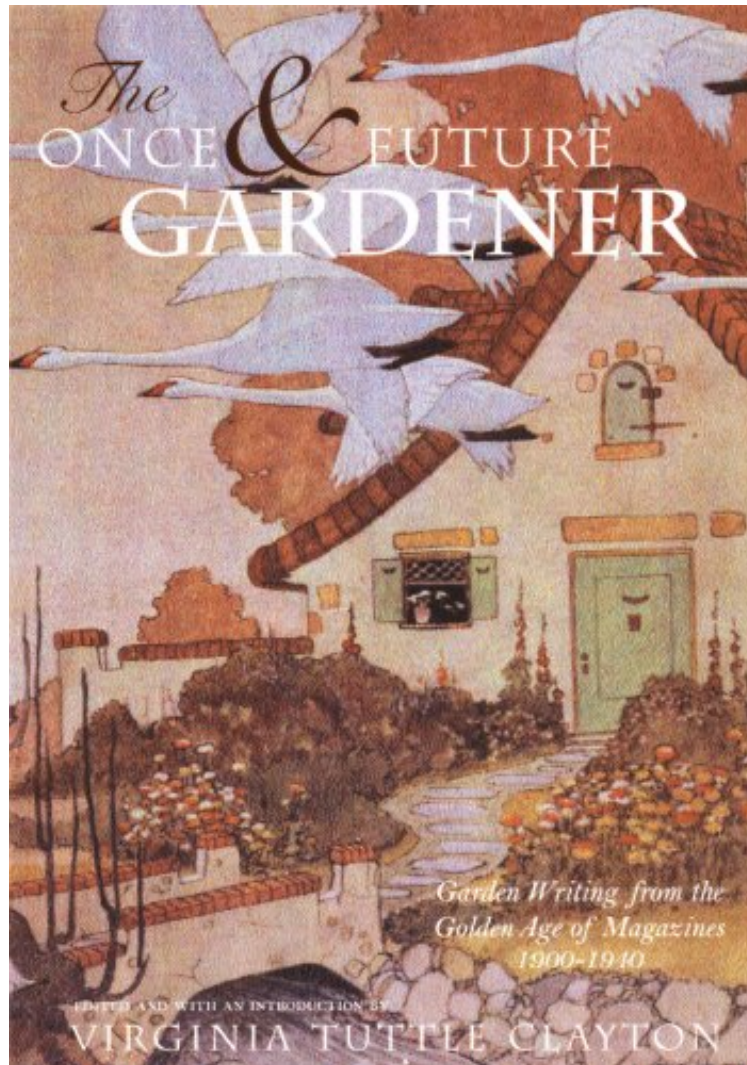


[Download pdf] The Once and Future Gardener: Garden Writing from the Golden Age of Magazines, 1900-1940

## The Once and Future Gardener: Garden Writing from the Golden Age of Magazines, 1900-1940

Virginia Tuttle Clayton

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#1913316 in BooksColor: Multicolor 1999-12-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 10.40 x 1.13 x 7.18l, 2.15 #File Name: 1567921027352 pages | File size: 53.Mb

**Virginia Tuttle Clayton : The Once and Future Gardener: Garden Writing from the Golden Age of Magazines, 1900-1940** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Once and Future Gardener: Garden Writing from the Golden Age of Magazines, 1900-1940:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. One Part Obsolete to Nine Parts TimelessBy SarahA fascinating read. I appreciate the (what now seems to be) quirkiness of the writing, especially in the earlier pieces and the chance

to compare and contrast ideas, attitudes, and practices related to gardening then and now. Aside from the shared discernible antiquity, there is great variety in the writer's styles; some more serious or pedantic, others more playful. There are articles that read more like text books and others more like story books. My favorite of the contributors was Hannah Rion, who wrote two of the pieces featured. Rion's writing falls very much into the playful category. She presents an imaginary situation in which a wealthy uncle has sent her a sum of money which he insists she spend solely on roses. She leads us through her decision process, through which we learn of the main categories of roses and which of each she finds of the highest quality. She very highly rates a climber called Lynch's hybrid. Her description of its vigor gives a very good example of why I loved her way with words: "Wherever you live, you may one day see a strange rose branch looking over your fence, and I'll just tell you now, that it will be my Lynch's hybrid. Not content with spreading in every direction, over all neighboring roses, I'm sure it will soon ignore garden bounds and become a wandering minstrel." Worth the price of admission! Sadly, Lynch's hybrid is among a number of the particular cultivars highly praised within which seem no longer to exist. It seems likely that you'd have to be very serious indeed about gardening to bother with this book, but if you're in that category, you may very well like it as much as I did. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It is a disappointment because it does not include most of the original ...

By Customer  
The vendor who sold this to me should not be trusted, as the book reeks of mildew and I cannot include it in my library because it will contaminate all the healthy books. As for the book itself, it is a disappointment because it does not include most of the original illustrations for the vintage articles. 14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Your grandmother's garden...

By Dianne Foster  
THE ONCE AND FUTURE GARDENER, GARDEN WRITING FROM THE GOLDEN AGE OF MAGAZINES 1900 to 1940, by Virginia Clayton is a collection of articles printed in leading "women's" magazines over the first half of the past century. Although some of the ideas in these articles remain salient, and Clayton has inserted the current scientific (Latin) notation beside each named plant described and/or recommended by the various authors, this book is not as much a garden book as it is a useful resource for garden historians or readers who want to take a trip down memory lane. Clayton has organized the book into seven sections that cover these topics "A year in the garden"; "Gardening with trees, roses and shrubs"; "Flower garden designs"; "Wild gardens"; "Old-fashioned gardens"; "Formal Italian gardens"; and "The Philosophical gardener." Most of the articles are relatively short, and a few are several pages. I most enjoyed the section on Italian gardens which Americans seem to dislike, according to several of the authors, but are the basis for most western garden design. I don't know that I agree with this notion, or even if it is true, but these authors make convincing cases. I had not realized what a profound affect Edith Wharton had had on the garden writers of her time--the early 1900s. She traveled quite a lot in her mature years, principally with Henry James, and she spent a good deal of time in Italy. Her observations about her trips are quoted in several places. This is an interesting book and good reading for those who may wonder what their grandmothers read on those cold winter nights during winter when they planned next year's garden.

The first four decades of this century provided the average American with the best magazines published in this country, as well as our most distinguished garden writing. The first national medium of mass communication, these journals had a formative influence on American culture. Many of their garden articles were by authors we recognize today as singularly fascinating voices: Louise Beebe Wilder, Grace Tabor, Fletcher Steele, Wilhelm Miller, and Mrs. Francis King. But some of the best were by amateurs who wrote about their gardens with wonderful enthusiasm and intelligence while earning their livings in other professions. Virginia Clayton has selected over fifty of these marvels of garden prose and arranged them in chapters covering everything from "Wild Gardens" and "Formal Gardens" to "A Year in the Garden." The book also includes photographs from the articles themselves, as well as a color plate section reproducing twenty-one glorious magazine covers. This is truly the book for the "once and future gardener," a delightful and authoritative reference work that no serious gardener, or garden historian, should be without.

From Library Journal  
Clayton, associate curator of old master prints at the National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC, introduces this anthology with a succinct history of the literature of amateur gardening and of gardening in mainstream magazines. The 59 articles she has chosen from popular pre-World War II titles such as *The House Beautiful* and *Country Life in America* cover a broad range of topics. There are literary essays by well-known professionals as well as more practical ones by amateur gardeners whose advice is often still useful. The somewhat artificial organization is by chapters ranging from "A Year in the Garden" to "Formal, Italian Gardens and the Use of Architectural Features and Furnishings." Clayton provides capsule biographies of the authors and places each selection in its historical context. Reprints of the black-and-white illustrations, plus color plates of some of the magazine covers, add to the reader's pleasure. Recommended for large public and academic libraries. -Daniel Starr, Museum of Modern Art, New York Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

About the Author  
Virginia Clayton is an Associate Curator at the National Gallery of Art. From The Washington Post  
Virginia Tuttle Clayton, an art historian and associate curator of old-master prints at the National Gallery of Art, has spent the past decade studying this revolutionary marriage of garden journalism and home gardening. It was in this period that the *Ladies Home Journal*, *House Garden* and *House*

Beautiful were launched and collectively reached millions of households. Until World War II, these and other magazines, many now defunct, "provide a remarkable record of our largely forgotten past achievements as a nation of amateur gardeners," writes Clayton, editor and creative mind behind a new book on the topic, "The Once and Future Gardener: Garden Writing From the Golden Age of Magazines." Scholarly reviews of gardening during this Golden Age have focused on the estate building of important landscape architects for wealthy clients. The magazine articles--reprinted in the books--flesh out the rest of the story, the gardening interests, skills and needs of the ordinary American, Clayton argues.