

**FERNS IN THEIR
HOMES AND OURS,
PP. 1-176**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649582341

Ferns in Their Homes and Ours, pp. 1-176 by John Robinson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JOHN ROBINSON

**FERNS IN THEIR
HOMES AND OURS,
PP. 1-176**

FERNS
IN THEIR HOMES AND OURS.



BY

JOHN ROBINSON,

PROFESSOR OF BOTANY AND VEGETABLE PHYSIOLOGY, MASSACHUSETTS
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, BOSTON; IN CHARGE DEPARTMENT
OF BOTANY, PEABODY ACADEMY OF SCIENCE,
SALEM.



SALEM:
S. E. CASSINO, PUBLISHER,
NATURALISTS' AGENCY.

BOSTON: ESTES & LAURIAT.

1878.

Perfect copy - J. J. F.
3 parts. all in
WIS 17 2 T. 4



Dedication.



I DEDICATE THIS LITTLE BOOK

To My friend,

EDWIN COURTLAND BOLLES,

AS A SLIGHT ACKNOWLEDGMENT

FOR THE ASSISTANCE HE HAS SO KINDLY
RENDERED ME IN ITS
PREPARATION.

J. R.



Mic. Cas. 4120, 1-24-37

302901



INTRODUCTION.

FERN-CULTURE in America has still the characteristics of novelty, although ferns have long been favorites in other lands; for some of our New-England species have been under cultivation in Old England for two hundred and fifty years. John Tradescant introduced into Europe, in 1628, the *Cystopteris bulbifera* and the Maiden-hair (*Adiantum pedatum*); while other species, including the Walking-Leaf Fern (*Camptosorus*) and the Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea*), soon followed. In the Kew Gardens at London, about the first of the present century, there were eighty-three species of exotic ferns under cultivation, while at the same time there were thirty species in the Botanic Garden at Berlin; and in 1866 the collection at Kew numbered more than a thousand species of exotic ferns. Besides the large collections of famous public institutions, there have been and are many private collections of ferns in

England which rival and even surpass them. The competition is there so keen in obtaining fine specimens of rare ferns, that as much as fifty guineas (\$250) has been paid for a single plant. It is not therefore to be wondered at, that, in countries where ferns have so long been under cultivation, numerous works upon the subject of their structure, growth, and culture, have appeared.

In America there are but few large special collections of ferns, although there are many smaller ones as well as individual specimens of rare excellence. The beautiful ferns, palms, and other rare plants, exhibited by Mr. Such of New Jersey, in a side-room of the Horticultural Building at the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia, was the one redeeming thing among the contents of that great structure; at least, at the time of the writer's visit in June, 1876. This was unfortunate, as it misrepresented the condition of American horticulture, besides being a severe criticism on the patriotism of American horticulturists.

There has not yet been published in this country any work devoted exclusively to the cultivation of ferns. There is, therefore, less hesitation on the writer's part in presenting to the public this little book, in which he has endeavored to adapt the subject and its illustrations to the wants of persons in the United States. He has, during the last ten years, followed in practice the theories and

suggestions of the numerous English treatises on fern-culture ; and, without pretending to compete with these numerous and valuable as well as expensive works, he trusts that this volume may be of service to those in this country who desire to cultivate ferns, and need a guide especially adapted to the circumstances of their home.

By introducing the subject with two chapters on the growth, structure, and classification of ferns, an attempt has been made to impress the mind of the beginner with an idea that a knowledge of these subjects will vastly add to his success.

Numerous authors are quoted in the following pages, and it is believed that due acknowledgment has been made in every case where use has been made of the thoughts of others.

The writer desires to express his gratitude to those who have aided and encouraged him during the preparation of the book. Among such friends are T. F. Hunt, Esq., who has kindly furnished the materials for some of the best designs given in the plates ; and Dr. A. S. Packard, jun., who has not only furnished the valuable plate illustrating the insects which destroy ferns, but has also kindly revised the chapter upon this subject, and added several points of value. Mr. Emerton has given great care to the drawing of the illustrations, and has certainly succeeded in making them all that could be desired.

The reader as well as the writer is much indebted to Rev. E. C. Bolles of Salem for his work in revising the writer's manuscript. And last, but not least, the writer desires to express his appreciation of the liberality of the publisher, Mr. Cassino, who has without objection several times amended the original plan of the book, although the changes have added considerably to the expense of publication.

2 CHESTNUT STREET, SALEM,
JUNE 1, 1878.





CONTENTS.

INTRODUCTION	vii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS USED	xiii
LIST AND DESCRIPTION OF PLATES	xv
I. THE LIFE OF A FERN	1
II. CLASSIFICATION OF FERNS	19
III. DISTRIBUTION AND NOMENCLATURE OF FERNS	31
IV. SOMETHING OF THE LITERATURE OF FERNS	37
V. HOW TO COLLECT FERNS FOR CULTIVATION	48
VI. FERNERIES OUT OF DOORS	54
VII. HINTS ABOUT SOILS AND POTS FOR FERNS	65
VIII. TROPICAL AND TEMPERATE HOUSES	71
IX. FERN-CASES	83
X. FERNS IN THE LIVING-ROOM	107
XI. SPECIAL WAYS OF GROWING FERNS	111
XII. TREE-FERNS	123
XIII. GOOD FERNS FOR CULTIVATION	130
XIV. HOW TO PROPAGATE FERNS	139
XV. OTHER CRYPTOGAMS IN CULTIVATION	149
XVI. SELAGINELLAS	157
XVII. FLOWERING-PLANTS TO GROW WITH FERNS	165
XVIII. FERN-PESTS	168
XIX. CONCLUSION	176

