JANUARY 1968

The Boxwood Bulletin

A QUARTERLY DEVOTED TO MAN'S OLDEST GARDEN ORNAMENTAL

Walkway Through The Restored Boxwood Gardens At Morven Park, Leesburg, Virginia.

Photograph from Westmoreland Davis Memorial Foundation.

Boyce, Va.

Vol. 7, No. 3

Address: The American Boxwood Society,
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The Boxwood Bulletin

January 1968 Vol. 7, No. 3

EDITOR — MRS. EDGAR M. WHITING

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NEWS NOTES OF THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY

It is with sadness that the Bulletin must report the death of John M. Mitchell of Stonehedge Farm, Middleburg, Virginia, on January 26 at Fauquier Hospital, after a heart attack.

Mr. Mitchell, a charter member of the American Boxwood Society, had been one of its Board of Directors since 1963 and its Vice President since 1966.

Mr. Mitchell was a graduate of Harvard University, and did postgraduate work at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He was a fighter pilot in World War I, and served in the Navy in World War II. He was discharged in 1945 with the rank of Captain, and then worked in Washington for three years for the Central Intelligence Agency, returning to his Virginia farm in 1948.

The American Boxwood Society deeply regrets his loss, and wishes to express its heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Mitchell and his family.

GIFT OF BOX FROM HOME OF PATRICK HENRY

A box plant (*Buxus sempervirens*) from Patrick Henry's garden at Red Hill, Charlotte County, Virginia, has been added to the American Boxwood Society's collection at Blandy Experimental Farm. This was received as a gift from the Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation, which administers Red Hill. Mr. David Quinn Eggleston of Drake's Branch, Virginia, is president of this Foundation.

Hope is expressed that this special boxwood in our ABS collection may serve to remind us of the inspired leadership and determined effort of such men as Patrick Henry, who began the struggle for the liberty Americans now enjoy.

A picture of the Red Hill boxwood, with a description of Patrick Henry's home and garden, was published in the April 1963 issue of the Boxwood Bulletin, as an except from Albert Addison Lewis's book, Boxwood Gardens, Old and New.

ABS is indebted to Mrs. Mabel O. Bellwood, curator at Red Hill and a member of our Society, for obtaining the plant for the American Boxwood Society and having it shipped to Blandy Farm.

AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY NOW INCORPORATED

The officers and directors constituting the Executive Committee of the American Boxwood Society met at Admiral Phillips' home, Heronwood, on November 4th, 1967.

As the first order of business, it was unanimously voted that the Society should at this time take the important step of incorporation as a non-stock and non-profit organization.

Mr. Woodson P. Houghton, of the law firm of Ellis, Houghton and Ellis, Washington, D. C., and a member of ABS, had generously offered his services toward this end. The Executive Committee gratefully accepted his help, and requested him to have the necessary papers drawn up and submitted to the Virginia State Corporation Commission. Thanks to Mr. Houghton's prompt response, the Articles of Incorporation and the corporate seal were received before the end of December.

An organization meeting of the directors will shortly be held, and application made to IRS for tax-exempt status as an educational and scientific body.

NEW MEMBERS

Added since October, 1967

Brennan, Mrs. John W., 31 Highwood Drive, Avon, Connecticut 06001

Burroughs, Mrs. J. Edward, Mt. Air, Faulkner, Md. 20632

Carlson, Mrs. Martin E., 5121 Westpath Way, Washington, D. C. 20016

Denis, Reid, 9221 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, Va. 22066

Eggleston, David Quinn, Drakes Branch, Va. 23927

Fish, James M., P. O. Box 249-T, Mars Hill, N. C. 28754

Goodyear, Mrs. Augustus S., 1630 Missouri Ave., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20011

Harding, C. B., Courtland, Va. 23837

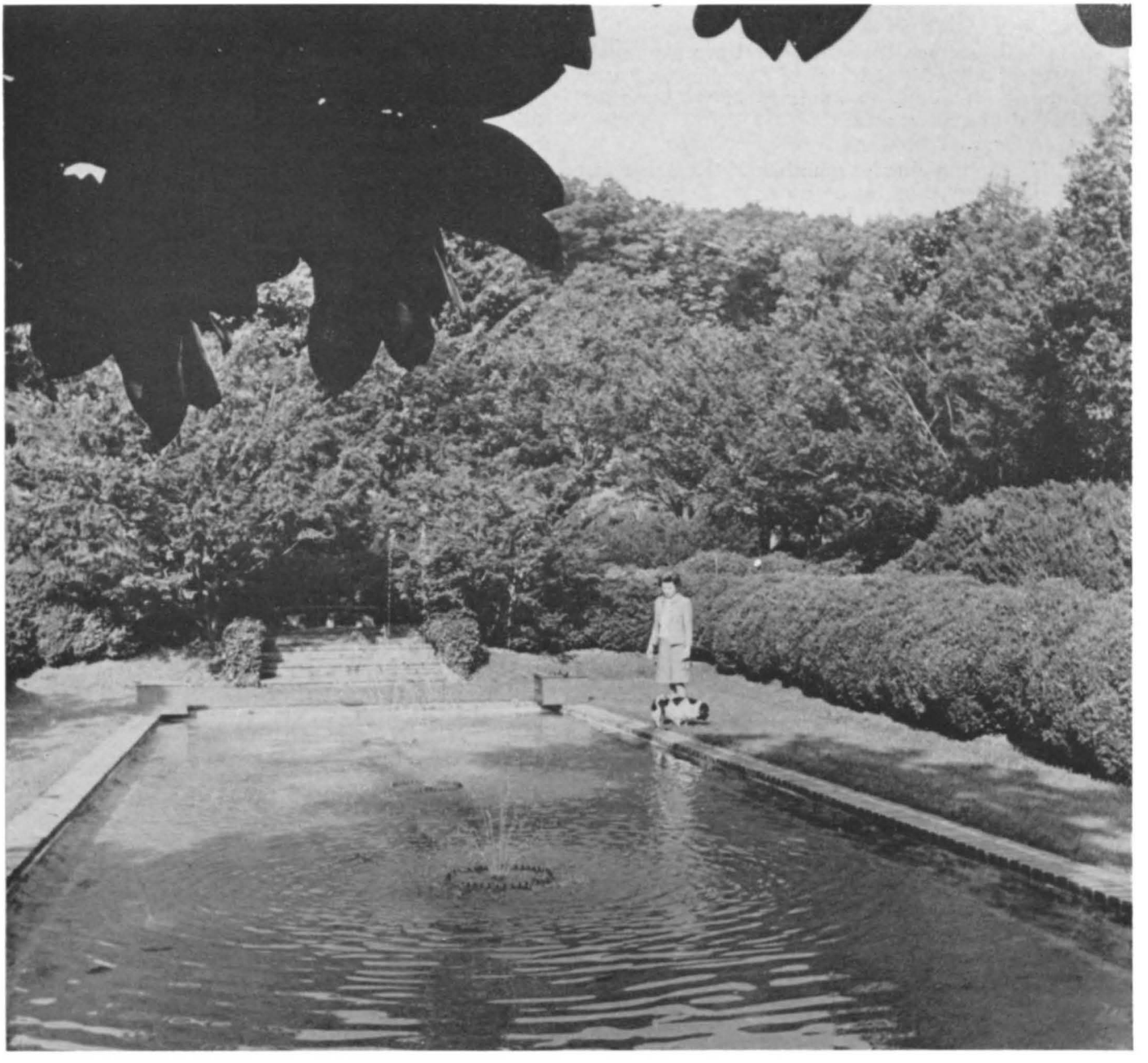
Hughes, Mrs. J. Woodfin, Rice, Va. 23966

Reveley, Mrs. Walter Taylor, Middle Court, Hampden Sydney, Va. 23943

Rollison, John W., Jr., Courtland, Va. 23837

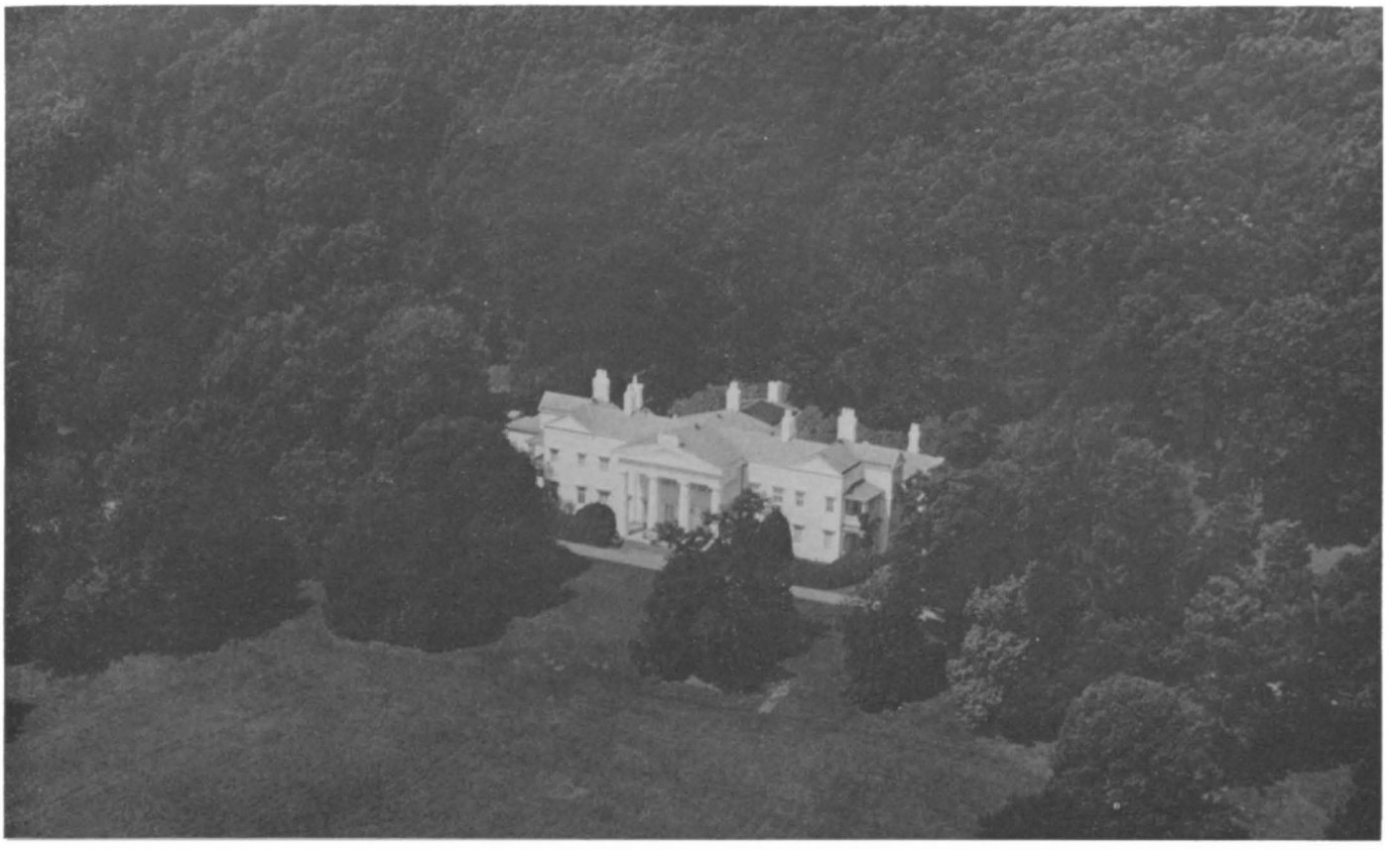
Westland, Perry, Deakins Lane, Germantown, Md. 20767

Young, Mrs. Roland A., 'Dorset Minor', Rt. 1, Box 71, Unionville, Va. 22567



Surrounded by magnolia trees and luxuriant plants of English and American Boxwood, this reflecting pool is one of several interesting areas at the Marguerite G. Davis Memorial Boxwood Gardens. These Gardens were dedicated October 17, 1967, in ceremonies marking the opening of Morven Park, historic home of the late Virginia Governor and Mrs. Westmoreland Davis.

The pool features a trio of fountains whose sprays change their patterns once every three minutes. The gardens and the 159-year-old mansion are currently undergoing extensive restoration, which is programmed for completion in 1969.



Aerial view of the handsome old Greek Revival mansion, framed in some of the hundreds of trees which cover the 1,200 acre estate. Mansion and grounds are being restored to their turn-of-the-century elegance.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES SEEN FOR BOXWOOD SOCIETY IN JOINT EFFORT WITH MORVEN PARK

The Westmoreland Davis Memorial Foundation has invited the American Boxwood Society to cooperate in a joint horticultural research and development program at Morven Park, Leesburg, Virginia, which the Foundation formally opened to the public on Tuesday, October 17, 1967.

Morven Park was, from 1903, the beloved home of Governor and Mrs. Westmoreland Davis, who developed the beautiful gardens and restored the stately Greek Revival mansion. Mrs. Davis took particular interest and pride in the magnificent Boxwood Gardens, now named in her honor. She established the Foundation to carry out her ardent wish that Morven Park should remain a place of historic and cultural significance, with programs of value and benefit for all who come.

The Marguerite G. Davis Memorial Boxwood Gardens were dedicated in a special ceremony in the Gardens in the morning of October 17th. At 1:00 P.M., the principal ceremonies marking the opening of Morven Park as a whole took place on the sloping lawn in front of the mansion. Three of the speakers presented programs for future development at Morven Park. The first of these was Admiral Neill Phillips, President of the American Boxwood Society, who made the following statement:

"Thank you, Senator Bemiss:

Mrs. Profitt, Bishop Chilton, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

The American Boxwood Society, founded in 1961, with headquarters at Blandy Experimental Farm (University of Virginia), has approximately 550 members in the United States — mostly in the Central and Atlantic regions.

We the American Boxwood Society are deeply interested in the boxwood studies that will be part of the horticultural research and development program conducted by the Westmoreland Davis Memorial Foundation here at Morven Park.

Subject to the approval of the Morven Park Trustees and Resident Manager, the officers and executive committee of the American Boxwood Society look forward to the possibility of a joint endeavor with the Foundation in developing an un-

precedented boxwood research program.

We see the emergence of hardier, more luxuriant strains of boxwood, suitable for planting in many regions of the United States, as a major goal of this research.

We also suggest consideration of the establishment and development at Morven Park of a collection of rare boxwood species from many parts of the world. This would be of great value to the world of horticulture and of great interest to the general public in increasing and extending the varieties of boxwood available.

Such joint endeavors of the American Boxwood Society and the Westmoreland Davis Memorial Foundation through these and related projects could result in significant contributions to horticultural science and could make the Leesburg area outstanding as a horticultural center.

In another aspect of collaboration, we accept with gratitude the Davis Memorial Foundation's invitation to conduct our 1968 annual meeting in the environment of this magnificent restoration. We heartily congratulate the Foundation on all that it is doing to improve our American way of life. Even at this point in the restoration, the Marguerite C. Davis Memorial Boxwood Gardens are magnificent to see.

Surely these gracious boxwood gardens will be a showplace for Loudoun County and for all Virginia, a point to which Americans from every state, where visitors from nations throughout the world will come to marvel and to be inspired by the beauty they behold, and where continued scientific and horticultural development will take place. On Behalf of the American Boxwood Society I wish to salute the dedication of these magnificent Memorial Gardens."

As Admiral Phillips mentioned in his remarks, the American Boxwood Society has been invited to hold its 1968 annual meeting at Morven Park. Attendance at the annual meeting has greatly outgrown the capacity of the library at Blandy, and a meeting at Morven Park would give ABS members an opportunity to see the facilities there and to find out what the advantages of an alliance with the Westmoreland Davis Memorial Foundation would offer to the Boxwood Society.

The executive committee of the Society has voted to accept the invitation, and the 1968 Annual Meeting of ABS will be held at Morven Park on May 8, 1968. This is the second Wednesday in May, prescribed by the Constitution for the Annual Meeting.

The April issue of the Boxwood Bulletin will tell you much more about the work that has been done and is to be done at Morven Park, and about the plans and purposes of the Westmoreland Davis Foundation. Speakers for the Annual Meeting will be announced then, with a map to help you find your way to Morven Park. Please mark the date, May 8th, on your calendar.

Mrs. Alice R. Proffitt, President of the Westmoreland Davis Memorial Foundation, and long-time friend of Governor and Mrs. Davis, with Charles L. Otey, Resident Manager of Morven Park, standing by the memorial marker in the Marguerite G. Davis Boxwood Gardens, during the dedication ceremonies held last October.

THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY

EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING

AT MORVEN PARK

Wednesday, May 8th, 1968

Full information in the April issue of the Boxwood Bulletin

Part III (Conclusion) Of The English Summary Of OM EEN STRUIK DIE PALM WERD (A Humble Bush That Became A Symbol)

By Dr. A. J. Bernet Kempers

VIII. The applications of consecrated and ordinary box-tree twigs

The consecrated "palms" — box-tree twigs or otherwise — are, in a way, christianized varieties of the green bough. Consequently the uses made of them, discussed in this chapter will remind us of those referred to in chapter II. In a number of instances — secular as well as ceremonial applications — the twigs used have not been consecrated at all. They are just ordinary box-tree twigs. Part of the data digested in this survey, have been taken from the enquiry made by the "Volkskunde-bureau" of the Royal Academy of Sciences at Amsterdam in 1963.

Ordinary box-tree twigs for instance were put into the mouth of butter-lambs, formerly made by the butter-man and presented to his customers, about Easter-time when the first grass-butter was sold (fig. 21). Likewise the butter brought to a wedding-party in Drenthe, the coffee-pot etc. were adorned with box twigs. This may have some connection with the other uses of twigs at weddings; box-tree twigs used for garnishing a leg of lamb and other eatables, on the other hand, seemingly had a hygenic motive. Sometimes, in past ages, also the dining table was adorned with box twigs. The "immortelle" or box-tree branches featuring as a background for flower-stalls in Rome are chosen for their freshness.

After their consecration in church the box-tree palms are taken home. There they get a place behind the Corpus Christi (fig. 22), above the beds, in the workshop, in the cowhouse, under the roof, in the chimney, in short any place where a special protection against dangers of all sorts, such as disease, fire, lightning, etc. might be needed. In other countries where different types of evergreens and spring-boughs are consecrated similar customs are to be

found. A painting by Botticelli provides an instance of "real" palm leaves put behind a crucifix. Boxtree twigs, both natural and made of iron, may be on an iron crucifix, or the Bavarian variety of the "palmpaas"-like consecrated palm. The Catholics who still keep up this venerable custom no doubt expect to be given protection through the presence of the various types of palms on account of the ritual consecration which has marked out the twigs as *sacramentalia*. None the less their use of these branches is no doubt the (christianized) continuation of the time-honoured usage of putting branches on houses and other objects coming under the heading of the "green bough" (chapter II). As an alternative in some countries other types of objects, such as (consecrated) Easter eggs or parts of ritual bonfires, are used for the same purposes (and, consequently, are affiliated with other, but equally ancient pre-Christian customs).

In case of danger, e.g. when there is a thunderstorm brewing, a prayer is said — often the beginning of St. John's Gospel, a very "powerful" text — and father, mother or one of the children makes the tour of the rooms and stables with one of the consecrated palms as a holy-water sprinkler, blessing (or asking a blessing for) the house. Or otherwise a small twig was thrown into the fireplace.

A consecrated box-tree branch may also be placed on the roof or worked into the masonry on top of the chimney in order to assure the house of a blessing. And why not a similar palm in a new car?

The consecrated palm used to be — and still is, although apparently to a far lesser degree — an honored element in the domestic religious ritual. After having served its purpose for a year new palms are consecrated and take the place of the old ones which according to some of our informants, automatically lost their sacred character and anyhow were removed. It is not thought the right thing just to throw them away or send them along with the dustman, they must be burned.

In the description of marriage-customs in former centuries mention is often made of "palms", apparently green twigs, usually as an adornment of the room, the street, the festival hall, the marriage-bed etc. Twigs of the periwinkle, Dutch *maagdenpalm* (Vinca minor) may be referred to or possibly box-tree twigs. There certainly is a connection between the box-tree and its twigs and marriage or fertility. Box-bushes are among the plants from which children are said to be born. Twigs are attached to the nest of a brood-hen, a bee-hive, the head-stall of a horse etc. There may be other motives for doing so, but one of the (original) reasons may be the wish to convey the vital power of green branches to the animals, as a starting-point for various modernized formulations (if there is anything "formulated" at all as an accompaniment to this traditional act).

Besides putting box-tree twigs on the house a Catholic farmer in the southern provinces of the Netherlands and in Belgium used to plant them on the four corners (or elsewhere) of his cornfields. Again, a prayer was said or some formula referring to the destructive powers of insects, hail and lightning . . . . . girls and boys playing havoc in the fields.

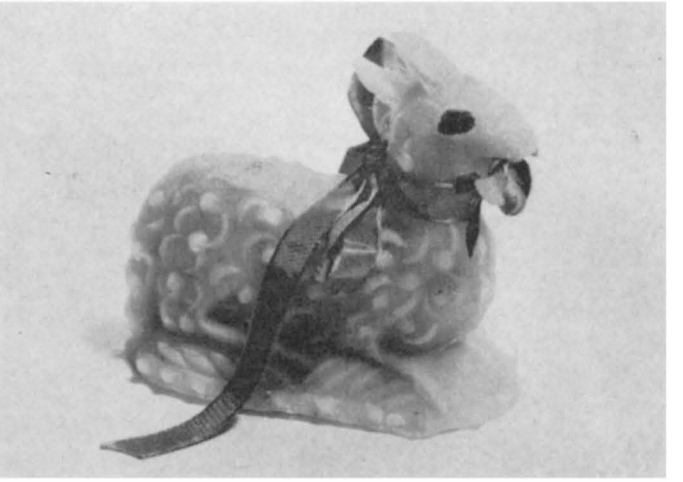


Fig. 21. "Butter Lamb" with box sprig in its mouth. Photograph from Netherlands Open-Air Museum, Arnhem.

Fig. 22. Consecrated Box kept the year round on an iron crucifix (Limburg). Photograph, N. O. M., courtesy of Dr. Bernet Kempers.

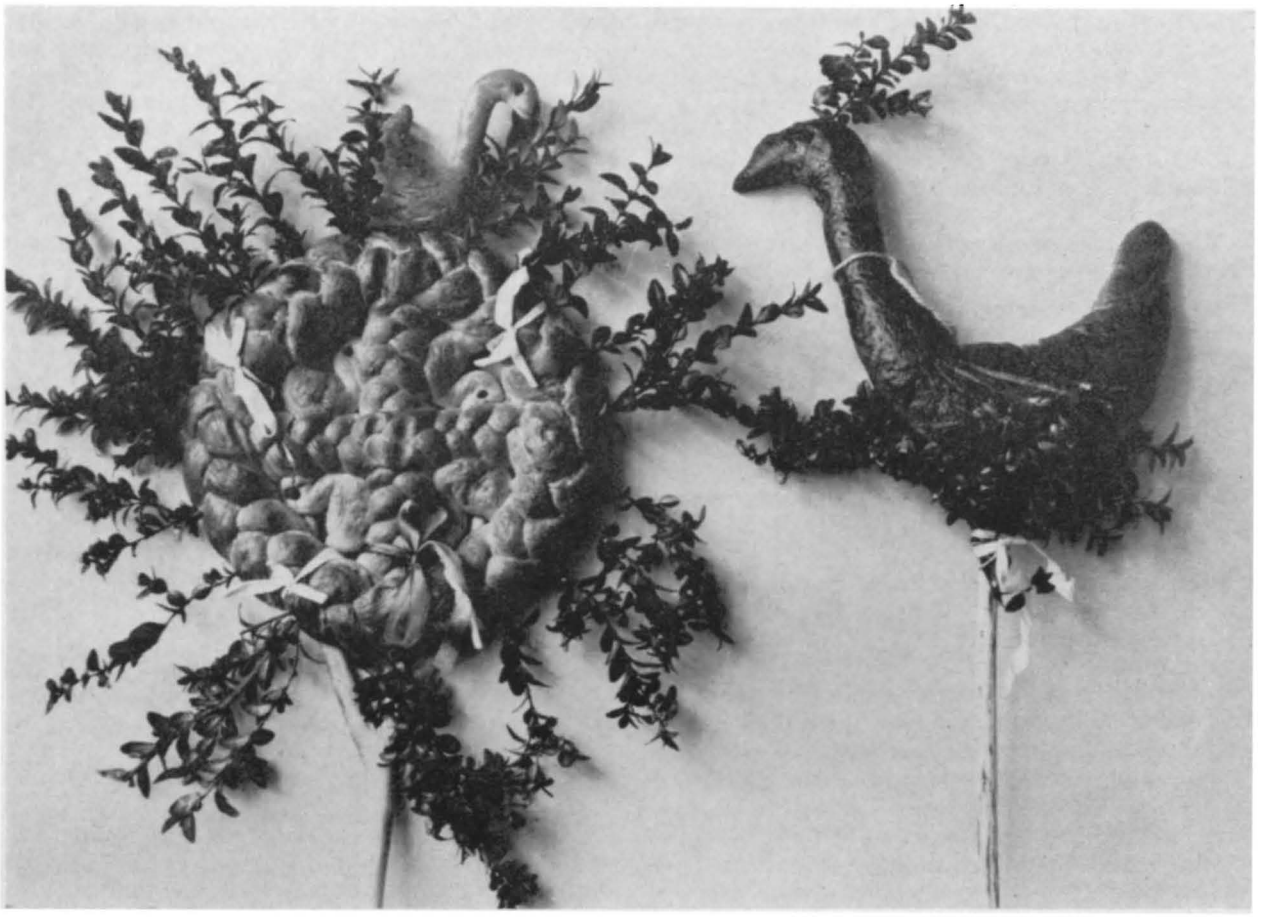


Fig. 23. Two "Palmpasen" from Hummelo, Laag-Keppel. Right, c-type, a wheel of bread surrounded with box twigs; left, an a-type cock. Photograph, N. O. M., Arnhem.

It is, again, no longer the vitality and fertility, or more generally the auspicious power of the green boughs which is being thought of — whatever may be at the background of the custom and, perhaps, at the back of the minds of the people doing it. God's blessing is being spoken of and because of the consecration of the twigs planted in the fields this and other favours have been obtained from God by prayer.

Likewise in Bavaria — to take this instance again — the local type of the consecrated palm is planted in fields and meadows.

Leaves from the box-tree and the ashes of twigs are also put into the heaps of seedcorn in certain regions.

Religious notions and symbols often have an ambivalent, if not multivalent character. It need not surprise us, therefore, when after having discussed various aspects of the box-tree as a conveyor of vitality and fertility, we are now bound to speak of death and virginity. Virginity, for that matter — as we have mentioned in chapter II — is just potential fertility, a vital energy which has not been fully developed and used. And, as far as the "palms" of various denominations are concerned, "death" is

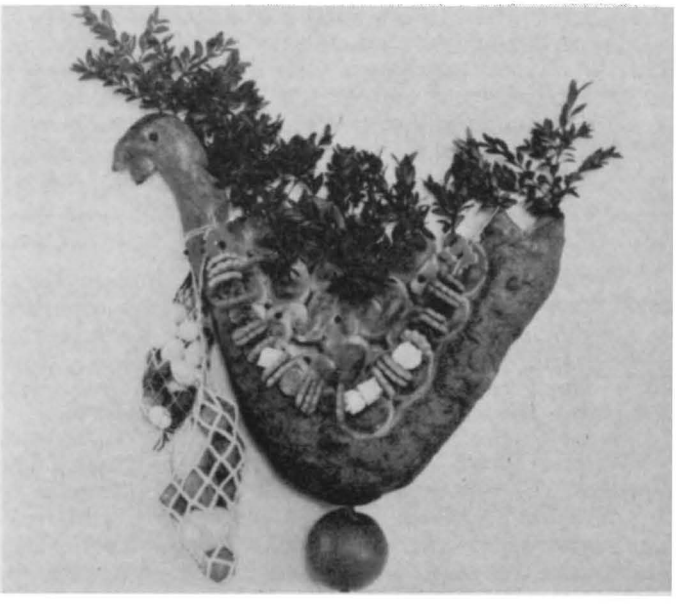


Fig. 24. "Pikhaan" (Pike-Cock, or Cock-on-a-stick), an a-type of "Palmpaas" from Doornspijk.

Photograph, N. O. M., Arnhem.

either regarded as a victory of eternal life over matter, or associated with virginity. We have already noticed "real" palms as a sign of this victory, as well as boxtree bushes on graves. Box twigs (not consecrated) are used for making boughs which are carried in the funeral procession and put on the grave. A parallel may be seen here with the palm of victory, but also with the bough or staff of the *psychopompos*, the prototype of which is seen in Hermes. Customs of this type are especially connected with children, virgins, spinsters and bachelors.

Sometimes — even in England during the Roman occupation — coffins were lined with box-tree twigs. According to some of our sources the introduction of box and other herbs was motivated by hygenic reasons. This in some cases may hold for the carriers of coffins and other members of a funeral procession putting box twigs into their mouths.

The boughs and twigs mentioned so far were not consecrated. On the other hand, in Bavaria in the weeks after Easter, consecrated palms can be noticed planted on graves. This can be seen as inspired by the wish that the dead relatives share in the blessing conveyed by the palms. Or else, it might be compared with the putting of flowers, candles and Christmas-bouquets on graves at different times of the year.

Box-tree leaves, put on a heated iron plate, are used for predicting marriages, the outcome of voyages, etc. Likewise a weather-forecast is connected with the situation on Palm Sunday. If it is "raining on the palms" it will also be "raining on the garlands" on Corpus Christi, people say in Austria. To put the devil and the witches in their places we have reserved them for the very end of this book. The box-tree, for that matter, is the right type of plant to handle them. In fig. 1 the devil, trying to get into these pages from the very start, is being shooed away by a powerful triad consisting of a cocksure cock, loathsome toad and the auspicious and consequently also apotropaeic box-tree. Judging from the resentful expression and twisted attitude of the devil — who apparently has escaped from the theater only a moment ago! — there can be little doubt about the issue of the combat.

Apotropaeic is a somewhat solemn expression for the negative effect of the auspicious powers rooted in the green bough. The latter, as a bearer of a spontaneous vitality — and everything accompanying, representing or prompting it — strengthens life and as such banishes its antipoles, death, disease and witchcraft. It has, consequently, also a — if only secondary — purifying effect.

Green boughs, and among them box-tree branches, are therefore used for various purposes, as a means of either reinforcing persons and situations which are in need of it, or as growing dangers which may be personified as the devil or as witches.

In terms nicely adapted to the theatrical devil of fig. 1 we might style this as: *enter* box-tree, *exit* devil. Or more appropriately at the end of this book: *exeunt sevreally, the devil to the left, the box-tree to the right.*

Fig. 1. in the book, 25 here; to the right. The devil is put to flight by the combined powers for good of the toad, the cock and the box-tree. Illustration from "Neu Kreutter Buch", by Hieronymus Bock, 1639. From "Om Een Struik Die Palm Werd", with permission of Dr. Bernet Kempers.

The English summary of Dr. A. J. Bernet Kempers' "Om Een Struik Die Palm Werd" has appeared in the Boxwood Bulletin in three parts, of which this is the third. About a fourth of the book's illustrations have been used, but the English summary is only about one-fifteenth as long as the Dutch text.

With a Dutch dictionary and the aid of all the pictures, the editor has had tantalizing glimpses of the additional wealth of boxwood history and folklore contained in the whole book; perhaps some day a complete translation may be attained. In its present form, the book is available from the Rijksmuseum Voor Volkskunde "Het Nederlands Openluchtmuseum", Schelmseweg, Arnhem, The Netherlands.

The American Boxwood Society, through the Boxwood Bulletin, most sincerely thanks Dr. Bernet Kempers for his permission and aid to use this unusual and interesting material.

Chicago's "Mr. Boxwood" Heads Development Of New Botanic Garden

Members of The American Boxwood Society will watch with interest the growth of the new Botanic Garden of the Chicago Horticultural Society, whose President is Mr. William A. P. Pullman. This must be one of the most ambitious projects ever to be seriously undertaken by a private horticultural group. Four years from now is given as the absolute minimum of time before it can be opened to the public, and its sponsors and creators hope that it will never be regarded as finished.

The Chicago Horticultural Society plans a garden which will aspire to the quality of the famous Kew Gardens near London, and the Jardin des Plantes in Paris; and, at the same time, will serve as consultant and guide to every gardener and homeowner in the Chicago area. It is located on 300 acres at the north end of the Skokie Lagoons, part of the Cook County Forest Preserve District. The main island will be developed as a series of gardens, to be enjoyed first for their beauty and then as visual education in good gardening design and practice. The administration building will contain classrooms, laboratories and lecture halls for an extensive educational program.

The Botanic Garden may be enjoyed simply as a lovely park, and at the same time may be used by all gardeners in the area, beginners or experienced, as a practical aid toward improvement of their own plantings. Classes in garden and greenhouse practice will be given for children as well as adults.

Plants, trees, shrubs, flowers and grasses native to the Chicago region will be presented in various ways to emphasize the more desirable characteristics of each species, and the conditions favorable to its successful culture. Plants from other areas which may be acclimated for use in and near Chicago will be introduced through a constant research program of selection, hybridization and genetic control. There will be research in pest control to increase the efficiency of non-toxic pesticides and minimize the use of toxic ones. Efforts will be made to attract and hold desirable insect as well as bird species. And the information gained through all this research and study will be passed on to the public in understandable and usable form.

Work on the new Botanic Garden began in September, 1965, the first phase of construction being the exclusion of polluted water from the lagoons, directing it into a mile-long underground conduit. When water is returned to the lagoons, it will be of high quality from an intake 3-1/2 miles out in Lake Michigan. A tremendous job of grading and earth-moving has been done in 1967, so that the shapes of the future lakes and islands are beginning to appear.

Even in these preliminary stages the great value of the knowledge and forethought of experienced gardeners is evident. The cardinal sins of many if not most of our "residential developments" have been avoided. The precious topsoil is not turned under the ground, or even worse, sold for the quick dollar. The construction roads are laid out along the beds of the dewatered lagoons, so that heavy machines and trucks loaded with building materials will not compact the subsoil into the brick-like hardness that too many new home owners have to struggle with. This in itself is a basic lesson in horticulture, from which the whole Chicago area may profit.

The topsoil has been scraped off and stockpiled — largely on the sites of the future parking lots — in massive hills so prominent on the landscape that Mr. Pullman has been asked when the ski tows were to be built on the "mountains". When the rough grading is finished, the topsoil will be spread again to useful depths.

Of course there will be boxwood in this new Garden, for Mr. Pullman is "Mr. Boxwood" in Chicago gardening circles, a sturdy opponent of the general belief there, especially among nurserymen, that it is impossible to grow box in Chicago. He dislikes to be quoted as saying flatly that "Box is hardy in the Chicago area", for he always qualifies this statement with "if it is given a protected situation and proper care". The Boxwood in his beautiful Lake Forest garden (Boxwood Bulletin, Vol. 5, No. 3, January 1966), more than proves his point. His nursery beds are now filled with healthy young box plants, most of which will in due time be moved into the Botanic Garden plantings.

Dr. Francis de Vos, well known to The American Boxwood Society, has been named Director of the new Botanic Gardens. Dr. de Vos has been with the U. S. National Arboretum since 1951; for the past eight years he has been its Assistant Director. He is Vice President of the American Association of Botanic Gardens and Arboretums, and a Director of the American Horticultural Society. He has been a member of two plant exploration expeditions sponsored jointly by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and Longwood Gardens; to the Himalayas in 1962 and to West Bengal — Sikkim in 1965.

Dr. de Vos gave a slide-talk on the 1962 expedition to The Boxwood Society at the 1964 Annual Meeting at Blandy Farm.

V.P.I. Circular Revises Section On Boxwood Diseases

A new edition of Circular 503, "Boxwood in the Landscape", was issued in August 1967 by the Extension Division of Virginia Polytechnic Institute. The principal changes are in the section on boxwood diseases, their prevention and cure.

The circular was prepared by Prof. A. S. Beecher, Extension Horticulturist; R. C. Lambe, Extension Plant Pathologist; W. W. Osborne, Extension Plant Pathologist; and J. M. Amos, Associate Extension Entomologist.

The earlier Circular 503 was reprinted with permission in The Boxwood Bulletin, Vol. 4, No. 3 and Vol. 4, No. 4, January and April, 1965. The revised and updated information and advice of the new edition is again brought to our readers with the permission of the Extension Division, V.P.I., as follows:

BOXWOOD DISEASES

Unthrifty or declining boxwood may be showing symptoms of infectious disease caused by a pathogenic fungus or bacterium or may be under attack from parasitic nematodes. Cankers on limbs caused by infectious fungi frequently follow mechanical damage or winter injury and may kill or severely weaken plants.

Macrophoma Leaf Spot

Both English and American boxwood are susceptible to the disase called leaf spot caused by the fungus *Macrophoma candollei*. On yellow diseased leaves there are many tiny black raised spots. These spots are the fruiting bodies of the fungus. Usually the fungus infects plants that have been weakened by adverse conditions such as mechanical or winter injury, improper soil nutrient level, nematode attack, planting too deep, lack of soil nutrients, or improper soil-moisture relations. The disease frequently appears on branches that have suffered mechanical damage or winter injury. Usually distribution of the disease throughout a boxwood plant indicates low vigor. Considerable defoliation can result, although some spotted leaves will persist on the plant for a long time.

PREVENTION

Removing all fallen and diseased leaves from the center of the plant and burning them will reduce the fungus inoculum. All dead branches should be removed and burned. Improving the vigor of a diseased plant by improving the growing conditions will minimize the effects of the disease.

Canker

Plants that are slow in starting new growth in the spring may be infected by the fungus *Pseudonectria rousseliana* and when new growth does appear, it is not as vigorous as on healthy plants. The leaves on these diseased plants may turn from a normal dark green to a pale, light green and then to various shades of tan. On infected branches the leaves turn upward and lie close to the stem instead of spreading out in a normal bushy nature. Small rose colored or pinkish waxy pustules, the fruiting bodies of the disease-producing fungus, appear on diseased leaves and branches. Bark near the base of infected branches loosens and peels off readily, revealing gray to black wood beneath. Cankers commonly follow mechanical damage or winter injury. Infected branches or plants usually die rapidly.

PREVENTION

Prune off and burn all dead and dying branches. In order to destroy the fungus inoculum when cankers occur on large branches, cut out with a sharp knife the diseased wood and bark down to healthy wood and then paint the exposed tissue with a wound-dressing compound. Each year remove all dead leaves and other plant debris from the interior of the bushes.

Spray with bordeaux mixture (3 lbs. copper sulfate + 3 lbs. spray lime + 50 gallons of water) before new growth starts in the spring to prevent infection. The first application should be made after dead leaves and other debris have been removed from the interior of the bush. Spray again when new growth is about half completed and a third time after spring growth has stopped.

Phytophthora Root Rot

The general symptoms of the disease caused by the fungus *Phytophthora parasitica* are poor growth and foliage which loses its normal green color and slowly changes to a light pale green, ultimately becoming light yellow. Leaves turn upward and lateral margins roll inward suggesting drought. Symptoms may appear on just a few branches or on the entire plant, depending on the extent of fungus infection. Often the bark at the base of the infected branch

dies and may be easily separated from the wood. When the roots are examined, many are dark in color. In addition, there are dark streaks in the wood of the lower limbs.

PREVENTION

This disease can be prevented by avoiding all the following conditions: planting in poorly drained soil, setting plants too deep, and winter injury. Infected portions of the plant should be pruned out and burned. Once the fungus has become established in the soil, it can remain alive for many years. Where plants have died and been removed, soil should be fumigated before replanting with boxwood.

Nematodes

Two major nematode diseases of boxwood are caused by spiral and root lesion nematodes. Plant damage is caused when these nematodes feed upon rootlets causing them to turn brown; most of the small feeder roots slough off. The lower portion of the root system becomes sparse and exhibits much decay.

Root-knot nematodes are occasionally found feeding on boxwood roots. This kind of nematode causes small swellings to develop on rootlets, thereby reducing plant vigor.

Plants are seldom killed by nematodes; however, the root destruction which they cause prevents adequate nutrient and water uptake and also allows other disease-causing organisms to become established in the root system. Such diseased plants gradually decline in vigor, are less bushy than normal, and the foliage is an unhealthy bronze color. This condition is often mistaken for winter injury. The only reliable way of determining presence of nematodes is to collect soil and roots from a diseased plant and have them examined by a plant nematologist.

CHEMICAL CONTROL

In the nursery, boxwood should be started and grown in disinfected soil. Soil may be disinfected by injecting chemicals such as methyl bromide, sodium N-methyldithiocarbamate dihydrate (Vapam or V.P.M.), methyl isothiocynate-chlorinated C3 hydrocarbon mixure (Vorlex) to a soil depth of 6" with a chisel-type applicator. Immediately after treating cover soil with plastic film for 24 hours. The manufacturer's rcommendation and instructions should be followed.

Nematodes can be controlled on established boxwood with the fumigant 1,2-di-bromo-3-chloropropene (Nemagon EC-2; Fumazone 70E). To apply this chemical: (1) punch holes 1' apart and 10" deep into the root zone; (2) drench soil with emulsion of chemical prepared by mixing 1 teaspoon of Nemagon EC-2 or Fumazone 70E in a gallon of water applied at the rate of 1 gallon of this dilute emulsion per square yard (9 sq. ft. or 3' x 3') area; (3) sprinkle plants and area with water from garden hose to further wash chemicals into root zone, and (4) press hole openings closed to prevent escape of fumigant. Soil temperature should be between 55 degrees and 80 degrees F. Treat plants in spring and fall if nematodes are severe. Wear rubber boots when applying chemical and follow manufacturers' safety precautions.

Winter Injury and Sun Scald

At higher elevations and in northern regions young leaves and twigs may be injured by freezing weather and sun scalding. When growth continues late in the fall and begins too early in the spring, leaves and stems are susceptible to freezing. Leaves, twigs and the entire plant may die as a result of rapid freezing and thawing on warm winter days and extremely cold nights because leaves and stems will lose more water than can be replaced when the ground is frozen. Freezing and thawing may also cause splitting and peeling of the bark. Cold, dry winds during the winter may turn the leaves a rusty brown or rddish color.

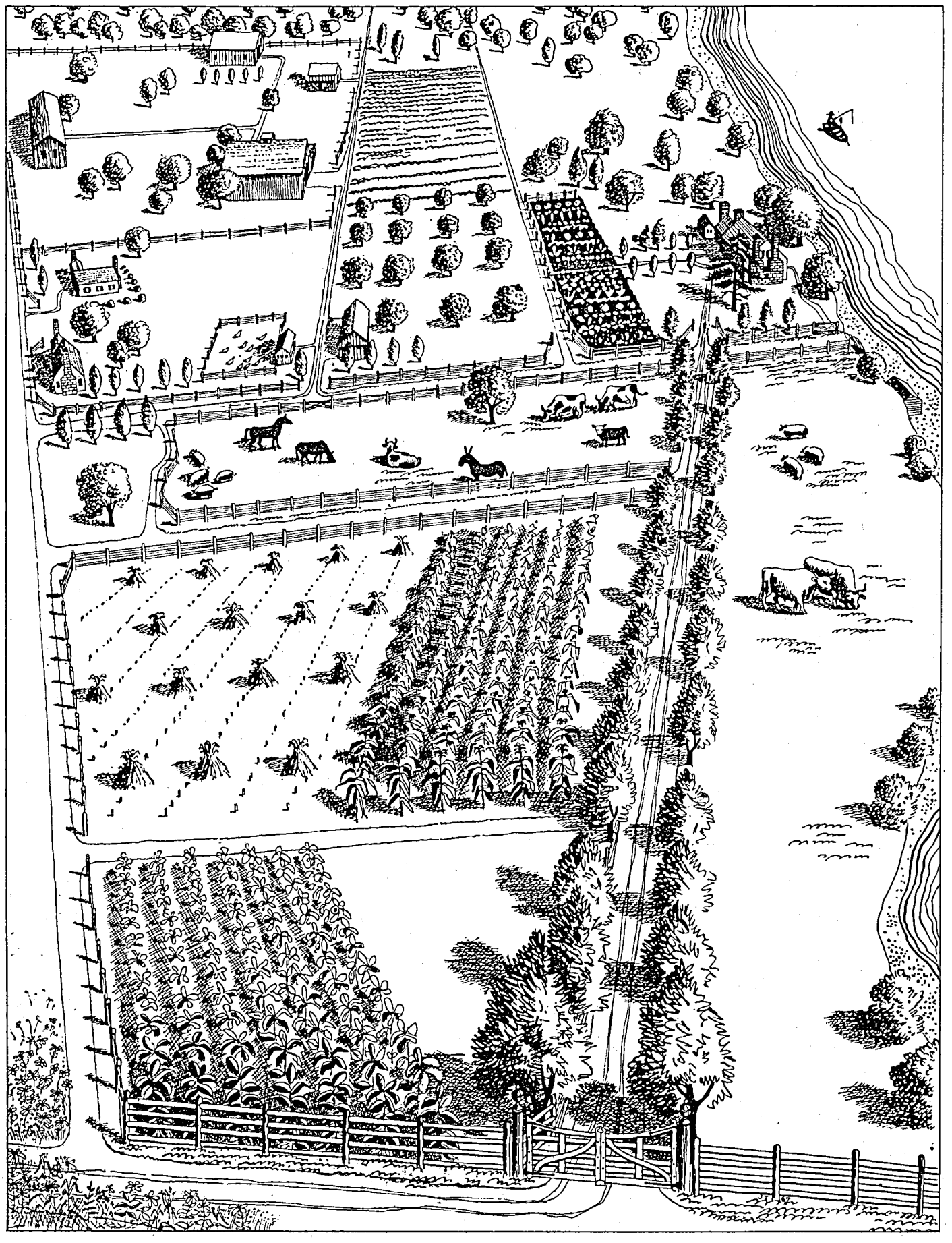
Plants should be heavily watered and adequately mulched in the fall in order to conserve moisture for winter and to prevent deep freezing of the soil. Using windbreaks or anti-desiccant sprays will reduce moisture loss from the leaves during winter. Fertilizer should never be applied after July 1 because it may prompt a flush of succulent growth which will be extremely susceptible to freezing.

In this new edition of Circular 503, the section on Boxwood Pests has been amended in the last paragraph to read:

Good control of boxwood pests (*such as leaf miner and psyllid*) can be obtained by spraying thoroughly in May with diazinon 4E at the rate of 1/2 teaspoon per gallon. A second application may be necessary in some seasons. If diazinon is not available in small quantities, you may use 2 tablespoons DDT 50% wettable powder plus 3 tablespoons malathion 25% wettable powder per gallon of spray. Proprietary spray mixtures will also be effective.

Trade and brand names are used only for your information. Recommendations of the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service and of the Boxwood Bulletin do not guarantee nor warrant the standard of the product, nor imply approval of the product to the exclusion of others which may also be suitable.

Use pesticides with care. Read the labels on containers, follow instructions, heed all cautions and warnings; note precautions about residues. Keep pesticides in their own containers, where children and animals cannot get at them, and away from food, feed, seed or other material that may become contaminated. Dispose of empty containers in the manner specified on the label. See your doctor if symptoms of illness occur during or after use of pesticides.



The National Colonial Farm Progress Report For 1967

By DR. W. RALPH SINGLETON,

Director of the National Colonial Farm

Bulletin number 2 of the National Colonial Farm describes the progress for 1967, with a look into the future. Drawings of the Farm layout including some of the buildings appear in Bulletin 2. This is shown in the accompanying illustration on the opposite page. The 18th century Farm house will be erected on the site of the present house, which will be demolished.

The lane leading up to the house has been graveled and the holes dug for the cedar trees which will be planted early in 1968. When the work is completed and the trees have attained some growth, this entrance lane will look much like that at Morganza, Maryland, built in 1748. The colonial gate has been ordered for early spring delivery.

A site is available for a Boxwood Garden, if the Boxwood Socity wishes to install one there. The site proposed is the one to the left of the house in the drawing, the area designated in the present plan as an orchard. The orchard will be relocated.

An excellent symposium of 18th Century Agriculture was held at the Smithsonian Institution on October 11, 12 and 13. An account of the proceedings is being published by the Smithsonian.

1967 was a good crop year with ample rainfall at the critical periods. Below are some excerpts regarding crops, taken from my annual report as Director:

Experimental Crops at the Farm. In addition to corn, the most important food crop of the Eighteenth Century Colonists, we grew a number of other Colonial crops. Tobacco, the number 2 plant (and the most important for cash) was raised, along with melons, pumpkins and squashes. Considerable interest was shown in a collection of sunflowers obtained from the U.S. Plant Introduction Department. Sunflowers were not an important crop in Colonial times, although they are native to this country. It is still debatable whether they have a place in a Colonial Garden. Bolton sweet corn was grown as a demonstration crop. A considerable quantity delivered to members of Congress brought enthusiastic comment and requests for seed from many Representatives and Senators. Seed will be available in 1968.

Tobacco and melons were grown in almost square demonstration plots. This will be continued in 1968 with several new crops, such as the winter cereals, added. Several varieties are being obtained from the University of Maryland, and two distinctly different types of winter wheat from Washington State University in Pullman. These all will be planted in 30' x 30' plots with a ten foot grass strip between. These hopefully will be planted in early November.

Antique corn varieties such as Virginia Gourd Seed and various Flint types were grown and hybrids made. Some of these will be planted in demonstration plots in 1968.

The herb garden is thriving. Mr. Robert Fisher, horticulturist of Mount Vernon, identified all the herbs and they have been labeled. The Herb Society of Washington is interested in helping to maintain and care for the herb garden.

Opening date of 1 July 1968 set for Colonial Farm Exhibit Area. All possible materials and exhibits will be ready by that time. The showing will be solely crops, with the farm animal exhibits waiting until 1969 when it is hoped to have a year-round caretaker living on the Farm.

Crops exhibit will include herb garden, and demonstration plots of corn and tobacco grown by the Colonists. Some of the other important crops such as winter wheat, pumpkins and squashes, melons, gourds, cabbages, potatoes, cotton and flax will represent varieties of the 20th century rather than the 18th. Considerably more research and breeding will be necessary to identify and develop types of the 18th century. As these are known they will be added to the demonstrations.

Opposite, an architect's sketch suggesting a possible arrangement of the National Colonial Farm area, situated on the Maryland bank of the Potomac opposite Mount Vernon. Buildings, fences and gates will be historically true to the mid 18th-century. Crops and livestock will be those of a typical freeholder of that area and period.

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BOOK REVIEWS:

"The Etiology and Epiphytology of Root Rot, Stem Necrosis and Foliage Blight of Boxwood caused by Phytophthora parasitica fungus"

by—D. K. Bell and F. A. Haasis, North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station Tech. Bull No. 177 *pp.* 1-47, *April,* 1967. *Department of Plant Pathology, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, North Carolina.*

Boxwood diseases are historically vaguely defined. Cold injury, drought, low soil fertility, insects and diseases have been reported in research papers and popular articles as causing similar but not precisely described root rot symptoms. In all types of boxwood, this fungal pathogen *Phytophthora parasitica* has gone unnoticed among the many confusing symptoms. It has been found on the roots of declining boxwood but was not recognized as a major cause of the decline disease. Haasis showed in 1961 that this fungus was capable of killing boxwood under controlled experiments. This present research report aims to define the disease symptoms precisely and to relate soil and climatic conditions to the disease.

Root, stem and foliage symptoms occurring in boxwood plants inoculated with *P. parasitica* fungus from various sources were identical to those described by Haasis in the Journal of Phytopathology vol. 61, p. 734 in 1961. The fungus disease symptoms were very similar to wilt and canker caused by adverse growing conditions such as drought and cold weather. Bright sunlight is partially responsible for the bleaching of dying boxwood foliage on both diseased and unwatered plants. Death of boxwood infected by this disease or from drought was not sudden. With water impoverishment from either cause, the rate of water loss from the leaf when in full sun caused a more rapid leaf discoloration than leaves in the shade. Gradual blocking of the xylem cells was found to result in slow dehydration resulting in decline in leaf cells and consequent loss of the green color as chlorophyll production decreased.

This decline was associated with the presence of this root rot fungus. Boxwood plants growing in heavy shade may have the root rot disease and yet not show the blanched foliage characteristic. But the brownish black stem discoloration has not been noted in any boxwood other than those infected by this fungus. The stem discoloration manifests itself regardless of the several environments investigated. Absolute proof however, requires laboratory isolation of the pathogen. Although the root system is not tolerant of a massive infection of the fungus, the whole plant does show a certain degree of tolerance to the disease. The critical area is infection of the main stem. Small pockets of root infection may exist unnoticed for years on a large boxwood plant. But the plant may be in a state of decline for several years before its disease tolerance is overcome as the pathogen invades the main stem. Then it dies suddenly. The movement of colored dye thru the boxwood xylem tissue showed that this water conducting tissue was non functional when infested with *Phythophthora parasitica* fungus. Water flow was physically blocked.

The fungus disease was obtained from 19 different sources such as boxwood, citrus and tobacco. All types were able to invade Boxwood thru roots, stems, and leaves and were able to kill American and English boxwood. When American Boxwood was inoculated above a forked stemmed plant, the stem above the fork died, but downward movement of the pathogen was stopped at the fork union. When it was inoculated below the fork or in the roots the whole plant died.

Further studies investigated the ability of the 19 strains of the disease to attack other host plants such as Petunia, tobacco, citrus and castor bean.

This is a scholarly work which reports on details of the cause and the symptoms of the disease. It does not go into control methods except perhaps to emphasize sanitation. The influence of a desirable planting site is also referred to indirectly. That is, a site which is too dry or too sunny will cause fast manifestation of the disease if it is present. This causative fungus blocks xylem tissue, resulting in partial or complete stoppage of water upward through the plant. This research will help the pathologist to understand the disease. It is probably of limited interest to the amateur boxwood fancier, due to the technical language of plant pathology.

Reviewed by—J. H. Tinga
Department of Horticulture
Blacksburg, Virginia

Trees and Shrubs For The Southeast

by Brooks E. Wigginton
University of Georgia Press, Athens, Ga.
277 *pp., ill.* $7.50

Brooks E. Wigginton, drawing on his long experience in the practice and teaching of landscape design, offers this book primarily as a guide and help to the hopeful but uuntrained gardener, the new home owner, and all who are asking questions such as; "What kind of shade trees should be planted in the narrow dry strip between the sidewalk and the street? What shrub which will not grow over 3 feet tall might be planted under the bay window on the shaded north side of the house? What plant would cover the bare ground under the old Oak Tree? What are some good evergreens for providing screening?"

Mr. Wigginton believes that any gardener or designer who has a thorough knowledge of about a dozen very good species in several size classifications — trees, shrubs and vines which are quite reliable and desirable in the climatic and soil conditions of his locality — can confidently solve his own planting problems. The emphasis is on the use of plants as materials for landscape design; *what* plant to put *where,* rather than *how* to grow it.

At the same time, this comprehensive study of the vines, ground covers, shrubs and trees of the Southeast — the region between Virginia and Kentucky on the north, and subtropical Florida and the Gulf of Mexico on the south; from the Atlantic Ocean on the east to the Mississippi River on the west — may serve as a valuable reference manual for experienced and even professional gardeners and designers.

The area is divided into subregions; (1) the Coastal Plain, (2) the Piedmont, and (3) what Mr. Wigginton calls the Upper South, for want of an established name. These subregions correspond closely to Zones 9, 8 and 7 on the 1960 Plant Hardiness Zone Map of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, but Mr. Wigginton's planting recommendations take into account variances of rainfall and soils as well as temperatures.

The Plant Lists are based on ultimate size, with a descriptive paragraph for each listed species. These are organized into two sections for each subregion, a preferred list of species considered highly reliable and desirable for that particular area, and a secondary list for restricted use. Plants are ranked also on the basis of form, foliage, ease of cultivation, flowers or fruits, and rate of growth. In considering fast-growing plants with all their faults, Mr. Wigginton recognizes that today's mobile populations create a desire and demand for "immediate effect", and suggests some planting solutions — or, at least, compromises — toward that end.

This book is neither a how-to-grow-it manual nor a textbook of garden design. However, valuable tips on planting and growing seem to slip in from time to time — one suspects, wherever the author has grown and enjoyed some rewarding tree or shrub. Similarly, there is a brief statement of the underlying principles of garden design, and an outline of the major functions of plants as design materials.

ABS members will find several recommendations of Box, although the difficulties of its culture are not minimized. Mr. Wigginton closes one reference: "When all these troubles are taken into account, however, one will still want to grow and to pamper his Boxwoods, and the chances are that they will do fairly well over a long time, provided they are given a favorable location. They are tolerant of nearly all kinds of soils and do not require high fertility, but they must have good drainage. They like sun for at least part of the day throughout the summer, but in winter they should have protection from at least the morning sun and from severe exposure to wind. Their roots are shallow and so will not endure cultivation. They enjoy a mulch. Feeding should be done frugally and only with slow-acting materials in spring and early summer. Watering through long hot spells may be necessary, especially syringing, but this should not continue into fall when new growth should be hardening off. It is said that cleaning out accumlations of dead leaves and branchlets in the centers of old plants is beneficial. Where the preceding conditions can be met, these plants can be counted on to perform with even less care than might be expected, giving a permanence and an elegance of effect unmatched in any material."

H.H.W.

THE MAIL BOX

From a personal letter to the editor:

"Something strange is happening to our larger boxwood trees. On the largest limbs — the stalks that come from the ground — are gouged or gnawed rings going right through the cambium and in some cases completely encircling the limb. They look as intentional as if a human had done it with a sharp file, and are often about an inch apart and completely and evenly parallel. They are about four or five feet up and never near the ground. I find new places in the morning, so it happens at night.

The County Agricultural agent has no idea what it is. He telephoned to Blacksburg and the office there didn't know. Richmond office said it might be the European Hornet. Mr. Schroeder from the Pest and Disease division came from Roanoke and says he thinks it is an animal, not an insect. Blacksburg says it can't be an animal — no tooth marks on specimen of bark. All other trees have been examined and nothing like these marks have been found — just on the boxwood trees. Small marks of the same kind found on large limbs of a boxwood tree on vacated property several doors from our house.

I have sprayed wound dressing on the limbs and hope to save the boxwoods, but new places keep coming. Have you ever heard of any boxwood trouble like this? If you know what's causing this damage *please* let me know."

This appeal for help comes from

Mrs. William M. Maiden,
101 Valley St., N.E.,
Abingdon, Virginia

On of the primary purposes of The American Boxwood Society is the exchange of experiences and advice between members, and especially when such sharing can help another boxwood grower who has difficulties not prescribed for in the regular manuals on boxwood culture. This seems to be a most unusual occurrence, but anyone who has had a similar experience, or knows anything that might help identify and correct this condition, is urged to communicate his knowledge either through the columns of The Boxwood Bulletin, or by writing direct to Mrs. Maiden — in the latter case, the editor would lik to have a copy of the letter for future publication in The Mail Box.

THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY

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write to

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The American Boxwood Society
Box 85, Boyce, Va. 22620

If you have something of real importance — a question of policy, a new project for the Society, a matter which needs top-level consideration, write to

Rear Adm. Neill Phillips, USN Ret'd., President,
Heronwood,
Upperville, Virginia 22176

If you have contributions for the Boxwood Bulletin — articles, news notes, photographs, suggestions of anything of probable interest to boxwood people, it saves time to direct them to

Mrs. Edgar M. Whiting, Editor,
The Boxwood Bulletin,
415 West Clifford St.,
Winchester, Va. 22601

This applies to criticisms and corrections, too — "We regret errors; we welcome corrections."

DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

Regular membership dues of The American Boxwood Society are $3.00 a year. There has been some misunderstanding of the statement that $2.00 of this are for a subscription to the Boxwood Bulletin. It should instead be understood that the Society allots 2/3 of the money received from dues to the publication expenses of the Boxwood Bulletin.

Non-member subscriptions are for groups and institutions such as botanic gardens, libraries, etc. These are $5.00 a year, and run by the calendar year.

The Boxwood Society year runs from one Annual Meeting to the next; from May of one year to May of the next year. Those joining the Society at other times are sent all the Boxwood Bulletin issues for the current Society year, beginning with the July number. Their dues are then again due and payable in the following May. This was voted by the Society to lighten as far as possible the heavy work load of our busy Secretary-Treasurer, who, like all other officers of the Society, is an unpaid volunteer.

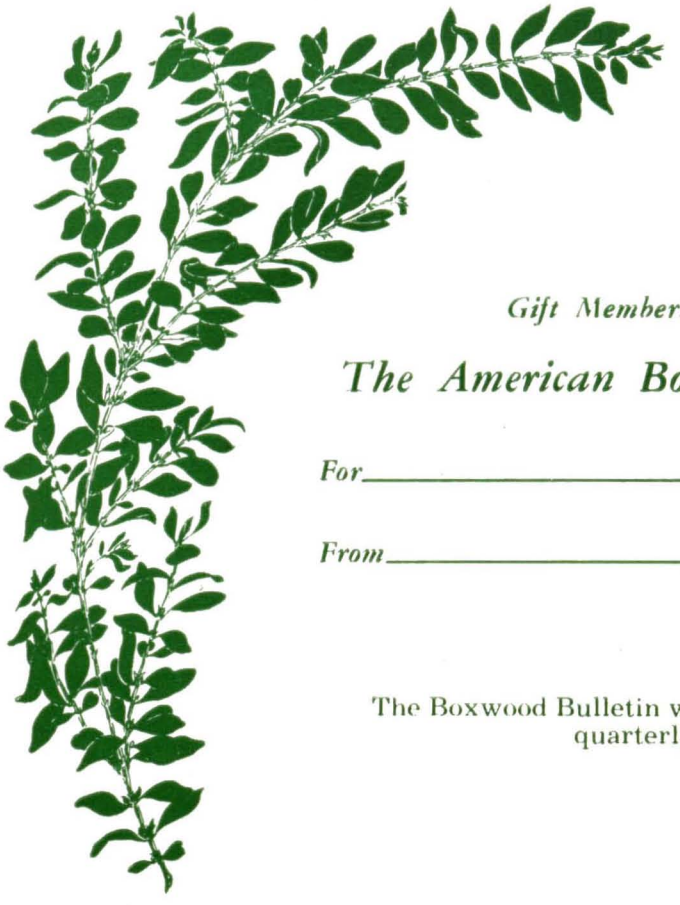
Single numbers of the Bulletin are $1.00, plus 5¢ postage, each. Orders of five or more copies are sent postpaid. At the present time any or all Bulletins are available, back to Vol. 1, No. 1. (Vol. 1 consists of three issues only, there was no Vol. 1, No. 4.)

Besides regular membership dues at $3.00 per year, there are other classes of membership available: Contributing, $10.00; Sustaining, $25.00; Life, $100.00; and Patron, $500.00.

DR. WAGENKNECHT'S LIST OF REGISTERED BOX CULTIVARS AVAILABLE IN BOOKLET FORM

"A Registration List of Cultivar Names In Buxus L." by Dr. Wagenknecht, is available in booklet form from The American Boxwood Society, Boyce, Virginia. This list originally appeared in The Boxwood Bulletin, Vol. 4, *No.* 3, *January* 1965.

The price of the booklet is 25¢ a copy, plus 5¢ a copy postage on a single-copy order or any number through nine. For an order of ten or more copies, the price is 25¢ a copy postpaid.



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The Boxwood Bulletin will be sent to you quarterly.

GIFT MEMBERSHIP IN THE AMERICAN BOXWOOD SOCIETY

Above you see a reproduction of our gift card just as it would go to one of your friends announcing your gift membership to them for one year. The Society year runs from May 1 to April 30, or from one annual meeting date to the time of the next annual meeting.