



Sharing the best in Gardening



## News from the RHS Lindley Libraries

The nation's gardening collections: BOOKS ART PHOTOGRAPHS ARCHIVES

### CHELSEA

The Lindley Library is helping to celebrate the famous flower show's hundredth year at the Royal Hospital. Iconic images of the Chelsea Flower Show from the Library's archive will be on display around the showground and a special exhibition will be mounted in the Great Pavilion. The exhibition will aim to give an insight into the ways in which the Chelsea Flower Show has grown and changed in its 100 year history. Versions of the display will also go on show at RHS gardens from Tuesday 21 May - Friday 14 June. Visitors inspired to know more about the fascinating history of the show should look at Brent Elliott's new book 'RHS Chelsea Flower Show A Centenary Celebration'.



Above RHS staff at the Chelsea Flower Show, 1913

### GROW WILD FLOWERS!

Visit the Lindley Libraries during **National Gardening Week** (15 - 21 April) and discover books and periodicals to help you use native flora in your planting schemes and encourage biodiversity.

Jenny Steel's **Meadows and cornfields: how to create and maintain a meadow or cornfield to attract wildlife to your garden** (2001) and **Gardening for butterflies, bees and other beneficial insects** by Jan Miller-Klein are examples from a wide selection.

### EARLY EVENING TALKS

Come and join us at Lindley Library London for our spring/summer series of talks - we have a super line up of speakers. Our February and March talks were given by Tom Hart-Dyke and Raymond Evison.

**Charlotte Brooks** 'Botanical Art in the Age of Enlightenment' - 16 April (ref.10335). Our Art Librarian talks about her recent quest to buy three paintings by Barbara Regina Dietzsch.

**Brent Elliott** 'The RHS Chelsea Flower Show: 100 years of triumph & tribulation' - 14 May (ref.10336)

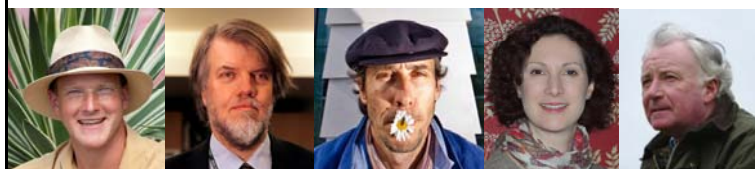
**Steve Benbow** 'Urban Beekeeper' - 18 June (ref.10337). Meet the man with a mission to install beehives across London, encouraging companies to become more ethically focused.

**Brent Elliott** 'The Language of Flowers: tradition or parlour game?' (ref.10406). The subject of Dr Elliott's 10th Occasional Paper for the Lindley Libraries, he explains the Victorian fashion of attributing meanings to flowers as a covert way of expressing personal feelings.

£7 RHS members; £10 non members

Tickets: 0845 612 1253

Doors open 6pm for pre-talk drinks. Talks start 6.30pm



### Newsletter Banner: Rhododendrons

#### LILIAN SNELLING (1879-1972)

Lilian Snelling was born and brought up in Kent and her early paintings feature the wild flowers of her native countryside. Her career as a botanical artist began in 1915 when naturalist and plant hunter H J Elwes commissioned her to paint specimens from his garden at Colesbourne. The following year Snelling went to Edinburgh to work at the Royal Botanic Garden and in 1922 she joined the RHS as principal artist and lithographer for the revived **Curtis's Botanical Magazine**. During her 30 years at the RHS she produced over 740 plates for the periodical, as well as contributing to other publications. She was awarded the Victoria Medal of Honour in 1955.

Newsletter banner, above left *Rhododendron villosum*, watercolour & pencil on paper c.1938

Above middle *Rhododendron dauricum* var. *sempervirens*, hand coloured proof print for Curtis's Botanical Magazine 1922-52

Above right *Rhododendron keiskei* compact, watercolour & pencil on paper 1922

Right Lilian Snelling



# News from the RHS Lindley Libraries

## RHS Lindley Libraries Spring 2013

### London

80 Vincent Square  
London SW1P 2PE  
T: 020 7821 3050

E: [library.london@rhs.org.uk](mailto:library.london@rhs.org.uk)

Open 10am-5pm Mon-Fri

Research collections open by appointment

### Wisley

RHS Garden Wisley  
Surrey GU23 6QB  
T: 01483 212428

E: [library.wisley@rhs.org.uk](mailto:library.wisley@rhs.org.uk)

Open 11am-4pm daily

### Harlow Carr

Open 11am-4pm

T: 01423 724686

E: [library.harlowcarr@rhs.org.uk](mailto:library.harlowcarr@rhs.org.uk)

Open 11am-4pm daily

## ARCHIVES at the RHS

In January the library appointed its first ever RHS archivist with sole responsibility for our extensive Archive Collections. Papers and objects produced, used or collected by the Society will be gradually catalogued to international standards, repackaged, and made accessible to researchers. The task is currently divided between the Lindley Libraries at Wisley and London. At Wisley the challenge is to catalogue items pertaining to the RHS scientists over the past 140 years. At Vincent Square the focus is on the collected archives of prominent horticulturalists.



Above Box of microscope slides of insects and insect parts dating from the 1870s

## BARBARA REGINA DIETZSCH (1706-1783)

The Lindley Library recently added three stunning 18th century paintings to its collections. They are attributed to Barbara Regina Dietzsch, a member of an important family of painters living in Nuremberg during the Enlightenment. The flower paintings have rarely been written about, yet Dietzsch was at the centre of a Europe-wide circle of well-known and influential artists, botanists and writers. Her painting attracted the attention of Georg Dionysius Ehret and she was feted by eminent physician and botanist Christoph Jakob Trew. These three pieces help to enrich the Libraries' collection: they complement the story of botanical art in the Age of Reason; represent a style of painting botanical subjects against a black background, and add to our body of work by female artists.



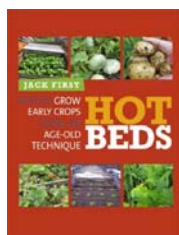
Left Mixed floral bunch with ranunculus, tuberose, anemone, lilac tied with a blue ribbon. Gouache and gum arabic on laid paper attributed to Barbara Regina Dietzsch.

## NEW BOOKS

Jack First's practical guide, **Hot beds: how to grow early crops using an age-old technique** (2013) demonstrates methods of using this revived and modernised gardening system to produce crops without fossil-fuel or elaborate equipment.

**Designing gardens on slopes** by Elizabeth Davies & Ruth Chivers (2012) is aimed at garden and landscape design students and professionals, but will also inspire owners of a sloping site. Takes the reader through the processes necessary to achieve the finished project, such as surveying, hard landscaping and planting, with a useful list of further reading.

**Wild flowers: nature's own to garden grown** (2013) is Carol Klein's celebration of wild flowers, many of which are garden worthy. Carol traces the wild origin of 32 of our favourite garden plants revealing myths and folk lore associated with them. This will appeal to gardeners wanting to use more native plants or who are creating garden wildlife habitats.



To join the library newsletter emailing list - just send your name and email address to [library.news@rhs.org.uk](mailto:library.news@rhs.org.uk)

## RHS Lindley Libraries

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Harlow Carr RHS Garden Harlow Carr, Harrogate, Yorkshire HG3 1QB Tel 01423 724686 Email [library.harlowcarr@rhs.org.uk](mailto:library.harlowcarr@rhs.org.uk)

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