

Library of Birmingham Archives & Collections

GARDEN HISTORY

- MS 2126** Records of the Calthorpe Estate, Edgbaston: including rentals, leases, plans and correspondence. 1559-1991.
- DV 638-639** Title deeds of the Pope family of Handsworth and Smethwick, nurserymen. 17th-18th century.
- MS 1246/2** Plan of Perry Hall with alterations by William Emes. 1774.
- MS 2098** Set of thirty colour slides of Humphrey Repton's Red Book for Moseley Hall. [1792]
- MS 3219/4/240-262** Extensive correspondence and accounts, plans etc, for the purchase and planting (mostly with trees) of James Watt's Wyeseid and Welsh estates. 1798-1819.
- MS 3782/12/108/70,75,92**
Notebooks of Matthew Boulton's, with details of his ideas for the design and planting of the estate at Soho, Handsworth. 1795,1797,1801.
- MS 3782/13/249** Memoranda, bills etc. for the planting and upkeep of the gardens at Soho House, Handsworth. 1805-1820.
- MS 1056** Records of Henry Hope & Sons, greenhouse and conservatory manufacturers. Minute book, order books, correspondence, publicity material, photographs. 1818-1968.
- MS 3219/6/19-26** Notebooks of James Watt jr., with lists of the flowers and trees planted by him at Aston Hall gardens. 1819-43.
- MS 2138** 'Select Flowers. Vol. III'. Botanical watercolours by Luke Linnaeus Pope, nurseryman. c.1825.
- 375948 [IIR 11]** 'Description of my House and Garden', in Lime Grove, Edgbaston, by James Luckock. 1828.

- MS 1520** Records of Birmingham Botanical and Horticultural Society: minutes, financial records, correspondence, annual reports, catalogues, publicity material, photographs. 1829-1987.
- 255129 [IIR 1]** Botanical drawings by Edwin Lees of Worcester. c. 1830.
- 512317-8 [IIR 43]** Inventories of Strensham Court and garden owned by John Taylor. 1852 and 1858.
- BCC** Birmingham City Council Parks Committee Minutes, 1911-1972; previously Baths and Parks Committee, 1851-1911. The various urban and rural district councils which now constitute Birmingham, also had Parks Committee Minutes, where relevant, pre-1911 etc.
- 297387-93 [IIR 43]** Annotated proof copies of the Flora of Sutton Park and the Flora of Warwickshire (1891), by James Bagnall, Hon. Librarian of Birmingham Natural History and Microscopical Society. 1867-1897.
- MS 1536** Records of Bournville Village Trust: photographs, maps, papers, publicity material for the 'garden village' of Birmingham. c. 1880-1983.
- 394940 [IIR 73]** A volume containing a collection of specimens and drawings of Japanese plants, by Amy Inglis c. 1880-1900.
- 660156 [IIR 73]** A volume of watercolours, titled 'A Book of Wild Flowers made during many years of wanderings in England and Wales', by Bernard Sleigh. 1902-1932.
- 583139 [IIR 73]** A volume of Flowers collected and pressed by Nell Marriage on a tour to the Engadine, Switzerland. 1903.
- 539281 [IIR 11]** Botanical drawings by T. H. Russell. 1903-1913.
- MS 2211** Three 'Garden Diaries' of Catherine Vickers of 107, Solihull Lane, including notes of cash spent, planting and produce. 1925-1976.
- MS 1746/7** Garden accounts book of the Jackson-Houlston family of 857, Chester road, Birmingham. 1951-1958.

Birmingham Archives & Heritage also holds many sketchbooks and photographs, which may provide views of landscape and gardens.

There are also rentals and plans, title deeds etc. for various estates, such as the Colmore Estates; the Elford Hall Estate; Gough Estates; the Inge Estates; the Taylor Estates. Many of these estates are in counties neighbouring Birmingham.

The catalogues are not usually detailed enough to guarantee that there is anything about gardens, though there may be!

Printed sources in Birmingham Archives & Heritage include:

Loudon collection

This is a special collection of publications by John Claudius Loudon (1783-1843) and Jane Loudon (d. 1858). John Claudius Loudon wrote an *Encyclopaedia of gardening* (1822), the monthly *Gardeners' magazine* (1826-), and numerous other works on plants and agriculture. He was responsible for laying out Birmingham Botanical Gardens in 1830/31. Jane Loudon (née Webb) also wrote numerous 'popular' botanical works, especially flower and gardening books for 'ladies', (as well as *The Mummy* !! (1827)).

Annual reports of numerous local garden and horticultural societies. 19th-20th century. e.g.:

Birmingham & Midland Gardeners' Magazine. 1851-52. Vols. 1-11 continued by Greenhouse & Garden **L69.106**

Birmingham & District Amateur Gardeners' Association. Annual reports. 1893-1905. 13 vols. **L69.106**

Birmingham & Midland Counties Gardeners' Mutual Improvement Association. Annual report, 1886-67; practical papers read by the members etc. **Lp69.106** and **L69.106**