible for the Library to check each frame prior to scanning. (N.B. None of the material in the initial phase is microfilm).

Selection of material for digitisation

After initial discussions with the NLA staff, books were shortlisted by referring to a list of early gardening and horticultural literature for potential digitisation prepared by Erica Ryan and reference to "Yesterday's gardens : a history and bibliography of Australian gardening books" ([Victor Crittenden 2002](#)). After considering the costs for digitisation per page and available budget, a short list was prepared. At present, this is publicly accessible on through the NLA catalogue¹ ([Early Australian Gardening Books List A](#)).

The NLA team then organised for the project team to view the material (2 PM Thursday 5 July 2018) and in consultation with the NLA staff, material was selected for digitisation. Material considered too fragile, too costly to digitise (maps and manuscripts), a different edition of an item already selected, or in poor condition was omitted.

The NLA staff then prepared a detailed cost estimate (table follows) based on page sizes and whether any photography (of colour plates or diagrams) was needed (13 August 2018, revised 23 August 2018).

¹ Gregory Ian Johnson's "Early Australian gardening books A" list. <https://catalogue.nla.gov.au/people/20113/lists/11468>

AGHS quote - All titles (Revised 29 August 2018)

	Titles	No. pages	Cost (incl. GST)
Books @\$1.10 per page	29	4969	\$5,465.90
Journals @\$1.65 per page	4	927	\$1,529.55
With photographer + \$1.10 per page	(1) How to farm and settle in Australia (2) Handbook of Australian horticulture	(1) 40p. (photographer) + 76 p. (2) 12 pages - \$200 (photographer) + 562 p.	(1) \$123.60 (2) \$818.20
Sub-Total			\$7,937.25
With photographer	Flora Australasica	500 (photographer)	\$3,420.00
Total			\$11,352.25

After considering the quote and available budget, the branch opted to proceed with digitisation of material as listed in the table above (**AGHS quote**) with the exception of *Flora Australasica*, at a total cost of \$7,937.25. The titles we have agreed on are included below as Appendix B.

In line with our MOU, "sometimes there will be a variation between the number of pages estimated, and the actual number of pages scanned. Thus, the cost of the project and the amount for which the library invoices the AGHS may differ from the estimate provided above. If a significant variance from the quoted page numbers is noted post-scanning, the National Library will contact Greg Johnson directly." In this context at the request of the Branch, the NLA will provide an update if the digitisation team approaches the budget limit above, or after 90% of the titles are scanned. This will allow the Committee to review/authorise the need for additional expenditure.

The Branch has further specified that the order in which the titles are digitized should be roughly in the order that they are listed with the exception that those requiring the Photographer ((1) How to farm and settle in Australia and (2) Handbook of Australian horticulture) should also have priority ahead of the four Journal items. Of course any practical considerations should have precedence (e.g. if it is easier to scan all volumes in a particular size range in sequence).

Timeline for delivery Digitisation to commence by 1 April 2019 and completed by 31 May 2019

How to support the project To discuss how you or your Branch might support this very worthwhile project please contact Greg Johnson (greg4d@gmail.com) or the AGHS ACTMR Branch Treasurer, Helen Elliot at ellieth@bigpond.net.au or 02-6284 4749.

This Project outline was prepared by Greg Johnson and Nancy Clarke 5 September 2018

Appendix A Memorandum of Understanding between the National Library of Australia (ABN 28 346 858 75) and the Australian Garden History Society (ACT Monaro Riverina Branch) (ABN 97 291 212 843). Contract no. 18/096 (see separate).

Appendix B Partnership between NLA and AGHS ACTMR July 2018 – June 2019. Titles for digitisation for Trove

Agreed Titles for Digitisation. Initial Phase (as agreed, August 2018)

The NLA holds more than one copy of a number of the items below. Our viewing in the Library included selecting a particular copy for digitisation based on condition, ease of copying and 'completeness'. The number at the end of each title below is the NLA number of the copy selected for digitisation. The publication dates of the copy, and the number of pages digitised (including covers) are also included.

1. Lectures on the horticulture of New South Wales : delivered at the Mechanics School of Arts, Sydney by Shepherd, Thomas, 1776-1836. 1835. 84 pages. SR N 080 PAM V. 52 (13), no. 273
2. Hand-book of Australian horticulture / by H. A. James ; illustrated by Guglielmo Autoriello. 1892. 562 pages. SRq 113
3. Manual of practical gardening : adapted to the climate of Van Diemen's Land, containing ... directions ... for every month of the year / by Daniel Bunce. 1838. 264 pages. FC F2450
4. The flower garden in Australia / by Mrs. Rolf Boldrewood. 1893. 156 pages. SR 250
5. The Australian manual of horticulture / by Daniel Bunce. 2nd ed. 1850. 140 pages. FC F5306
6. The culture of the rose / by Thomas Johnson. 1866. 36 pages. N 716.2 JOH
7. Handbook of garden & greenhouse culture in Tasmania. 1870. 120 pages. N 635.09946 H236
8. A year in my garden / by Mrs. Arthur Tuckett. 1905. 247 pages. N 635 TUC
9. Report of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society of New South Wales by Agricultural and Horticultural Society of New South Wales. 1828 – 183? Journal. 189 pages. FRM F1167 (1828), FRM F1234 (1829), FC F1312 (1830)
10. Special list of new plants, new fruit trees and garden seeds / Shepherd & Co., Darling Nursery, Sydney by Shepherd & Co. 1873. 20 pages. Np 635.02949441 S548
11. General catalogue of garden and farm seeds, plants, florists' flowers, fruit trees, bulbs &c. : containing also carefully compiled cultural directory and a year's work in the...by J. & W. Gelding. Journal. 1873, 1875, 1876? 130 pages. N 635.016 GEN
12. The fruit, flower and vegetable garden by Heyne, E. B. (Ernst Bernhard). 1871. 114 pages. N 635 HEY
13. The Australian gardener : an epitome of horticulture for the Colony of Victoria / by Adamson, William. 1863. 195 pages. PETHpam 86
14. Fruit cultivation in Queensland : prize treatise ... : together with a complete calendar for field and garden operations adapted for Queensland / by T. Wright. 1883. 72 pages. SR 253
15. Horticultural magazine and garden guide. Journal. 1877 – 1878. 588 pages. N 635 HOR
16. On improvements in cottage husbandry / by W. Henty. 1849? 28 pages. FRM F 5067
17. How to settle in Victoria, or, instructions on the purchase and occupation of the land; with observations on gardening and farming; the growth of the vine, and other fruit... by Rusticus. 1855. 136 pages. SR 939

18. How to farm and settle in Australia: rural calendar and a traveller's map of the squatting stations, townships, & diggings of Victoria: beautifully illustrated on steel, with...by Old Colonist. 1856. 76 pages. NK 6538/FER F10584 (FC)
19. The Australian gardeners' chronicle : or, Calendar of operations for every month in the year, in the kitchen garden / by James Sinclair. 1859? 32 pages. FER F15722
20. The Australian gardener's guide : an epitome of horticulture for the colony of Victoria by Sturrock, A. C. 10th ed. 1879. 220 pages. N 635.09945 A221-10
21. The Queensland horticulturist and gardener's guide / by T. Wright. also, Hints to new-comers / by P. Fletcher by Wright, T. (Theodore). 1886. 148 pages. JAFp BIBLIO F18902
22. The fruit garden : a practical guide to the planting and management in Victoria of the chief fruit yielding plants of temperate zones / by Clarson, William. 1886. 218 pages. 2 v, bound together. N 634.09945 C613-3
23. The Australasian fruit culturist : containing full and complete information as to the history, traditions, uses, propagation and culture of such fruits as are suitable for... by Crichton, David Alexander. 1893. 474 pages. SR 269
24. Report on the Brisbane Botanic Garden by Brisbane Botanic Gardens. Journal. 1878, 1879. 382 pages. NF 550.4 AUS
25. Catalogue of seeds, fruit trees, shrubs, roses, bulbous roots, etc., containing also calendar of operations for the year / by J. Graham & Co. 1874. 40 pages. N 635.02949441 J11
26. Vegetable, garden and farm seeds always on hand, in large and splendid varieties from best stocks : catalogue of bulbous and flowering roots issued annually, and posted free... by C.F. Creswell (Firm). 1875. 14 pages. Np 631.5210294 C923
27. E. Horton & Co. seed, plant & bulb merchants, Hay Street, Haymarket, Sydney by Horton's Seeds (Sydney, N.S.W.) Between 1893 and 1894. 130 pages. Ephemera (Trade catalogues -- Plant industries)
28. Kyneton, Malmsbury, Lauriston, and Taradale directory 1866 : with which is incorporated an almanac for 1866, also, gardeners' calendar, gold ready reckoner, &c. / compiled by... 1866. 124 pages. FER F16248
29. Levy Brothers' Victorian almanac for 1868 : containing notes on the calendar, statistics of Victoria, farmers' and gardeners' calendar &c., &c. 1868. 85 pages. SR 941
30. Hand-book of garden & greenhouse culture in Tasmania. 2nd ed. 1884. 54 pages. N 635.09946 H236-2
31. Adamson's Australian gardener : an epitome of horticulture for the Colony of Victoria / William Adamson. 11th ed. 1884. 260 pages. N 635.09945 A221-11
32. Catalogue of plants in the two metropolitan gardens, the Brisbane Botanic Garden and Bowen Park : (the garden of the Queensland Acclimatisation Society) : arranged according to... by Bailey, F. Manson (Frederick Manson)... 1885. 290 pages. N 635.909431 B154
33. The flower garden and shrubbery : with directions as to the management of the bush house, fernery, conservatory, lawn and other ornamental and useful home surroundings of the... by Clarson, William. 5th ed. Between 1886 and 1890. 16 pages. N 635.900994 C614-5
34. Queensland garden manual : containing concise directions for the cultivation of the garden orchard and farm in Queensland / by Albert John Hockings. 3rd ed. 1888. 132 pages. N 635.09943 H685-3
35. Australian home gardening : flower and vegetable / by W.S. Campbell. 1907. 144 pages. N 635.0994 C192