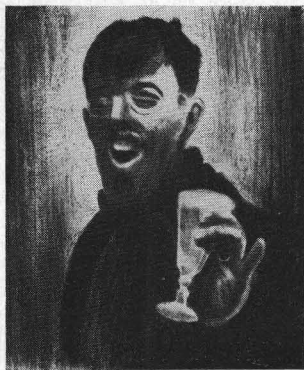


# Notes and News

## A NEW RECRUIT



WE have succeeded in recruiting a new contributor, **Wood Kerne**, to edit these Notes.

In making the appointment we tried to impress on him the need to have all his copy with the printer in good time and his reply was incoherent. We pointed out the difficulties of the Business Editor in keeping up the level of advertising and his comment was unprintable. When we went on to detail the concern of our advertisers with regular and prompt publication schedules he launched forth on a tirade concerning the obligation of those who profit from forestry to support loyally the only forestry journal in the country, but before he had finished so great was the anger developed that the liquid in his glass went on fire.

## CONTRASTS

“I want to emphasise that if you want to change forestry from a 2% to 3% business you must be prepared to make the investment. There must be a sense of urgency to our business. We cannot afford idle acres or stands growing at less than their potential. Again, time is money. We must manage the forest—not allow the forest to manage us.”

(H. E. Morgan. Senior Vice-President, Weyerhaeuser-Company, U.S.A. in a lecture entitled *High yield forestry—the philosophy and the technology*, given at a congress held in connection with the International Exposition of Technology of Forestry and Forest Industries, Munich, 1970.)

\* \* \*

“All you want to set up in business as a forester is a spade.”  
(*Planting for Profit*, issued by Trees for Ireland Committee, 3rd edition, 1974.)

## EVELYN'S SYLVA (see over)

Through the courtesy of its owner, the President of the Society, we have been able to reproduce the title-page of a first edition of the famous *Sylva* of John Evelyn, and to copy some passages from it.

This book, one of the first English text-books of forestry and the

# SYLVA,

OR A DISCOURSE OF

## FOREST-TREES,

AND THE

### Propagation of Timber

In His MAJESTIES Dominions.

By J. E. Esq;

As it was Deliver'd in the *ROYAL SOCIETY* the xv<sup>th</sup> of  
*October, CXCICLXII.* upon Occasion of certain *Queries*  
 Propounded to that *Illustrious Assembly*, by the *Honorable* the Principal  
*Officers, and Commissioners* of the *Navy.*

To which is annexed  
*ROMONA* Or, An *Appendix* concerning *Fruit-Trees* in relation to *CIDER*;  
 The *Making* and several ways of *Ordering* it.

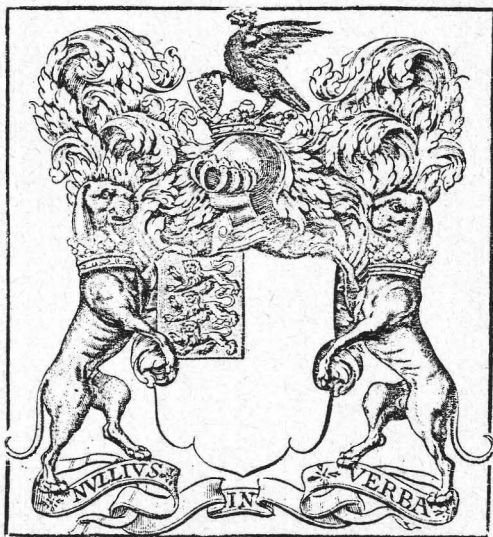
Published by express Order of the *ROYAL SOCIETY.*

ALSO

*KALENDARIVM HORTENSE*; Or, *Gard'ners Almanac*;  
 Directing what he is to do *Monthly* throughout the *Year.*

*Tibi res antiquæ laudis & artis*  
*Ingredior, tantos ausus recludere fontes. Virg.*

Thomas  
 Coll: Dux  
 ex dono Palmf.



Wentworth  
 Lot: Cant. 1710

LONDON, Printed by *Jo. Martyn*, and *Ja. Allestry*, Printers to the *Royal Society*, and are to be sold at their Shop at the *Bell* in *S. Paul's Church-yard*,  
 MDCLXIV.

most influential for about two centuries, was initiated by queries in 1662 from the commissioners of the navy who had become alarmed by the depletion of standing timber. A lecture to the Royal Society was the result, and that was expanded into the book which was first published in 1664 and had run into ten editions by 1825.

John Evelyn (1620-1706) is best known as a diarist.

The present volume is 30 cm × 19 cm, and bears indications of much of its own history. It started life as a present, judging by the inscription (the quill seems to have been of poor quality) on the fly-leaf: "Joseph Liversage this is his booke given him by his Lady. My Lady Arabella (Macartie?). At Farnham greene March 26th 1667." Joseph apparently had it bound, for the spine bears the date 1669.

It was later owned by Thomas Wentworth, a gift from his father while at Cambridge in 1710. He had his initials and date "T W 1711" stamped on the front cover. The bookplate (opposite) is printed directly onto the title-page from an engraved plate.

Another bookplate, stuck on the inside front cover, without a date, is that of William Charles De Meuron, Earl Fitzwilliam. Wentworth was a family name of the Earls Fitzwilliam.

\* \* \*

In his introduction Evelyn writes:

"For it has not been the late increase of shipping alone, the multiplication of glass-works, Iron-Furnaces, and the like, from whence this im-politick diminution of our Timber has proceeded; but from the disproportionate spreading of Tillage, caused through that prodigious havock made by such as lately professing themselves against Root and Branch (either to be re-imboursed of their holy purchases, or for from some other sordid respect) were tempted, not only to fell and cut down, but utterly to grub up, demolish, and raze, as it were, all those many goodly Woods, and Forests, which our more prudent Ancestors left standing, for the Ornament, and Service of their Country."

In these extracts some of the flavour of the original is lost through the absence of the long s's and of the constant italicisation of nouns, which would distract a modern reader.

\* \* \*

#### CHAP. XXI

##### *Of the Fir, Pine, Pinaster, Pitch-tree, &c.*

2. There are of the fir two principal species; the Male which is the bigger Tree, and of a harder wood; the Female, which is much the softer, and whiter. They may be sown in beds, or cases, at any time

during March; and when they peep, carefully defended with Furzes,<sup>1</sup> or the like fence from the rapacious Birds, which are very apt to pull them up, by taking hold of that little infecund part of the seed which they commonly bear upon their tops: The beds wherein you sow them had need be shelter'd from the Southern aspects with some skreen of reed, or thick hedge: Sow them in shallow rills, not above half-inch-deep, and cover them with fine light mould: Being risen a finger in height, establish their weak stalks, by siefting some more earth about them; especially the Pines, which being more top-heavy are more apt to swag. When they are of two, or three years growth, may may transplant them where you please; and when they have gotten good root they will make prodigious shoots; but not for the three or four first years comparatively.

3. The Pine is likewise of both Sexes, whereof the Male growing lower, hath its wood more knotty and rude than the Female. They would be gathered in June before they gape, and cultivated like the Fir in most respects; only, you may bury the Hulls a little deeper. By a friend of mine they were rolled in a fine compost made of Sheeps-dung, and scattered in February, and this way never failed; Fir and Pine; they came to be above Inch high by May: this were an expeditious process for great Plantations: unless you would rather set the Pine as they do Pease; but at wider distances, that when there is occasion of removal, they might be taken up with earth and all; because they are (of all other Trees) the most obnoxious to miscarry without this caution; and therefore it were much better (where the Nuts might be commodiously set, and defended) never to remove them at all, it gives this tree so considerable a check.

7. The domestic Pine grows very well with us; but the Pinaster or wilder best for Walks, because it grows tall, and proud, maintaining their branches at the sides, which the Pine does less frequently.

8. The Fir grows tallest being planted reasonable close together; but suffers nothing to thrive under them. The Pine not so Inhospitable; for (by Plinies good leave) it may be sown with any Tree, all things growing well under its shade, and excellent in Woods, hence Claudian,

*Et comitem quercum Pinus amica trahit.*<sup>2</sup>

9. They both affect the cold, high and rockie grounds; yet will grow in better; but not in over rich, and pinguid. The worst land in Wales bears (I am told) large Pines; and the Fir according to his aspiring nature, loves also the Mountain more than the Valley;

1. It is interesting to observe the use of the name *furze*, still in common use in Ireland, but replaced in England and elsewhere by Gorse.—*Editor*.  
2. And the friendly pine draws up its companion oak.

though they will also descend, and succeed very well in either; being desirous of plentiful waterings till they arrive to some competent stature; and therefore they do not prosper so well in an over sandy, and hungry soil or gravel, as in the very entrails of the Rocks, which afford more drink to the Roots, that penetrate into their meanders, and winding recesses. But though they require this refreshing at first; yet do they perfectly abhor all stercoration; nor will they much endure to have the earth open'd about their roots for Ablaqueation, or to be disturb'd. This is also to be understood of Cypress. A Fir for the first half dozen years seems to stand, or at least make no considerable advance; but it is when thoroughly rooted, that it comes away miraculously. That Honourable Knight Sir Norton Knatchbull (whose delicious Plantation of Pines, and Firs I beheld with great satisfaction) having assur'd me that a Fir-tree of his raising, did shoot no less than 60 foot in height in little more than twenty years, is a pregnant instance, as of the speedy growing of that material; so of all the encouragement I have already given for the more frequent cultivating this ornamental, useful and profitable Tree.

10. The *Picea* is another sort of Pine, and to be cultivated like it

—*Piceae tantum, taxique nocentes*

*Interdum, aut ederce pandunt Vestigia nigrae.*<sup>3</sup>

Georg. 2.

to show in what unprofitable soils they grow; And therefore I am not satisfied why it might not prosper in some tolerable degree in England, as well as in Germany, Russia, the colder Tracts, and abundantly in France: It grows on the Alpes among the Pine; but neither so tall nor so upright.

11. There is also the *Piceaster*, out of which the greatest store of Pitch is boyl'd. The *Teda* likewise, which is a sort more unctuous, and more patient of the warmer scituations.

12. The Bodies of these being cut, or burnt down to the ground, will emit frequent suckers from the Roots; but so will neither the Pine nor Fir.

13. That all these, especially the Fir, and Pine, will prosper well with us is more than probable, because it is a kind of Demonstration that they did heretofore grow plentifully in Cumberland, Cheshire, Stafford, and Lancashire, where multitudes of them are to this day found intire, buried under the Earth, though supposed to have been o'rethrown and cover'd so ever since the universal Deluge: For we will not here trouble our Planter with M. Cambden's Quaerie,

3. Only pitch trees, and sometimes noxious yews, or black ivy announce traces of it.

*Whether there be not subterraneous Trees growing under the ground?* though something to be touched anon might seem to excuse the presumption of it; besides that divers Earths, as well as Waters, have evidently a quality of petrifying wood buried therein.

\* \* \*

## CHAP. XXVI

### *Of the Infirmities of Trees*

**T**HE Diseases of Trees are various, affecting the several parts: These invade the Roots; Weeds, Suckers, Fern, Wet, Mice, and Moles.

1. Weeds are to be diligently pull'd up by hand after Rain, whiles your seedlings are very young, and till they come to be able to kill them with shade and over-dripping: And then are you for the obstinate to use the Haw, Fork, and Spade, to extirpate Dog-grass, Bear-bind, &c.

2. Suckers shall be duly eradicated, and with a sharp spade dexterously seperated from the Mother-roots and Transplanted in convenient places for propagation, as the Season requires.

3. Fern is best destroy'd by striking off the tops, as Tarquin did the heads of the Poppies: This done with a good wand or cudgel, at the decrease in the Spring, and now and then in Summer, kills it in a year or two beyond mowing, or burning, which rather encreases than diminishes it.

4. Over-much wet is to be drained by Trenches, where it infests the Roots of such kind as required drier ground: But if a drip do fret into the body of a Tree by the head, (which will certainly decay it) cutting first the place smooth, stop and cover it with loam and hay till a new bark succeed.

These infest the Bark; Bark-bound, Teredo, or Worm, Conys, Moss, Ivy, &c.

5. The Bark-bound are to be released by drawing your knife rind-deep from the Root, as far as you can conveniently; and if the gaping be much, filling the rift with a little Cow-dung; do this on each side, and at Spring, February or March; also cutting off some branches is profitable; especially such as are blasted or lightning-struck.

6. The Teredo, Cossi, and other worms, lying between the Body and the Bark, poyson that passage to the great prejudice of some Trees; but the holes being once found, they are to be taken out with a light Incision.

7. Conies and Hares, by barking the Trees in hard Winters spoil very many tender Plantations: Next to the utter destroying them

there is nothing better than to annoint that part which is within their reach with *stercus huminum*,<sup>4</sup> tempered with a little Water or Urine, and lightly brushed on; this renewed after every great Rain.

8. Moss is to be rubb'd and scrap'd off with some fit instrument of Wood, which may not excorticate the Tree, or with a piece of Hair-cloth after a sobbing Rain: But the most infallible Art of Emuscation is taking away the cause, which is superfluous moisture in clayey and spewing grounds.

9. Ivy is destroy'd by digging up the Roots, and loosning its hold: Missleto, and other excrescences to be cut and broken off.

10. The bodies of Trees are visited with Canker, Hollowness, Hornets, Earwigs, Snails, &c.

11. Cankers (caused by some stroak or galling) are to be cut out to the quick, the scars emplaistered with Tar mingled with Oil, and over that a thin spreading of loam; or else with clay and Hors-dung; or by laying Wood-ashes, Nettles, or Fern to the roots &c.

12. Hollowness is contracted when by reason of the ignorant or careless lopping of a Tree the wet is suffer'd to fall perpendicularly upon a part, especially the Head: In this case if there be sufficient sound wood cut it to the quick and close to the body, and cap the hollow part with a Tarpaulin, or fill it with good stiff loam and fine hay mingled. This is one of the worst Evils, and to which the Elm is most obnoxious.

13. Hornets and Wasps, &c. by breeding in the hollowness of Trees infest them, and are therefore to be destroy'd by stopping up their entrances with Tar and Goos-dung, or by conveying the fumes of brimstone into their Cells.

14. Earwigs and Snails do seldome infest Forest-trees, but those which are Fruit-bearers, and are destroy'd by enticing them into sweet waters, and by picking the Snails off betimes in the Morning, and rainy Evenings. Lastly,

Branches, Buds, and Leaves extreamly suffer from the Blasts, Jaundies, and Caterpillars, Rooks, &c.

15. The blasted parts of Trees are to be cut away to the quick; and to prevent it, smook them in suspicious weather, by burning moist straw with the wind, or rather the dry and superfluous cuttings of Arromatick plants, such as Rosemary, Lavender, Juniper, Bays, &c.

Mice, Moles, and Pismires cause the Jaundies in Trees, known by the discolour of the Leaves and Buds.

The Moles may be taken in Traps, and kill'd as every Woodman

4. Excrement.

knows: It is certain that they are driven from their haunts by Garlick for a time, and other heady smells buried in their passages.

17. Mice with Traps, or by sinking some Vessel almost level with the surface of the ground, the Vessel half full of water, upon which let there be strew'd some huls or chaff of Oates; also with Bane.

18. Destroy Pismires with scalding water, and disturbing their hills.

19. Caterpillars, by cutting off their webs from the twigs before the end of February, and burning them; the sooner the better: If they be already hatched wash them off, or choak and dry them with smoak.

20. Rooks do in time by pinching off the Buds and tops of Trees for their Nests, cause many Trees and Groves to decay.

These (amongst many others) are the Infirmities to which Forest Trees are subject whilst they are standing; and when they are felled, to the Worm; especially if cut before the Sap be perfectly at rest.

#### DEFINITION

What is science but the absence of prejudice backed by the presence of money?

(Henry James: *The Golden Bowl*, 1905).

#### . . . AND IT STICKS

The following passage appeared in a review of a book on O'Sullivan Beare which was printed in the June 1974 issue of the English magazine *Books and Bookmen*:

"The author had been interested in the Georgian 'great houses' all along the way and at the end of his journey he came to the last of them, the once-gracious planned expanses of Rockingham, the home of the King-Harmons. Osbert Sitwell had considered it the best example of a Nash country house he had ever seen. It survives no longer. After an accidental fire in 1957 the owners handed it over to the Irish Forestry Department, who have gone to great lengths to finish what the fire began. The mansion, which was still nearly perfect after the fire, has been demolished, even its name has gone, and the wooden buildings of the forester's caravan park make an inadequate substitute for Nash's masterpiece. Remembering what happened to Coole Park, Lady Gregory's home, in the hands of the same department, one can share the author's disgust."

#### DEBATE

Mr. Gorey (*Deputy for Carlow-Kilkenny*): You would have to emigrate nearly all the people if you want to plant forests. . . . There



are only a few timbers of any marketable value in this country. All the soft timbers are of value. I could give any Deputy 2,000 tons of hard timber at 10s. a ton. We cannot get a price for it at all. Nobody wants it, or enquires about it. I want to know which of the softwoods is the more suitable? We all know what softwood is.

Mr. Carney: The Deputy knows nothing about it.

Mr. Gorey: Can we grow white deal for roofing and flooring?

Mr. O'Reilly: Certainly.

Mr. Kilroy: Is larch not better?

Mr. Gorey: Nobody but an imbecile would suggest larch for flooring.

Mr. Kilroy: I believe I am safe in saying that there are upwards of 1,000,000 acres of mountain land not fit for tillage, that could be serviceably used by planting it with timber, particularly softwoods.

Mr. Gorey: I would like to know which of the timbers is most suitable for wood pulp?

Mr. T. Sheehy (*Deputy for Cork West*): I rise most heartily to support the forestry vote of the Minister for Agriculture. I commiserate with you, Minister for Agriculture! My advice to you is to be of good heart. You are building up the nation and its agriculture, and afforestation is a part of agriculture. It is one of the planks in that movement.

Mr. O'Reilly: I wonder does Deputy Gorey know the class of timber that is required for the construction of boats, for the ribs, knees and keels of boats.

Mr. Gorey: Or the handles of steel pens.

\* \* \*

The foregoing is not an extract from a Myles na Gopaleen column, nor from the script of a Frank Hall show, but comes from a debate which took place in Dail Eireann on a supplementary forestry vote in 1929. (Reported in John Mackay's *Forestry in Ireland*, Cork, 1934.)

#### A FORESTRY (NOT TO SAY IRISH) JOKE

Paddy and Shamus were passing the offices of the Forestry Commission.

"What does that notice say?" asked Paddy.

"Tree fellers wanted."

"Ah. Well we'll come back again tomorrow, and we'll bring Mick."