

## **MARK LAIRD, Landscape Historian and Heritage Consultant/Professor Emeritus**

### ***Education***

#### **1984, Master of Arts in Conservation Studies**

Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies, University of York

Commended for dissertation: 'An Approach to the Conservation of Ornamental Planting in English Gardens 1730-1830'.

#### **1979, Master of Philosophy in Landscape Architecture**

University of Edinburgh. Awarded Frank Clark Prize.

#### **1977-79, Two Years' Study in Landscape Architecture**

Thames Polytechnic, London.

#### **1974, Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Modern History**

St. John's College, University of Oxford.

### ***Positions***

- **Associate Professor/Professor, Daniels, University of Toronto (2016-2022)**
- **Senior Lecturer in the History of Landscape Architecture, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University, teaching landscape and heritage histories (2001-2015)**
- **Senior Fellow at Dumbarton Oaks, Washington DC (2008-2014)**
- **Landscape Historian and Heritage Consultant, specializing in baroque and picturesque planting reconstruction (since 1984)**
- **Associate Director, Painshill Park Trust, England (since 2004)**
- **Adjunct/Associate Professor, AL&D, University of Toronto (1997-2000)**
- **Reviews Editor, *Journal of Garden History/Studies in the History of Gardens & Designed Landscapes*, 1990-2012**

### ***Further Academic Work***

- **Senior Fellow, The Paul Mellon Centre, London (July-December 2010)**
- **Co-Curator of *Mrs. Delany and her Circle* (24 September 2009 to 3 January 2010 at the Yale Center for British Art, New Haven, and 19 February to 1 May 2010 at Sir John Soane's Museum, London)**

***Consultancies 2005-20*** • **Consultant to National Trust on planting at Clumber Park, Nottinghamshire**  
Invited to write a report on planting history and strategies (December 2019)

- **Oakville Harbour CHL Strategy Implementation** Team member working with Ellen Kowalchuk and David Deo of Common Bond Collective (2019-20)

- **Drayton Hall, South Carolina** Invitation from Drayton Hall Preservation Trust to consult on historic planting following a lecture in Charleston (April 2019)

• **McMichael Artists Cemetery, Interpretative Trail, and Tom Thomson Shack Revitalization** Historic Landscape Conservation and Planting Consultant to North Design Office Inc. (Spring 2017).

• **Marble Hill, Richmond** Commissioned by Emily Parker at English Heritage to guide the possible replanting of Henrietta Howard's wilderness garden and the later eighteenth-century 'Sweet Walk' with respect to natural as much as cultural heritage (2016).

• **Legislative Assembly of Ontario** Consultant (Landscape Historian) with EDA Collaborative Inc. and Bray Heritage on 'Queen's Park Landscape Feasibility Report' (2015)

• **Wrest Park, Bedfordshire.** Commissioned by John Watkins at English Heritage to provide guidance on replanting three areas of the 18<sup>th</sup>-century gardens, including the East and West Great Gardens.\* This project followed a commission to reformulate and update, as a Landscape Advice Note, the 1993 study 'Guidelines for Conjectural Replanting'

• **Strawberry Hill, Twickenham, UK.** Commissioned by the Strawberry Hill Trust to work with Peter Inskip, conservation architect to reconstruct the historical evidence of plantings in the Horace Walpole period, 1747-1797.\*

• **Historic Bartram's Garden, Philadelphia.** 2009, commissioned to work with Elizabeth Mossop and Wes Michaels on the development of trails through the historic site.

• **Gibside, near Newcastle upon Tyne, UK.** The National Trust commissioned a replanting scheme around the ruined 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>-century conservatory in 2007/8.

• **Vimy Memorial Park, Arras, Pas de Calais, France.** Invited in 2007 to assist Julian Smith, conservation architect, on behalf of Veterans Affairs Canada, to review guidelines for conserving the landscape and plantings around Vimy Ridge, the WW1 commemorative site, which is designated a National Historic Site by Parks Canada.

• **MIT Courts, Boston, MA:** Provided guidance on preservation contexts to Reed/Hilderbrand Associates Inc. in the Hideo Sasaki McDermott Court landscape.

• **24 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, Canada (Prime Minister's residence):** Heritage Study for National Capital Commission with Julian Smith, conservation architect, 2006.

• **Grange Park, Toronto, Canada:** Heritage Study for EDA Collaborative Inc., 2006, in conjunction with the redesign of the Art Gallery of Ontario by Frank Gehry.

• **Painshill Park, Surrey, UK.** Since 1984, I have acted as historic planting consultant to Painshill Park Trust, and in 2004 I became Associate Director to the Trust. My planting initiatives of the 1980s – the Amphitheatre\* the 'theatrical' shrubberies and the Temple Flower Garden\* – have now matured effectively as reconstructions within the original fabric. Recent initiatives concentrate on authenticity of plant materials: the re-importation of plants of known provenance. This replicates the original imports of *Magnolia*, *Phlox*, etc., from John Bartram in Philadelphia. 'American Roots'\* as part of the *Painshill Heritage Plant Project* was inaugurated in 2005 as a living display to explain the processes of transportation, importation, germination and acclimatization; it now includes the John Bartram Heritage Collection (designated by Plant Heritage, NCCPG). Painshill's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference (June 24/25 2010) will anticipate the next 30 years with innovative discussions: from conservation philosophy to computer visualizations.

Painshill Park Trust was awarded a 1998 'Europe Nostra' medal for 'exemplary restoration'.

\* indicates photographs: see Selected Projects below

### ***Previous Projects***

- **Halifax Public Gardens, Nova Scotia, Canada.** Conservation guidance and planting-restoration expertise given to the team (headed by Vollick McKee Petersmann) entrusted with revitalizing the hurricane-damaged site for re-opening in July 2004.
- **Schloß Hof, near Vienna, Austria.** Invited to act as consultant to the landscape team under Stefan Schmidt in the reconstruction of the parterres, following the model of the Bellotto paintings. The consultancy, which began in 2002/03, concentrated on research towards planting plans for Régence- and Rococo-style flower parterres.
- **Hestercombe, Taunton, Somerset, UK.** Over five years, advisor to Philip White on the reconstruction of the eighteenth-century landscape originally designed by Coplestone Warre Bampfylde (1720-1791). The project demonstrates a style of picturesque planting unlike the 'theatrical' shrubberies and flowerbeds of Painshill Park.
- **'Fürst-Pückler-Park Bad Muskau', Bad Muskau, Germany.** In 2001 commissioned by the Stiftung to reconstruct on paper Prince Hermann von Pückler-Muskau's Herrengarten according to evidence from his *Andeutungen über Landschaftsgärtnerei* (1834) and from analogies in ornamental planting in the Gardenesque era, c. 1820-1830.
- **Belvedere Garten, Vienna, Austria.** For the years 1997 to 2001, advised on the replanting of the *plate-bandes* in the sunken parterre of Prinz Eugene's Belvedere, following plans of Dominique Girard and analogies of the Régence style of the 1720s.
- **Croome Court, Worcestershire, UK.** Invited by The National Trust in 1998 to produce planting plans for the Western Pleasure Ground (and specifically the Greenhouse Shrubbery) following Lancelot 'Capability' Brown's initial layout of the 1750s up to the horticultural embellishments described by William Dean in 1824.
- **Parkwood, Oshawa, Ontario, Canada.** In September 1998, acting as Heritage Consultant to EDA Collaborative Inc., worked on the 'Landscape Conservation Study for Parkwood Estate', home of R.S. McLaughlin of General Motors (from 1915 to 1972). The report was awarded CSLA national and regional citations.
- **Chiefswood, Ontario, Canada.** Work on a conservation report completed 1998.
- Other projects include preservation consultancy for Phillips-Farevaag-Smallenberg on Rideau Hall, the Governor General's grounds in Ottawa, and for Hough Woodland Naylor Dance Leinster Ltd. on the Queen's Park Complex in Toronto, which includes the Sasaki landscape of the 1960s.

### ***Previous Activities (1975-1995)***

**1994-1995: Full Fellow at Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, D.C.**

- The manuscript for *The Flowering of the Landscape Garden* was initiated during a fellowship at Dumbarton Oaks, 1994-1995, and completed in Toronto in 1998.

**1988-1994: Historic Landscape Consultant**

- From 1993 to 1994: commissioned to write a set of guidelines for English Heritage on issues of planting conservation. The second phase of this contract included studies of historic planting at Chiswick House, the Brighton Pavilion and St. James's Park, London.
- 1993: work on a report on historic planting at Ham House for the National Trust; collaboration in a study on cemetery conservation in Ontario.
- From 1988 to 1993: conservation studies of Rideau Hall, Ottawa; Bruck an der Leitha, near Vienna, and Schloß Eggenberg, Graz; 100 Boulevard Gamelin, Ottawa; Cadland, Hampshire; Hatfield Priory, Essex; and Castle Bromwich Hall, near Birmingham.
- Autumn 1990: garden history instructor to the University of Guelph landscape programme 'semester abroad' in the UK.

#### **1988-1989**

##### **Full Fellow and Summer Fellow in Studies in Landscape Architecture at Dumbarton Oaks, Washington, D.C.**

- Research on English flower gardens, 1700-1830, to prepare for publications in *Garden History*, *Journal of Garden History* and the DO Colloquium volume XIII.

#### **1986-1988**

##### **Historical Research Fellow, Chelsea Physic Garden, London**

- Responsible for conducting research into the history of the garden and its plants to produce a series of publications on W. Curtis, W. Hudson, J. Banks and T. Moore.

#### **1984-1986**

##### **Research Fellow, Centre for the Conservation of Historic Parks and Gardens, IoAAS, University of York**

- Responsible for research, lecturing and administration. Worked on compiling HBMC (English Heritage) register of historic sites in England.
- Historic planting consultant to Painshill, Chiswick House, Endsleigh House

#### **1981-1983**

##### **Landscape Architect for Private Practice, Klaus Ihlenfeld, Heidelberg, West Germany**

- Responsible for design work for private gardens and public landscapes, including planting plans and perspectives.

#### **1979-1981**

##### **Free-lance Landscape Consultant to Donald Insall & Associates, Conservation Architects**

- Work included a conservation study of Witley Court, Herefordshire.
- Consultant to Sir Gordon Russell in the completion of his garden at Kingcombe, Gloucestershire.

#### **1976-1977**

##### **Landscape Trainee, Derek Lovejoy & Partners, Crawley, Sussex**

#### **1974-1975**

##### **Assistant Gardener to St. James's Park, London, and Killesberg, Stuttgart**

#### ***Awards & Fellowships***

- Senior Fellowship from The Paul Mellon Centre, London, July-December 2010
- CSLA awards to EDA team for Landscape Conservation Study for Parkwood Estate: national citation in planning & analysis and regional merit award in planning and analysis, 2000
- Europa Nostra medal for 'exemplary restoration' of Painshill Park, 1998
- Full Fellowship at Dumbarton Oaks 1994-1995

- Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust Scholarship 1995
- Full Fellowship at Dumbarton Oaks 1988-1989
- Summer Fellowship at Dumbarton Oaks 1989
- Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust Scholarship 1985
- European Community Scholarship for Conservation Studies 1983-1984
- Frank Clark Prize for dissertation on garden conservation, Edinburgh, 1979
- Social Science Research Council Scholarship 1977-1979
- Exhibition Scholarship to St. John's College, Oxford, 1971-1974

*A Natural History of English Gardening* was a Winner of the **2013 David R. Coffin Publication Grant**, and a Winner of the **2015 John Brinckerhoff Jackson Book Prize**, both from the Foundation for Landscape Studies. A Finalist for the 2015 George Wittenborn Book Award, it followed after *Mrs. Delany and her Circle*'s success as a Winner of the **2009 George Wittenborn Book Award**, given by the Art Libraries Society of North America. In April 2019, *A Natural History of English Gardening* was awarded a **2019 Elisabeth Blair MacDougall Book Award** by the Society of Architectural Historians. *In Trust: The Beauty of Flowers* is due out in 2024.

## **Publications**

### **Books**

- *A Natural History of English Gardening 1650-1800*, Yale University Press (2015)
- *Mrs. Delany and her Circle*, Yale University Press (2009), co-editor.
- *The Flowering of the Landscape Garden: English Pleasure Grounds, 1720-1800*, University of Pennsylvania Press (1999).
- *The Formal Garden: Traditions of Art and Nature*, Thames and Hudson (1992). Translated into French, German, Dutch and Italian.

### **Essays, Articles and Chapters**

#### **Pending**

'A History and Guide to the Gardens', in *St John's College: A Short History and Guide*, revised edition, ed. Geoffrey Tyack (Oxford: St John's College).

#### **Published**

'Plants as Natural Ornaments', in *A Cultural History of Plants in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries*, ed. Jennifer Milam (London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2022), pp. 147-68.

'In Memoriam: Douglas D. C. Chambers (29 November 1939-1 May 2020): His Writing and Gardening Life'. *Garden History* 48: 2, pp. 242-47.

'Schoch and "Schrubs": Translations of a German Shrubbery Manual', co-authored/co-illustrated with Lara Mehling and Bonnie Tung, *Garden History* 48: 1 (Summer 2020).

'Humphry Repton at Woburn Abbey, Bedfordshire: Before and After the Red Book', *Garden History* 47: Suppl.1 (Winter 2019), pp. 39-56.

James Bolton (British, 1735-1799)', in *Britain in the World: Highlights from the Yale Center for British Art*, eds. Martina Droth, Nathan Flis, and Michael Hatt (YCBA, New Haven + New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2019), pp. 60-63.

'Reflections on *Place-Making* and the Art of the Pleasure Ground', in *Notes & Queries*, *Garden History* 46: 1 (Summer 2018), pp. 1-6.

‘An August Domain: Gardening and Collecting in the Princesses’ Kew’, in *Enlightened Princesses*, ed. Joanna Marschner (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2017), pp. 133-159.

‘Lilac and Nightingale: A Heritage of Scent and Sound at Horace Walpole’s Strawberry Hill’, in *Sound and Scent in the Garden*, ed. Dede Fairchild-Ruggles (Washington, D.C.: Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, 2017), pp. 193-215.

‘Lancelot Brown and the Pleasure Grounds at Luton Hoo and Wrest Park’, in *Capability Brown: Perception and Response in a Global Context*, Proceedings of an ICOMOS-UK Conference, Bath, 7-9 September 2016, *Garden History*, 44: Suppl. 1 (Autumn 2016), pp. 39-50.

‘Mark Catesby’s Plant Introductions and English Gardens of the Eighteenth Century’, in *The Curious Mister Catesby: A “Truly Ingenious” Naturalist Explores New Worlds*, eds. E. Charles Nelson and David J. Elliott (Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press, 2015), pp. 265-280.

‘Early American Horticultural Traditions: Gardening with Plants of the New World’, in *Flora Illustrata: Great Works from the LuEsther T. Mertz Library of the New York Botanical Garden*, eds. Susan M. Fraser and Vanessa Bezemer Sellers (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2014), pp. 178-205.

‘John Claudius Loudon (1783-1843) and the Field’s Identity’, *Studies in the History of Gardens & Designed Landscapes*, 34:3 (July-September 2014), pp. 248-253.

‘Greenhouse Technologies and Horticulture: The 1<sup>st</sup> Duchess of Beaufort’s Badminton Florilegium (1703-5) and J.J. Dillenius’s *Hortus Elthamensis* (1732)’, in *Technology and the Garden* (Dumbarton Oaks Colloquium on the History of Landscape Architecture (XXXV), eds. Michael G. Lee and Kenneth I. Helphand (Washington, D.C.: Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, 2014), pp. 55-77.

Karen Bridgman and Mark Laird, ‘American Roots: Techniques of Plant Transportation and Cultivation in the Early Atlantic World’, in *Ways of Making and Knowing: The Material Culture of Empirical Knowledge*, eds. Pamela H. Smith, Amy R. W. Meyers and Harold J. Cook (Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press with the Bard Graduate Center, 2014), pp. 164-193.

‘Revisiting English Gardens, 1630-1730: The French Connection in Britannia’, in *André Le Nôtre in Perspective*, eds. Patricia Bouchenot-Déchin and Georges Farhat (Château de Versailles and Hazan, distributed by Yale University Press, 2013), pp. 308-323.

‘Plantings’, in *Gardens in the Age of Empire*, volume ed. Sonja Dümplemann, in *A Cultural History of Gardens*, series eds. John Dixon Hunt and Michael Leslie (London: Bloomsbury, 2013), pp. 69-89.

‘This Other Eden: The American Connection in Georgian Pleasure Grounds – from Shrubbery & Menagerie to Aviary & Flower-garden’, in *Knowing Nature: Art and Science in Philadelphia, 1740-1840*, ed. Amy R. W. Meyers (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2011), pp. 96-127.

‘Reconstruction Revisited: Tempering Conjecture by Contextual Research’, in *Gartendenkmalpflege zwischen Konservieren und Restaurieren*, eds. Géza Hajós and Joachim Wolschke-Bulmahn (Hannover: CGL-Studies, Leibnitz University of Hannover; Munich: Martin Meidenbauer Verlagsbuchhandlung, 2011), pp.133-146.

‘The Planting Restoration at Painshill’ and ‘The Future of Garden Restoration: Re-planting Recalibrated’, in ‘Painshill Park: The Pioneering Restoration of an 18<sup>th</sup>-Century Landscape Garden’, *New Arcadian Journal* 67/68 (2010), ed. Patrick Eyres, pp. 64-69 and 79-86.

‘The Congenial Climate of Coffeehouse Horticulture: The *Historia plantarum rariorum* and the *Catalogus plantarum*’, in *The Art of Natural History: Illustrated Treatises and Botanical Paintings, 1400-1850*, eds. Therese O’Malley and Amy R. W. Meyers (Washington, DC: National Gallery of Art, 2008), pp. 226-259.

‘Greenhouses and Great Storm: John Evelyn on the Workings of God and Man in the Garden’, in *A Celebration of John Evelyn: Proceedings of a Conference to Mark the Tercentenary of his Death*, ed. Mavis Batey, (Surrey: Surrey Gardens Trust, 2007), pp. 98-119.

“‘Perpetual Spring’ or Tempestuous Fall: The Greenhouse and the Great Storm of 1703 in the Life of John Evelyn and his Contemporaries’, *Garden History* 34:2 (Winter 2006), pp. 153-173.

‘Sayes Court Revisited’, in *John Evelyn and his Milieu*, eds. Frances Harris and Michael Hunter (London: British Library, 2003), pp. 115-144.

‘Reconstructing the Culture of Horticulture on Both Sides of the Atlantic’, in *The Garden: Myth, Meaning and Metaphor*, ed. Brian J. Day (Windsor: Humanities Research Group, University of Windsor, 2003), pp. 71-86.

‘Landscape Conservation at Chiefswood National Historic Site’, in *Borderlands: The Shared Canadian and U.S. Experience of Landscape*, Proceedings of *The Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation Annual Meeting*, June 2-5 1999, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada, (Waterloo, Ontario: Heritage Resources Centre, University of Waterloo, 2002), pp. 137-146.

‘The Culture of Horticulture: Class, Consumption, and Gender in the English Landscape Garden’, in *Bourgeois and Aristocratic Cultural Encounters in Garden Art, 1550-1850*, ed. Michel Conan (Washington, DC: Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, 2002), pp. 221-254.

Entries on ‘Shrubbery’, ‘Nuneham Courtenay’, ‘Parterre/Plate Bande’ and ‘American Garden’ for the Chicago Botanic Garden *Encyclopedia of Gardens: History and Design*, (Chicago & London: Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers, 2001).

‘Enlarging the Frame’: Der Schutz von historischen Gärten aus angloamerikanischer Sicht’ in *Historische Gärten - Schutz und Pflege als Rechtsfrage*, ed. Gerte Reichelt, (Vienna: Band 5 der Schriftenreihe des Ludwig Boltzmann Institutes für Europarecht, 2000), pp. 49-58.

‘From Bouquets to Baskets’, *The Magazine Antiques* (June 2000), pp. 932-39.

‘Exotics and Botanical Illustration’ in *Sir John Vanbrugh and Landscape Architecture in Baroque England 1690-1730*, eds. Christopher Ridgway and Robert Williams (Stroud: Sutton Publishing Ltd., 2000), pp. 93-113.

‘Climate, Weather and Planting Design in English Formal Gardens of the Early 18<sup>th</sup> Century’ in *Die Gartenkunst des Barock*, ICOMOS Journals of the German National Committee, XXVIII (1999), pp. 14-19.

‘From Callicarpa to Catalpa: The Impact of Mark Catesby’s Plant Introductions on English Gardens of the Eighteenth Century’, in *Empire’s Nature: Mark Catesby’s New World Vision*, eds. Amy R. W. Meyers and Margaret Beck Pritchard (Chapel Hill and London: University of North Carolina Press, 1998), pp. 184-227.

‘Parterre, Grove, and Flower Garden: European Horticulture and Planting Design in John Evelyn’s Time’ in *John Evelyn’s “Elysium Britannicum” and European Gardening*, eds. Therese O’Malley and Joachim Wolschke-Bulmahn (Washington, D.C.: Dumbarton Oaks, 1998), pp. 171-219.

‘Developments in Ornamental Planting Design, 1500-1800, and their Interpretation in Garden Conservation’, in *Naturschutz und Denkmalpflege*, eds. Ingo Kowarik, Erika Schmidt and Brigitt Sigel (Zürich: vdf Hochschulverlag AG, 1998), pp. 183-191.

‘The Garden Plan for 13 Upper Gower Street, London: A Conjectural Review of the Planting, Upkeep and Long-Term Maintenance of a Late Eighteenth-Century Town Garden’, *Garden History* (Winter 1997), pp. 189-211.

‘Rekonstruktion, Denkmalpflege und Naturschutz in Painshill Park: Versöhnung zwischen Kunst und Natur’, *Die Gartenkunst*, 9. Jahrgang Heft 2 (1997), pp. 274-283.

‘Theatres of Flowers: The Art and Science of Eighteenth-Century Floral Displays’, in the *Clusius Lectures* October 1997 eds. Gerda van Uffelen & Erik de Jong (Leiden: Clusius Foundation, 1997), pp. 5-19.

“‘Original Fabric’ or ‘Original Design Intent’? -- The Unresolved Dilemma in Planting Conservation’, *Restoration of Baroque Gardens, The UNESCO Conference on Neercanne*, Dutch Yearbook of the History of Garden and Landscape Architecture (Amsterdam: Architectura & Natura, 1997), pp. 60-77.

‘James Maddock’s “Blooming Stage” and the Meticulous Art of the “Auricula Theatre” as a Microcosm of Eighteenth-Century Planting’, *Garden History* special issue, vol. 24 no. 1 (summer 1996), pp. 70-81.

‘Corbeille, Parterre and Treillage: the case of Humphry Repton’s penchant for the French style of planting’, *Journal of Garden History*, Vol. 16/3 (1996), pp.153-169.

“‘Conjectural Replanting’”: Leitlinien zur Wiederbepflanzung historischer Gärten aufgrund von Analogieschlüssen’, *Die Gartenkunst*, 6. Jahrgang Heft 2 (1994), pp. 320-343.

‘Ein Gartenplan für Upper Gower St. 13, London; Mutmassungen über Anlage, Pflege und Entwicklung eines Bürgergartens im ausgehenden 18. Jahrhundert’, in *Garten Kunst Geschichte: Festschrift für Dieter Hennebo*, ed. Erika Schmidt, Wilfried Hansmann and Jörg Gamer (†) (Worms am Rhein: Wernersche Verlagsgesellschaft, 1994), pp. 82-94 (with appendix by John Harvey).

‘A Cloth of Tissue of Divers Colours: The English Flower Border, 1660-1735’, *Garden History*, Vol. 21, no. 2 (Winter 1993), pp. 158-205 (with appendix by John Harvey).

‘Restoration of Planting in Eighteenth-Century Landscape Gardens’, *Restoration ’92* (London: UKIC, October 1992).

‘Ornamental Planting and Horticulture in English Pleasure Grounds, 1700-1830’ in *Garden History: Issues, Approaches, Methods*, ed. John Dixon Hunt (Washington, DC: Dumbarton Oaks Colloquium series, Vol. XIII, 1992), pp. 243-277.

‘Assessment of the Management Plan for the Landscape Garden Prugg: Bruck an der Leitha’, *Die Gartenkunst*, 3. Jahrgang Heft 2 (1991), pp. 201-205.

‘Approaches to planting in the late eighteenth century: some imperfect ideas on the origins of the American garden’, *Journal of Garden History*, Vol. 11, no. 3 (July-September 1991), pp. 154-172.

“‘Our equally favorite Hobby Horse’: the flower gardens of Lady Elizabeth Lee at Hartwell and the 2nd Earl Harcourt at Nuneham Courtenay’, with appendix by J. H. Harvey. Published in *Garden History*, Vol. 18, no. 2, (Autumn 1990), pp. 103-154.

Paper delivered to the British Records Association in 1987: ‘The Interpretation of Archival Sources in Garden Restoration’, *Archives*, Vol. XVIII, no. 80 (October, 1988).

Papers on aspects of the history of Chelsea Physic Garden:

- *Thomas Moore: Curator at Chelsea Physic Garden 1848-1887*, London 1988.
- *Sir Joseph Banks, Botanist, Horticulturist and Plant Collector: Associations with Chelsea Physic Garden*, London 1988.
- *William Hudson: Demonstrator of Plants at Chelsea Physic Garden 1765-1771*, London 1988.
- *William Curtis: Demonstrator of Plants at Chelsea Physic Garden 1772-1777*, London 1987.

Peter Goodchild and Mark Laird, ‘Centre for the Conservation of Historic Parks and Gardens’, *A future for our past*, no. 29 (1986).

### **Reviews for *Journal of Garden History* now *Studies in the History of Gardens & Designed Landscapes***

*Der malerische Landschaftspark in Laxenburg bei Wien*, ed. Géza Hajós Vol. 28, no.2 (April-June 2008), pp. 303-305.

Review Essay: *Bibliographie der Deutschen Gartenbücher, 1471-1750* by Clemens Alexander Wimmer and Iris Lauterbach; *Bäume und Sträucher in historischen Gärten: Gehölzverwendung in Geschichte und Denkmalpflege* by Clemens Alexander Wimmer; *Frühe Landschaftsgärten in Russland und Deutschland: Johann Busch als Mentor eines neuen Stils* by Marcus Köhler. Vol. 26, no. 3 (July-Sept 2006), pp. 253-260.

*Beskrifning öfwer Idéen och General-Plan till en Ängelsk Lustpark* by F.M. Piper, ed. Magnus Olausson Vol. 26, no. 2 (April-June 2006), pp. 167-170.

Review Essay: *The London Town Garden, 1700-1840* by Todd Longstaffe-Gowan. Vol. 23, no. 4 (Oct-Dec 2003)

*Von Muskau bis Konstantinopel: Eduard Petzold ein europäischer Gartenkünstler, 1815-1891* by Michael Rohde. Vol. 22, no. 2 (April-June 2002).

Review Essay: *An Oak Spring Flora: Flower Illustration from the Fifteenth Century to the Present Time* by Lucia Tongiorgi Tomasi; *Hortus Eystettensis: The Bishop's Garden and Besler's Magnificent Book* by Nicolas Barker; *The Art of Botanical Illustration*, 2nd edn.

by Wilfrid Blunt and William T. Stearn; *The King's Privy Garden at Hampton Court Palace 1689-1995*, ed. Simon Thurley; *Dictionary of British & Irish Botanists and Horticulturists: Including Plant Collectors, Flower Painters and Garden Designers*, revised edn. by Ray Desmond and Christine Ellwood. Vol. 20, no. 3 (July-September 2000).

*Historische Gärten in Österreich: vergessene Gesamtkunstwerke* ed. Géza Hajós. Vol. 14 no. 3 (July-September 1994), 209-211.

*Plants in Garden History* by Penelope Hobhouse. Vol. 14, no. 2 (April-June 1994).

*Der französische Garten am Ende des Ancien Régime* by Iris Lauterbach; *Peter Joseph Lenné: Garten/Parke/Landschaften* by Harri Günther; and *Die Entdeckung der Landschaft: Englische Gärten des 18. Jahrhunderts* by Valentin Hammerschmidt and Joachim Wilke. Vol. 12, no. 4 (October-December 1992).

*An Oak Spring Sylva* and *An Oak Spring Pomona* by Sandra Raphael. Vol. 12 no. 3 (July-September 1992).

*Das Palmenhaus auf der Pfaueninsel: Geschichte seiner baulichen und gärtnerischen Gestaltung* by Michael Seiler; and *Romantische Gärten der Aufklärung in und um Wien* by Géza Hajós. Vol. 10, no. 2 (April-June 1990), pp. 140-142.

*Gartendenkmalpflege* edited by Dieter Hennebo. Vol. 6, no. 4 (Oct.-Dec. 1986).

*Die Ruine im Landschaftsgarten* by Günter Hartmann. Vol. 3, no. 4 (Oct.-Dec. 1983).

### **Reviews for *Garden History***

*'Forget Not Mee & My Garden . . . ' Selected Letters, 1725-1768 of Peter Collinson, F.R.S.* by Alan W. Armstrong. Vol. 30, no. 1 (Spring 2002).

### ***Conferences & Lectures***

#### **Some More Recent Engagements as Speaker (2013-2020)**

**Speaking Engagements for April to November 2020 in Savannah, GA, at Mount Vernon, VA, at St. John's College Oxford, and at Bad Muskua postponed.**

'Allées and Theatrical Arrangements in English Gardens, 1740-1840: Painshill, Strawberry Hill, and Wrest Park', Gibbes Art Museum, Charleston, SC, 16 April 2019.

'The Duchess of Beaufort's last Years in London, 1708-1714', London Parks & Gardens Trust Day Symposium at Fulham Palace, 11 December 2018.

'The Art of the Folly: Painshill Park and the 18<sup>th</sup>-Century English Garden', Rienzi Fall Lecture, MFAH, Houston, 17 September 2017.

18<sup>th</sup>-Century Shrubbery Workshop for English Heritage at Stowe Landscape Gardens, 17 May 2017.

'Mark Catesby and the Introduction of New Plants into Europe', Mann Library Special Program with Plant Sciences, Cornell University, 1 May 2017.

Eighteenth-Century Planting Design Master Class for National Trust, Painshill Park, 24 May 2016.

‘Two Forces of Nature: Weather and Women’, Lecture and Book Signing of *A Natural History of English Gardening, 1650-1800*, Toronto Botanical Garden, 5 May 2016.

High Tea and Book Signing of *A Natural History of English Gardening, 1650-1800*, New York Botanical Garden, September 21, 2015.

Speaker at the three-day international symposium, Enlightened Princesses: Caroline, Augusta and Charlotte and the Shaping of the Modern World, Hampton Court Palace, 7-9 July 2014.

Speaker at The Charleston Art & Antiques Forum, A Grand Tour: Trade Winds of Influence, March 13-17 2013.

### **Engagements as Speaker (2009-2012)**

‘Mark Catesby and 18<sup>th</sup>-Century Gardening’, paper delivered to Mark Catesby Tercentennial Conference, Charleston, South Carolina, 8 November 2012.

‘The restorative concept of Elysium: the background to John Evelyn’s gardening at Sayes Court’, recorded talk for the Sayes Court conference, London, 25 April 2012.

‘Mary Delany and the Accomplishments of Gardening Women in Widowhood’, seminar in eighteenth-century studies, Harvard University, 19 April 2012.

“‘A Natural History of English Gardening, 1650-1800’: William Sherard, Coplestone Warre Bampfylde, and the visual culture of botany among women’, Robert Penson Lecture, St. John’s College, Oxford, 27 June 2011.

‘Greenhouse technologies and horticulture: the 1<sup>st</sup> Duchess of Beaufort’s Badminton florilegium (1703-05) & J. J. Dillenius’s *Hortus Elthamensis* (1732)’, Technology & the Garden Symposium at Dumbarton Oaks, 6-7 May 2011.

Keynote Speaker at the Painshill Park 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference, Painshill Park Surrey, 24-25 June 2010.

Lecture on ‘The Picturesque’ in the Willowbank Lecture Series, Willowbank, Queenston, Ontario, 29 May 2010.

Keynote Lecture to the John Lawson Symposium, Raleigh, North Carolina, October 2009.

‘Mary Delany (1700-1788): A Lady of Singular Ingenuity’, Keynote Lecture on the Opening of ‘Mrs. Delany and her Circle’, Yale Center for British Art, 23 September 2009.

Participant in Panel Discussion: Authors in Landscape Architecture for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary CSLA Congress, 13 August 2009.

### **Engagements as Speaker (2001-2008)**

Fest Vortrag on the retirement of Professor Dr. Géza Hajós, Vienna, September 2007.

‘Made to Walk On: The English Lawn as Fashion’, Lecture Series ‘Enlightenment’, Bata Shoe Museum, Toronto, 15 April 2007.

“Nursing Pretty Monsters”: The Duchess of Beaufort and Art & Science in Baroque Gardening’, Department of Landscape Architecture, Piper Auditorium, Harvard Graduate School of Design, 24 October 2006.

‘Flowers and the Georgian Pleasure Ground’, Keynote Lecture at Hartwell and Nuneham Conference for the National Trust, UK, 19 June 2006.

‘Bedding Out in Paris and London: William Robinson as Catalyst of Horticultural Change’, Lecture at Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, March 2006.

‘Library and Laboratory: Testing Paper Reconstruction as a Living Garden’, American Historical Association, Philadelphia, 5 January 2006.

‘The Impact of Climate Change on Historic Landscapes’, ICOMOS Canada Conference, Toronto, September 2005.

“Nursing Pretty Monsters”: The 1<sup>st</sup> Duchess of Beaufort and the Kychious Florilegium (1703-05)’, Lecture to Conference of the Garden History Society, Lincoln, UK, 16 July 2005.

Two lectures at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and at Painshill Park, Surrey, respectively for ‘Ways of Making and Knowing: The Material Culture of Empirical Knowledge’, Conference organized by the Wellcome Trust, London, 11-15 July 2005.

Lecture Day at the Architectural Association, London, 7 July 2005.

‘Painshill: The Flowering of the Landscape Garden’, Lecture in the New York Botanical Garden/Bard Graduate Center Series, Rockefeller Center, NYC, 8 March 2005.

Lecture to Symposium “Curious in Our Way”: The Culture of Nature in Philadelphia, 1740-1840’, Philadelphia, 18-21 November 2004.

‘Capability Brown and Co: the English planting style and European Gardening’. Lecture for the World Monuments Fund in Britain’s spring programme, 9 June 2004.

‘Replanting Painshill Park and the Next Twenty Years’. Lecture in Landscape and History Series at the Bard Graduate Center, New York City, 29 October 2003.

‘Flower Parterres of the Baroque, Preservation and Management’. Lecture in the International Workshop at Schloß Hof, Austria: Restoration, Preservation and Management of Formal Historic Gardens, 18-20 September 2003.

‘American Plants in the English Landscape Garden’. Lecture at ‘North American Plants – Their Cultural History’ -- Historic Plants Symposium, Charlottesville, Virginia, 16-17 August 2002. (And lecture at Gunston Hall, Virginia, 15 August 2002).

‘Jacobus van Huysum’s Paintings for the *Catalogus plantarum* (1730) and Its Relationship to John Martyn’s *Historia plantarum rariorum* (1728-1737)’. Paper delivered to ‘The Art and History of Botanical Painting and Natural History Treatises’ symposium, National Gallery of Art, Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, Washington, DC, 3-4 May 2002.

Paper to ‘Plants and the Historic Landscape’, Institute for Cultural Landscape Studies of the Arnold Arboretum/Radcliffe Seminars, 8 March 2002.

Paper to 'The Fair Majestic Paradise at Stowe: The Restoration of an Eighteenth-Century Garden', The Huntington, 25-26 January 2002.

Faculty Colloquium and Lecture for Humanities Research Group, University of Windsor, as part of the 2001-2002 Distinguished Speakers Series *The Garden: Myth, Meaning and Metaphor*, 9 November 2001.

John Evelyn Conference at the British Library, London, 17-18 September 2001. Lectures at Annual General Meeting of Historic Gardens Trusts (9 September 2001); Chelsea Physic Garden (11 September 2001); and at Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh (20 September 2001).

Paper to Barockblumen-Seminar, Schönbrunn, Vienna, 7 September 2001.

Lecture in series 'Envisioning a Garden' dedicated to the recovery of the Longfellow Historic Landscape, Radcliffe Seminars, Cambridge, MA, 20 March 2001.

Lectures in Bordeaux, Paris and Lyon for the Agrégation syllabus 'Gardens and Landscape in 18th-Century England', 19-23 January 2001.

### **Papers Presented and Seminars Given (1986-2000)**

Das Gartendenkmal als Schauplatz des Wandels: Kurzlebige Schmuckpflanzungen einst und heute. Conference at the Fürst-Pückler-Park Bad Muskau, 13-15 July 2000.

National Trust Conference on Eighteenth-Century Planting, Claremont and Painshill, 12 July 2000.

A Seminar by Mark Laird on 'Historical Planting Design', The Architectural Association School of Architecture, 29 June 2000.

Inaugural Robert Penson Garden Lecture, St. John's College, Oxford, 27 June 2000.

'Historische Gärten -- Schutz und Pflege als Rechtsfrage': Conference in Vienna, 28 April 2000.

54th Colonial Williamsburg Garden Symposium: 2-5 April 2000.

Lectures at Dumbarton Oaks, 1 December 1999; Christies, New York, 24-25 January 2000.

Vanbrugh Conference, York, July 1999.

Alliance Conference 'Borderlands', Niagara-on-the-Lake, 2-4 June 1999.

Bartram 300 Symposium, Philadelphia May 20-21 1999.

Tour of English Gardens with Austrian Garden History Society, June 1998.

'From Callicarpa to Catalpa: The Impact of Mark Catesby's Plant Introductions on English Gardens of the Eighteenth Century' for the 'Mark Catesby' symposium, Williamsburg, 7 & 8 February 1998.

'Theatres of Flowers: the art and science of eighteenth-century floral display', The Clusius Foundation, Leiden, 9 October 1997.

‘Climate, Weather and Planting Design in English Formal Gardens of the Early Eighteenth Century’ for the ICOMOS international conference: ‘Die Gartenkunst des Barock’, Bamberg, September 24 to 27 1997.

Workshop on Landscape Conservation in Ontario, Stonyground Institute for Garden and Landscape Studies, Walkerton, Ontario, June 28 1997

‘Painshill Park and the Flowering of the Landscape Garden’, lecture at the annual dinner of the Radcliffe Student Chapter of the Boston Society of Landscape Architects, 30 April 1997.

‘Elysium in England: 18th-Century Landscape Gardens’ for the Royal Oak Foundation at Rose-Tree Cottage, Pasadena, California, 16 April 1997.

‘Irregular Regularities: Formal Plantings in the English Landscape Garden’, in the ‘Formalism’ Conference, Scripps College & Huntington, 10-12 April 1997.

‘North American Thickets in English Shires: The Impact of John Bartram’s Plants on English Gardens’, Smith College, 21 November 1996.

‘Painshill Park’: Royal Oak Foundation, NYC, 20 November 1996.

Workshop on ‘The Genius of the Place’, Stonyground Institute for Garden and Landscape Studies, Walkerton, Ontario, July 7 1996.

‘Garden Conservation and Nature Conservation’, Project La Foce Conference II, section ‘Cultural Degradation’, Tuscany, Italy, 13-15 June 1996.

Seminars at Architectural Association, London, and Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies, York, June 1996.

‘Die Wiederbepflanzung Painshill Parks: Versöhnung Zwischen Kunst und Natur im Englischen Landschaftsgarten’, Eisenstadt, Austria, 30 May to 1 June 1996.

‘Gardens of the 1790s’, Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, 25 April 1996.

Lecture and Seminar Series: Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Pennsylvania, The John Bartram Association, Harvard University, Graduate School of Design, CASVA, Washington, DC, University of Virginia, School of Architecture, and Colonial Williamsburg, March - April 1996.

UNESCO conference on Neercaane Castle, Maastricht, 27-29 September 1995: ‘Restoration projects of 17th- and 18th-century gardens in western Europe’.

Roundtable, Dumbarton Oaks, March 1995: ‘Corbeille, Parterre and Treillage: Humphry Repton’s Penchant for the French style of Planting’.

‘The Conjectural and the Categorical in the Treatment of Historic Planting’, The National Association for Olmsted Parks, The National Trust for Historic Preservation and The National Park Service symposium *A Reality Check for Our Nation’s Parks*, St. Louis, Missouri, 28 September 1993.

Thomas Jefferson 250 anniversary lecture, Monticello, Virginia; 23 August 1993: ‘English influences on Jefferson’s planting’.

International Symposium on the Conservation of Urban Squares and Parks: 12-15 May 1993, Montreal: 'The private and public grounds of Rideau Hall'.

Dumbarton Oaks Symposium: John Evelyn's 'Elysium Britannicum' and European Gardening, 14-15 May, 1993.

English Heritage Seminar: Planting of Gardens 1660-1705, 26 October 1992: 'English flower borders: 1660-1735'.

Restoration 92: Conservation, training, materials and techniques: latest development, 20-22 October 1992, Amsterdam 'Restoration of Planting in Eighteenth-Century Landscape Gardens'.

Guest lecture at Université de Montréal, 8 April 1992 'Painshill and the Conservation of Historic Planting'.

APT International Conference, 3-9 Sept. 1990, Montreal, 'Approaches to the Conservation of Historic Planting'.

Welsh Gardens Under Threat, 2-4 April 1990, Lampeter, Wales.

'Ornamental Planting and Horticulture in English Gardens of the 18th Century', Harvard University, Graduate School of Design, 26 July 1989.

Symposium on Landscape and Garden History: Issues Approaches Methods, 19-21 May 1989, Dumbarton Oaks.

'English Gardens, 1730-1830: Ornamental Planting and the American Connection', keynote lecture to Historic Gardens Seminar, Charleston SC, 9-11 March 1989.

ICOMOS International Gardens Conference: The English Landscape Park-Concept and Conservation, September 1987, Oxford. International Conference on Conserving Historic Gardens, October 1986, Ludwigsburg, West Germany: 'Die Wiederherstellung der Bepflanzung bei Painshill Park'. 'Interpreting Historic Plants for the Public', 1986, York

## **Publications**



## A Natural History of English Gardening 1650-1800 (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2015)

From the role of female gardener-naturalists and amateur scientists during the Enlightenment to a detailed analysis of flower portraits and florilegium folios, this publication is a monumental achievement, commanding a broad sweep of historical data, as well as containing 400 illustrations. *A Natural History of English Gardening* is a captivating account of the history of the English garden and highlights its importance as a powerful cultural expression. Andrea Wulf in *The Guardian* (16 May 2015) wrote: 'Laird pushes garden history into new territory – one where the garden is seen as an ecological and cultural system'.

- Winner of the 2013 David R. Coffin Publication Grant, given by the Foundation for Landscape Studies.
- Finalist for the 2015 George Wittenborn Book Award, given by the Art Libraries Society of North America.
- Winner of the 2015 John Brinckerhoff Jackson Book Prize sponsored by the Foundation for Landscape Studies.
- Winner of a 2019 Elisabeth Blair MacDougall Book Award given by the Society of Architectural Historians.

'This is a mighty, lavishly illustrated and densely written tome. It's packed with interesting morsels I enjoyed reading in bite-sized chunks...'—Veronica Peerless, *English Garden*.

'The extent of Mr. Laird's research and memory for learning is remarkable.'—Charles Quest-Ritson, *Country Life*.

'...a spectacularly beautiful piece of book-making.'—Charles Elliott, *Literary Review*.

'Not only is it visually gorgeous – a rich cabinet of curiosities with watercolours of magnolias in voluptuous flower, intricate engravings of butterflies, the imperious head of an American flamingo – but is also meticulously illustrates Mark Laird's scholarship... His text is as grandly miscellaneous as nature itself and he lightens erudition with wit.'—Kate Kellaway, *the Observer*.

'[A] vast, stunningly illustrated history of gardening in England.'—*Nature*, 11th June.

'Mark Laird, the great landscape historian, gives a superb narrative about the plants, events, people and studies that form the backdrop of English gardening, from John Evelyn to Gilbert White. Exquisite contemporary illustrations support his prose.'—Jane Owen, *Financial Times*.

'This is a major new work, a substantial work of scholarship and a beautiful piece of publishing.'—*Good Book Guide*.

'Dazzling illustrations inform a detailed exploration of the link between nature and culture in 18th century gardening.'—Jennifer Potter, *Gardens Illustrated*.

'Laird's mammoth book is magnificent in its own terms, written with wry elegance and a warm heart, its scholarship never overwhelming the telling detail.'—Richard Mabey, *New Statesman*.

'Mark Laird's sumptuous book, beautifully illustrated and produced... is a trove of scholarship, packed with new research'—Jenny Uglow, *TLS*.

'... the detail and breadth of its sources are breathtaking; the gorgeous trade card of a Turnham green nurseryman; John Evelyn's sketch of the whale beached on the strand below his house at Deptford; the letters of botanical collector Peter Collinson to the Bishop of Carlisle about the summer drought of 1765 when 'all looks like the

sunburnt fields of Asia'. This is an extraordinarily beautiful book."—Anna Pavord, *World of Interiors*

"This is a very thorough, well-researched exploration of the development of English gardening... A hefty tome that will appeal to passionate, thoughtful gardeners."—Georgette McCready, *Bath Magazine*

'...a multitudinous book (in the best sense): it addresses new visitors to the natural garden, it speaks to those who have followed Laird's progress from horticultural practices to birds and beasts'—John Dixon Hunt, *Historic Garden*

"With an interest in nature once again taking centre stage, the author sets us timely bench marks from an earlier age. Above all, the sheer beauty of the volume is a triumphant affirmation by the author and publisher of the value of printed books in a digital age."—Min Wood, *The Garden*

"[A] handsome and substantial volume, visually sumptuous and intriguingly diverse"—Charlotte Gere, *Art Newspaper*

"With humor, wit and compassion, Mark Laird presents human-biological life in and around the garden: the charm of natural creatures, the heartbreak of weather, the thrill of the bloom. His manuscript is a monumental achievement in its command of historical data. He has unleashed archival material from diverse sources never brought to bear on the complex world of eighteenth-century gardens and landscapes."—Therese O'Malley, associate dean, Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts, National Gallery of Art

"Filled with stunning visuals, from watercolors of wildflowers to the narcissus and thistles stitched on a satin petticoat worn to the Prince of Wales's ball in 1741."—Mieke Ten Have, *Vogue*

"Gorgeous . . . the absorbing illustrations support an unexpectedly engrossing text. Laird divertingly explores the dramatic lives of the great and often pioneering gardeners of the day . . . Filled with inspiration. . . [and] the kind of information that will blossom in your mind as you deadhead or weed, linking your own speck of the planet to the long ago and the far away."—Mitchell Owens, *Architectural Digest*

"Sumptuous . . . highly accessible . . . Much more than a natural history, this book is a magnificent horticultural opus."—Eryn Carlson, *Boston Globe*

"[A] magnum opus . . . carefully crafted and well-researched, replete with extensive full color illustrations, plans, paintings, journal entries, correspondence, and notations . . . An important book that provides new insights into the discipline of garden history."—Patrice Todisco, *Landscape Notes*

## Publications



**Mrs. Delany and her Circle**, eds. Mark Laird and Alicia Weisberg-Roberts (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2009). This publication accompanied the exhibition *Mrs. Delany and her Circle* at Yale Center for British Art (24 September 2009 to 3 January 2010) and Sir John Soane's Museum (18 February to 1 May 2010).

At the age of seventy-two, Mary Delany, née Mary Granville (1700-1788), embarked upon a series of nearly a thousand botanical collages, or "paper mosaicks," that would prove to be the crowning achievement of her rich creative life. These delicate hand-cut floral designs, made by a method of Mrs. Delany's own invention, vie with the finest botanical works of her time. More than two centuries later her extraordinary work continues to inspire. Although best known for these collages, Mrs. Delany was also an amateur artist, woman of fashion, and commentator on life and society in eighteenth-century England and Ireland. Her prolific craft activities not only served to cement personal bonds of friendship, but also allowed her to negotiate the interconnecting artistic, aristocratic, and scientific networks that surrounded her. This ambitious and groundbreaking book, the first to survey the full range of Mrs. Delany's creative endeavors,

reveals the complexity of her engagement with natural science, fashion, and design.

The exhibition at Yale was viewed by close to 25,000 visitors and received acclaim in three features in various sections of *The New York Times*. Andy Port, for example, writing in the Style section on 29 September 2009, described the “engaging new show” as “worth the trip to New Haven alone.” Amanda Vickery’s article in the Arts section of the *Saturday Guardian* (17 October 2009) called the show a “gorgeous attempt to rescue female amateurism from the condescension of posterity,” while Anna Pavord in *The Independent* (6 February 2010) referred to the “stunning new exhibition” about to open in London that month.

2009 George Wittenborn Memorial Book Award

2010 New England Museum Association Publication Award

#### Book reviews:

“*Mrs. Delany and her Circle* represents a superb display of collective scholarship that acts as a stimulating corrective to prior neglect of Mary Delany’s achievements. Splendidly illustrated, elegantly written, and well edited, it will be a great asset to scholars working in a range of established and emerging areas of scholarship on the eighteenth century.” – Alison Martin, *Eighteenth-Century Life*, 35:2, Spring 2011.

“*Mrs. Delany and her Circle* is a model of inter-disciplinary collaboration.” -- Timothy Wilcox, *Apollo*, 29 January 2010.

“Superbly illuminating” – Donna Seaman, *Booklist* Advanced Review, 15 December 2009.

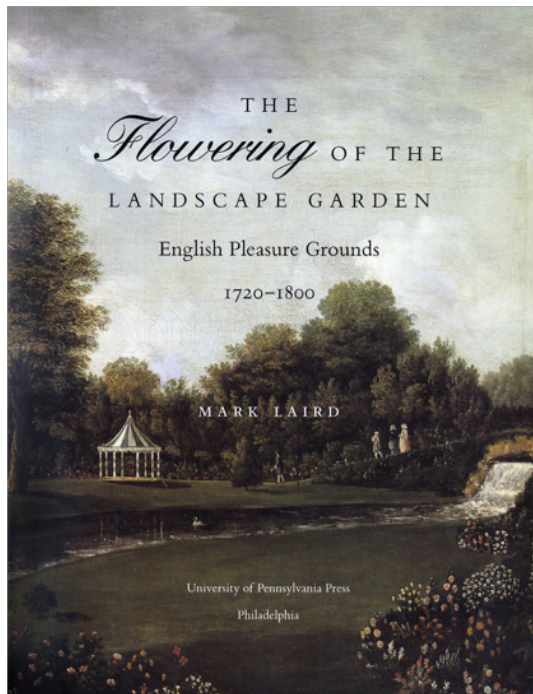
“It brings Delany studies to a new pitch of scholarly refinement, with a dozen experts exploring the various aspects of her achievement in sometimes clinical detail.” – John McEwen, *The Spectator*, 25 November 2009.

“The most beautifully produced garden book of the year.” – *Daily Telegraph*, December 2009.



“Flower Curtain and Pelargonium Theater” in the entrance court of Louis Kahn’s Yale Center for British Art, New Haven. To accompany the exhibition *Mrs. Delany and her Circle*, this contemporary installation was designed by Jason Siebenmorgen following guidance on eighteenth-century horticulture from curator Mark Laird.

## Publications



**The Flowering of the Landscape Garden:  
English Pleasure Grounds 1720-1800**  
University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, 1999

Penn Studies in Landscape Architecture, John Dixon Hunt,  
series editor

The park of lawns, trees, and serpentine lakes in a picturesque composition of greens has long been viewed as the enduring achievement of eighteenth-century English landscape art. Yet this conventional view of the picturesque style ignores the colorful flowers and flowering shrubs that graced the landscape garden of the Georgian era.

While the book is primarily devoted to the historical reconstruction of the formal and horticultural characteristics of "theatrical" shrubberies and flowerbeds, it also aims to animate the world of the eighteenth-century pleasure ground. Mark Laird shows how the unwritten lore of planting design was passed down by generation after generation of gardeners and discusses the interaction of landscape designer, client, nurseryman, land agent, and gardener in modifying and transforming the geometric layouts of previous generations. He traces the development of planting design theory and practice from Batty Langley to Capability Brown and William Chambers, and demonstrates how an English mania for flowering shrubs and conifers from eastern North America helped create the distinctive planting forms of the Georgian pleasure ground.

Laird offers readers a wealth of visual and literary materials--from contemporary paintings, engravings, poetry, essays, and letters to more prosaic household accounts and nursery bills--to revolutionize our understanding of the English landscape garden as a powerful cultural expression. Through his original watercolor reconstructions of planting forms and through delightful descriptions of seasonal change and sensuous effect, he makes the gardens come alive, thus recognizing both the palpable qualities and aesthetic sophistication of eighteenth-century planting design.

Laird's training as a landscape architect, garden conservator, and historian gives the book remarkable breadth and depth. It is a benchmark work, uniquely bridging the gap in landscape history between design and planting and horticultural studies.

"Every once in a while an academic book on the subject of landscape history turns out to be in a class of its own, a 'classic' as it were. *The Flowering of the Landscape Garden* . . . reads as smoothly as a good novel, explains as rationally as a textbook, and delights as easily as a walk through Painshill Park."

— *Landscape Architecture*

"Laird's work over the past fifteen years has done much to dispel our misconceptions about the role and significance of flowers and shrubs in the English landscape garden. He has forged a new narrative which shifts the focus away from parkland to the more intimate surroundings of the house."

— *Times Literary Supplement*

"*The Flowering of the Landscape Garden* must be recommended as an important contribution to garden studies. It is a treasure-house of interesting illustrations and quotations, many of them hitherto hidden in archive rooms. It shows the eighteenth century landscape garden in the making, and at closer quarters than ever before. In short, it makes historic gardens really come to life, and this is perhaps the highest praise that can be won by a book of this kind."

— *Studies in the History of Gardens & Designed Landscapes*

"Laird's work is not just a library product but a hands-on appreciation and ongoing dedication to his subject."

— *English History Review*

### **Contents:**

Preface

Introduction: Locating the Georgian Shrubbery and Flower Garden

The Origins of Theatrical Planting

The North American Influx: A Mania for Pines and Magnolias

The First Shrubberies: Circuits, Clumps, and Axiality

The Role of Exotics in Early Shrubberies Great and Small

Flowers in Cones, Crescents, Circles, and Conservatories

Flower Gardens Before Nuneham: The Planting Palette

The Shrubbery Codified

Shrubberies Perfected: Professionals in the Pleasure Ground

Theatrical Flower Beds and Flowering Elysiums

A Flower Garden of Profusion and Luxuriance

Epilogue

Notes

Bibliography

Index of Names and Places

Index of Plant Names

Permissions and Credits



Plate 57 of *The Flowering of the Landscape Garden*: reconstruction as elevation of a planting plan for the flower garden at Hartwell House, Buckinghamshire, redesigned by Lady Elizabeth Lee in 1799. The plans are in the Bodleian Library, Oxford. Watercolor drawing by Mark Laird.

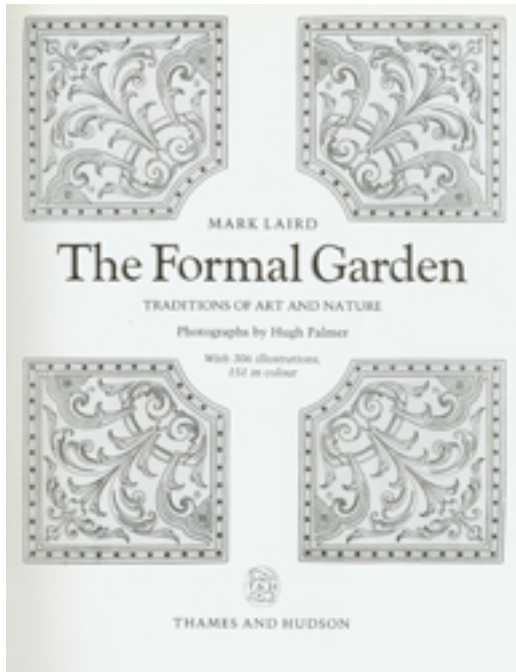
## Publications

### **The Formal Garden: Traditions of Art and Nature**

Mark Laird, photographs by Hugh Palmer  
Thames and Hudson, London, 1992

Mark Laird's long association with gardens comprises a unique blend of practical experience (as landscape architect and adviser on the conservation and restoration of historical sites) with historical research (at Dumbarton Oaks, the Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies, York, and Chelsea Physic Garden, London). In addition to his work as a historic landscape consultant he was Reviews Editor of the *Journal of Garden History*.

Hugh Palmer has contributed to *Town and Country*, *Harpers and Queen*, *Country Life*, and *The World of Interiors*, as well as to numerous books both popular and specialized, including *Trellis* and *Garden Ornament*. He lectures on garden photography in Britain and the United States.



**Contents:**

Introduction: *Nature and Formality*

Baroque Gardens

*The Age of Parterre and Bosquet*

Eighteenth-century Themes

*The Marriage of the Straight and the Serpentine*

Revivals and Eclecticism

*From Broderie and Bedding to Mixing and Massing*

The Past in the Present

*Knot and Parterre Reinvented*

Gazetteer of Major Formal Gardens

Glossary of Planting Terms

Bibliography

Acknowledgments

Index

## Selected Projects



Painshill Park: the graduated evergreen plantation, known as the 'Amphitheatre' and based on the Lord Petre planting plan of 1738, after more than twenty years of growth since the replanting of 1985/6.

Photo: Mark Laird, 24 June 2008.

## Selected Projects



Painshill Park: the 'theatrical' flower and shrub beds near the site of the Temple of Bacchus, based on evidence of plantings in 'Temple Flower Gardens' of the 1730s to 1770s.

Photo: Mark Laird, 24 June 2008.

## Selected Projects



Painshill Park: within the walled-garden living exhibit 'American Roots', this re-creation of a box used in the shipment of seeds and roots shows transportation methods from colonial North America, 1730s-70s.

Photo: Mark Laird, 24 June 2008.

## Selected Projects



Lilacs in the Grove at Horace Walpole's Strawberry Hill, Twickenham (see 'Lilac and Nightingale' under Publications).

Photo: Mark Laird, 25 May 2016

## Selected Projects



The Prior's Garden at Strawberry Hill. Photo: Mark Laird 19 June 2018

## Selected Projects



The Bath House Garden, Wrest Park, Bedfordshire: Replanting to represent how the 1770s garden evolved over 100 years into a Victorian Rhododendron and Fern Garden.  
Photo: Mark Laird, 11 December 2019