

**AN ACCOUNT OF THE
HERBARIUM OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD, PARTS I-II**

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An account of the herbarium of the University of Oxford, Parts I-II by S. H. Vines & G. Claridge Druce

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INTRODUCTION

INASMUCH as no account of the Herbarium belonging to the University has been published since the issue, in 1863, of the late Professor Daubeny's *Popular Guide to the Botanic Garden of Oxford* (2nd edition), it is clearly high time that such a step should be taken. Accordingly the following pages have been prepared by the Curator of the Fielding Herbarium, Mr. G. C. Druce, Hon. M.A. On comparing this account with that of Professor Daubeny, it will be seen that, during the intervening thirty-four years, large and important additions have been made to the Herbarium; and it is to be hoped that the Herbarium may continue to increase in the future. But, in view of the limited space available for its accommodation, as well as for other reasons, it has of late years been necessary to exercise discrimination in adding to the Herbarium. It cannot be hoped to accumulate here collections to rival those of Kew

or of the British Museum ; and even were it possible, it is by no means clear that it would be desirable. A less ambitious aim, and one commensurate with the available space and resources, has been adopted ; namely, to render the Herbarium as complete as possible as regards the Flora of Europe and of the countries forming the littoral of the Mediterranean.

S. H. VINES,
Sherardian Professor.

June, 1897.

THE HERBARIUM
OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

THE botanical collections (with the exception of the Museum) are now contained in the building which was erected by Dr. Daubeny, about 1836, as a residence for the Professor of Botany; they occupy two large rooms on the first floor and four rooms on the second floor.

The collections are distributed as follows:—first, the collections of special historical interest; secondly, the Fielding Herbarium, which has become the General Herbarium; thirdly, the British Herbarium; and fourthly, the Cryptogamic Herbarium.

The following is a brief account of these various departments.

I. THE SPECIAL COLLECTIONS.

With the exception of the Du Bois collection, all of these will be found in Room No. 1, on the first floor.

1. The oldest collection is a volume of dried plants (300 in number) which is labelled on the back 'Herbarum

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Diversarum Naturalium Gregorio a Reggio,' the covers of which are made out of an early Italian Service Book. The plants are fastened to the leaves with strips of paper by means of a resinous gum. The plants were collected in North Italy by a Capuchin monk, Gregory of Reggio in Bologna. He was a correspondent of Columna and Clusius, who is mentioned by Haller in the *Bibliotheca Botanica*. The date of the collection is 1606, so that it is one of the earliest in Britain; and it is the more interesting on account of the accompanying labels, which give a very complete synonymy, together with the use of the plant and the habitat, the time of flowering, and in some instances the actual locality where gathered. A contemporaneous copy of the labels in a manuscript volume written by Christophorus of Poggio is contained in the Library: both it and the *Hortus Siccus* were obtained by Professor Sibthorp.

2. THE BOBART HERBARIUM comes next in point of age. It was formed by Jacob Bobart, the younger, probably when he was employed as assistant in the Botanic Garden about 1670. It was originally contained in twelve quarto volumes: these have been cut up, but the arrangement is unaltered. About 2,000 specimens, with the English and Latin names attached, are comprised in it. The plants in many cases are evidently cultivated examples, and no localities are given.

3. THE MORISON HERBARIUM consists of about 5,300 specimens mounted on the original sheets and arranged according to Morison's *Plantarum Historia Universalis Oxoniensis*, the first volume of which (called 'pars secunda') was published in 1680. The second volume did not appear until 1699, Morison having died in 1686. The second volume was edited, if indeed it were not principally written, by the younger Bobart, who succeeded Morison

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