American Periodicals: Agriculture (Opportunities for Research in the Watkinson Library)

Leonard Banco

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalrepository.trincoll.edu/exhibitions

Recommended Citation
https://digitalrepository.trincoll.edu/exhibitions/30
American Periodicals: AGRICULTURE
HINTS FOR MARCH
LOWER GARDEN AND PLEASURE GROUND.

March is one of the worst times for a magazine like ours to offer hints for the month. While the southern end of our "parish" the dutches are almost out of blossom, and the rose is well nigh come; on our northern coast "still lingers in the lap of spring," and only a snowdrop has handed its clear white up from mother earth to our admiration. Our hints are always to be taken as general, rather than as special directions—and if in some cases the time should be gone by for any useful suggestions it be remembered and we take in the effect seems very much many unique many years to

There have features introduced the past year hardy shrubs as beds. The little mus, E. radicans a charming border, and such other thin
Series Introduction

A traditional focus of collecting in the Watkinson since we opened on August 28, 1866, has been American periodicals, and we have quite a good representation of them from the late 18th to the early 20th centuries. However, in terms of “discoverability” (to use the current term), it is not enough to represent each of the 600-plus titles in the online catalog. We hope that our students, faculty, and other researchers will appreciate this series of annotated guides to our periodicals, broken down into basic themes (politics, music, science and medicine, children, education, women, etc.), and listed in chronological order by date of the title’s first issue. All of these guides have been compiled by Watkinson Trustee and volunteer Dr. Leonard Banco. We extend our deep thanks to Len for the hundreds of hours he has devoted to this project since the spring of 2014. His breadth of knowledge about the period and inquisitive nature has made it possible for us to promote a unique resource through this work, which has already been of great use to visiting scholars and Trinity classes. Students and faculty keen for projects will take note of the possibilities!

Richard J. Ring
Head Curator and Librarian

AGRICULTURE

Introduction

At the time of its founding, America was an agrarian nation, and the majority of Americans were engaged primarily in farming well into the 19th century. At the same time, the growth of industrialization led families who were not engaged in other commercial activities to seek out opportunities for gardening and horticulture. The great urban American parks were planned and built in the mid-late 19th century in an attempt to protect space for solitude and to artificially re-create a more verdant landscape within the urban environment. Agriculture had certain commonalities across the country, but many unique differences, due to conditions in soil, topography, and climate. The proliferation of local agricultural magazines reflect local needs and interests. The central role of slavery in Southern agriculture lent magazines published there a political bent, especially as the abolition movement progressed and the perceived threat to the Southern agricultural economy increased.

Leonard Banco, M.D.
Trustee of the Watkinson Library
NEW AND CHOICE VEGETABLES.

IMPORTANT TO POTATO GROWERS.

TWO NEW POTATOES!

EXTRA EARLY VERMONT.—Earliest Potato Known.

Seven to Ten Days Earlier than the celebrated Early Rose. Enormously productive, and of excellent flavor. 25c per pound, four-pound package, 90c by mail post-paid.

COMPTON'S SURPRISE.—326 Bushels to the Acre!

An Enormous Cropper, of Fine Quality, ripening a few days later than the Early Rose. Yielded the past season, an average of 145 bushels to the acre. 25c per pound, four-pound package, 90c by mail post-paid.

Orders for either of the above varieties, accompanied by the cash, will be shipped as soon as received, and executed in proportion to the stock on hand. As soon as the demand will permit. Being satisfied of the superiority of the two new varieties of Potatoes offered by us this Spring, THE EXTRA EARLY VERMONT and COMPTON'S SURPRISE, we hereby offer the following price to those who order from the largest quantity on one pound of the Seed purchased from us, with ordinary farm culture.

For the largest quantity of EXTRA EARLY VERMONT from one pound of Seed—$1.00
For the second largest—50c
For the third largest—25c
For the smallest—10c

For the largest quantity of COMPTON'S SURPRISE from one pound of Seed—$1.00
For the second largest—50c
For the third largest—25c
For the smallest—10c

ILLUSTRATED CIRCULARS, giving a description of the stage, and stating what will be required of those competing for premiums, will be mailed to all applicants.

A NEW TOMATO!

THE "ARLINGTON." (See opposite page.)

Early. Solid, and Enormously Productive, patented by Mr. Dwight Smith, of Arlington, Va., and is from between the Early Smooth Red and Poker. Fruit of a perfect form, smooth and bright colored skin, & very tender pulp. The flavor is rich and delicate; the appearance is excellent. It is early, large, and productive, and is recommended to all who cultivate Potatoes. It is the most promising variety known. 10c per dozen; 25c by mail post-paid.

From L. J. Hutchins, Treasurer United States.

I find the "Arlington" has in a few weeks degree all the requisites of a perfect Tomato. I know nothing that equals it. (Signed) A. H. POLK, Sec'y, from the President's Garden.

The Arlington Tomato, tested under my supervision in the President's garden, was superior to any other kind. (Signed) A. J. TUTTLE, (untutled).

B. K. BLISS & SONS,
P. O. Box 5,712.
33 Park Place and 33 Murray St., New York City.

FLOWERS and PLANTS

For the House and Garden.

ALL DESIRABLE VARIETIES.

NEW AND OLD,

Grown at our House in the best manner.

SENT EVERYWHERE BY MAIL.

Among other novelties, all should have the new bedding plant, a WHITE SALVIA.

For catalogue, address B. K. BLISS & SONS, P. O. Box 5,712, New York City.

B. K. BLISS & SONS.

Choice Plants and Trees.

OLM BROTHERS, Growers of Ornamental Trees, Plants, and Flowers. Send for catalogue. Newark Nursery, Newark, N. J.

LAWN GRASS SEED

BY THE use of our improved mixture, a beautiful Lawn may be made in a very short time. For growing a Lawn, and subsequent management, see our Seed Catalogue.

THORNBURG'S LATE ROSE POTATOES.

PLANTS

Sold in small quantities at wholesale rates. New and Improved Catalogue now ready.

E. C. BLISS & SONS.

New and Rare Plants

FOR SPRING OF 1873.

John Saul's Catalogue of New and Beautiful Plants will be ready in February, containing a beautiful Plate of the "Queen of Prettiness"—Primula Japonica. Mailed free to all our customers, to others, price 35 cents. A plain copy to all applicants free.

JOHN SAUL, Washington, D. C.

Choice Plants and Trees.

OLM BROTHERS, Growers of Ornamental Trees, Plants, and Flowers. Send for catalogue. Newark Nursery, Newark, N. J.
Transactions of the Society for the Promotion of Agriculture, Arts and Manufactures

Albany, New York (1801)

This series of papers of the society was an early attempt to place agriculture on a more scientific footing. Many of the articles were based upon observations and experiments made in the late 18th century. Among the prominent leaders of the group were Robert Livingston, Stephen van Rensselaer, and Gouverneur Morris, and the journal included contributions by them and other members. Notable was “Reflecting a plan of a Meteorological chart for exhibiting a comparative view of the climate of North America and the propagation of vegetation” with a fold-out chart by Simeon De Witt; “Experiments on Manures” and “On the Folding of Sheep” by Ezra L’Hommedieu; “On Perennial Grasses” by Peter de la Bigarre; a letter “On the Raising of Potatoes” by Noah Webster; and “Calculation of Profits to be derived from the gross matter, or sediment of Whale Oil” by Benjamin Folger of Hudson, New York, which was then a whaling port.

Papers on Agriculture ... Made to the Massachusetts Agricultural Society

Boston (1801-1805)

Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture—Papers

Boston (vol. 1, 1807—vol. 2, 1811)

Massachusetts Agricultural Journal

Boston (vol. 3, 1813—vol. 5, 1819)

This magazine (along with the other society publications) was another early attempt, this time in Massachusetts, to examine a scientific approach to farming and agriculture. Among the officers of the society were John Adams, Theodore Lyman, and Josiah Quincy. The society offered prizes for those who could discover new approaches to or increase means of agricultural production. For example, the magazine offered $100 for each new method submitted to destroy certain pests (cankerworms, slug worms), and $25 to $50 for new methods to increase the production of meat, wool, and tallow from the smallest number of sheep, as well as for the propagation of stands of trees for wood production. It also encouraged participation by readers in surveys to answer questions such as “How many days of labour of a man are usually employed on an acre of Indian Corn ... including husking?” Many articles were taken from other magazines, especially ones from Great Britain, such as “Hints Regarding Cattle” by John Sinclair and “On the Sap of Plants.” The magazine provided a monthly guide for work to be done in the kitchen garden as reprinted from “Mawe’s Gardiner’s Calendar,” as well as letters to the editor.

The American Farmer

Baltimore (vol. 1, 1819–vol. 4, 1823; issues lacking)

This periodical, issued biweekly and edited by John Stuart Skinner, contained “essays and selections on rural economy and internal improvements with illustrative engravings and prices current of country produce.” It is considered the first American agricultural magazine to gain prominence. Among its fans were Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson, and Timothy Pickering. Most of the material was taken from other recent publications. Examples are “Ruta Baga,” taken from “Cobbett’s Year’s Residence”; Rafinesque’s letter on oil of pumpkin seed as used by the Harmony colony in Indiana; “Cultivation of Indian Corn”; “The Leaf of Tobacco”; and “On the Murrain.” “Notices for a Young Farmer” was taken from the Memoirs of the Philadelphia Agricultural Society. There are other insertions of material, such as poetry (“Ode to the Poppy” by Mrs. O’Neil). An interesting sidelight is that Skinner witnessed the bombardment of Fort McHenry along with Frances Scott Key and was the first to read Key’s famous poem.
Farmer’s Register
Richmond, Virginia (vol. 1, 1833–vol. 2, 1835)

This monthly publication, edited by Edmund Ruffin, was devoted to the practice and support of the interests of agriculture. It focused particularly, but not exclusively, on Virginia and the South, and most of the articles were taken from other publications and signed with the author’s initials. Among them were articles on the rotation of crops, the comparative virtues of native and foreign grapes, the Chinese mulberry, the use of lime and manures, and management of bees and of pests. Brief and lengthy reviews of articles were taken from other publications, notably one on slavery from a Northern and Southern perspective, as well as an update on the newly built Petersburg Railroad. Particularly noteworthy is a prize-winning article, “Agriculture in Virginia” by C.W. Gooch, and an article describing the “Flour Trade of the United States” with tables depicting production throughout the country, by year, as well as exports. This journal is notable for its illustrations of English-style farm cottages quite likely to have been the frontispiece of the magazine, some light reading. Specific content includes topics related to sugar, grape cultivation, potatoes and sweet potatoes, horticultural chemistry, indigo, and manure. Many articles and presentations were taken from other periodicals.

The Southern Agriculturist and Register of Rural Affairs
Charleston, South Carolina (vol. 3, 1830–vol. 11, 1838)

Fifth and last of the pioneering titles of American agricultural journalism, established in 1828 and edited by J.D. Legare, this periodical published original papers on agriculture, horticulture, botany, rural affairs, and domestic economy; and also proceedings of agricultural societies of the United States and Europe, reviews of works on farming, miscellaneous agricultural items, and some light reading. Specific content includes topics related to sugar, grape cultivation, potatoes and sweet potatoes, horticultural chemistry, indigo, and manure. Many articles and presentations were taken from other periodicals.

The Cultivator
Albany, New York (vol. 1, 1834–vol. 8, 1860; issues lacking)

Devoted to agriculture, horticulture, and floriculture and to domestic and rural economy, this magazine is illustrated with engravings of farmhouses and farm buildings, improved breeds of cattle, horses, sheep, swine and poultry, farm implements, domestic utensils, etc. The Cultivator was founded in 1834 as New York State’s official agricultural publication. The goal of the journal was to “Improve the Soil and the Mind.” Its original audience included farmers, mechanics, and especially young men seeking useful knowledge to help further their aspirations, in the tradition of Benjamin Franklin. In 1840, it merged with The Genesee Farmer and came under the editorial supervision of Willis Gaylord and Luther Tucker. It also addressed maple sugaring, selecting which vegetables to plant for the best taste, crop rotation—in general, the best practices in farming. Its illustrations of English-style farm cottages quite likely were beyond the means, but perhaps not the aspirations, of the average farmer. Discussions about the recent potato blight occupied a good deal of space in the magazine, with contributors suggesting their theories for avoiding the disease. Around this time, James Fenimore Cooper submitted his only letter to an agricultural magazine, “Facts being the very foundation of science.” He begins, “It has struck me that the following might assist some inquirer into the causes of the ‘potatoe-cholera.’” He goes on to describe how in 1843 and 1844 he discovered potato rot among a batch of potatoes he had grown from seed imported from Lancashire, England. Despite excellent storage conditions and soil almost identical to that in which he planted pink-eye, rutab, and orange potatoes, the English breed was found to “molder away,” presumably from disease. Cooper is careful to note the conditions under which the potatoes were planted, grown, and stored. He also seems to take satisfaction in noting that these decayed potatoes could be fed to hogs “with perfect impunity,” having no apparent loss in nutritional value.
Horticultural Register and Gardener's Magazine
Boston (vol. 1, 1835-vol. 3, 1837)
The editors state that this work was established to accompany "The New England Farmer" because they considered "gardening a kind of agriculture, and may be considered as miniature farming. The more perfect farming becomes, the more nearly it resembles gardening." They even coined a term, "terraculture" for the convergence of farming and gardening [sounds very 21st century]. They pay particular attention to the importance of cultivating good fruit. The magazine focused on specific flowers, bulbs, fruits, and berries with one hand-colored lithograph by Pendleton in each issue. The publication also gave seasonal advice and solicited articles from readers.

Prairie Farmer
Chicago (vol. 3, 1843-vol. 4, 1844; issues lacking)
Prairie Farmer, which was launched in 1841 by the Union Agricultural Society, was the brainchild of founding editor John S. Wright. One of the leading farm papers of the Midwest, it was the most influential force in the commercialization of Illinois agriculture. Headquartered in Chicago, the paper not only promoted scientific farming practices but also was dedicated to improving rural life through education, recreation, and better health practices. It strongly advocated the study and implementation of new farming techniques. In 1843, there were 300 subscribers, mostly farmers. Many contributed to the magazine, however, as one of them wrote, "rail mauling and writing do not go well together." Obviously, writing was more difficult for some than for others. They were very optimistic about the future of farming in the West despite the cost of shipping, freight, debt, and variable market forces and prices. They envisioned that in the West, the farmers will become the "gentlemen ... men of influence, wealth, and independence." Specific attention was given to growing corn, the most important Western crop, especially for animal feed. They envisioned kiln-drying corn to allow it to be shipped over great distances. Raising pork for meat and lard oil also was a major focus. The magazine reported on regional meetings, cattle fairs, prices for animals, and crops. It discussed treating various maladies in animals and, protecting animals from predators. There also was considerable discussion about the lingering trough in the farm economy after the Panic of 1837, which followed a number of very good years for farmers in the early to mid-1830s.

Monthly Journal of Agriculture
New York (vol. 1, 1845-vol. 3, 1848)
This periodical, edited by John S. Skinner, was focused on the "promotion of agricultural improvement with prize essays from Europe and America and original contributions from eminent farmers and statesmen." All articles, original or not, are unsigned. Articles include biographies of prominent agricultural figures with portraits (e.g., of Stephen van Rensselaer and Justus von Liebig), essays on farm management, and articles on animal breeds, when to plow, irrigation, entomology, cheeses, and manures. There are black and white lithograph illustrations of prize animals and color lithographs of poultry and cotton plants. Tables give agricultural products for each state and year.

Homestead
Hartford, Connecticut (vol. 1, 1855-vol. 7, 1861)
This "weekly journal for the farmer, gardener, fruit grower, manufacturer and mechanic devoted to the interests of producers on the farm, in the work-shop and at the fireside" was composed of excerpts from foreign papers and domestic journals, as well as recipes and comments on local weather, crops, and pests. It also included considerable content on Connecticut news, including reports of individual death and injury from farming, work, and vehicular accidents, as well as local market reports for crops and animals, reports of agricultural fairs around the state, hints on raising pumpkins and grapes and building ice houses, and local industry, such as the Simsbury copper mines and quarrying soapstone at Wolcottville.
There are two main things to be considered in clearing up timber land. One is to level the timber in the most economical manner, and the other to make the most out of it when it is felled. It is a very common plan to let the trees fall in just the direction they may happen to go. They are cut without judgment, and allowed to fall on other timber already cut, or often into the standing timber. This entails more than double work. By throwing the trees so that their logs form a long row through the clearing, and as they fall lopping the limbs and tops from the body, and cutting that into logs of proper size for the purpose for which they are intended, whether for saw-logs, rail-cuts, or staves, the least labor of the common plan is saved. By cutting a tree low down on one side more than half through the stump, and cutting eight inches or a foot higher on the other side, it will always fall towards the side of the lower cut unless it leans very much the other way, when by cutting in the same manner at right angles to the direction in which it leans it may be thrown on either side that may be desired. A leaning tree will rarely fall "across the cut" if the side of the stump toward which the tree leans is chopped away before the other side is cut through. Valuable timber that leans, and is liable to split before it is cut off, should be cut completely through at the heart and one and a quarter length makes 20 feet, another usual size and height for stables. Rail-cuts should be made 11 feet long, and logs for fence-posts 7 or 8 feet long. Posts should be sawed 6 in. × 6 in. square at the butt, and 6 in. × 3 in. at the top. This size saves timber, and gives the posts, on account of the enlarged butt, a firm hold in the post-hole. In sawing logs, when the saw pinches, a thin wedge should be driven into the top of the saw-cut, which opens it and frees the saw. Two or three of these...
Transactions of the Connecticut State Agricultural Society
Hartford (1857)
This single volume includes the organization’s acts of incorporation and constitution, as well as the report of its annual meeting. A report of the judges of the state fair in Bridgeport includes categories in animals, plowing, cheese, grain and seed, honey, vegetables, flour and bread, fruits, and farms. There is a lengthy discussion of the role of agriculture in the midst of a rapidly industrializing state. The author writes to parents, “Do not teach your daughters French, or the thrumming of a piano, until they have learned to weed a flower bed and to use a side saddle.” And to daughters, “Use your pencils freely, in sketches from nature; give hours of study to your botany, and you will find ... a truer refinement than all the French smattering and piano playing, and flimsy novels in the world.”

Cincinnatus
Cincinnati (1857–1858; issues lacking)
This highly literate publication was devoted to advancing farming and farmers through broad education. The focus is on farming and agricultural subjects and ranges from musings on fog and rain to the value of education and how to choose the best fruit varieties. Embellished with engravings, the magazine includes weather and meteorological tables, the minutes of the Cincinnati Horticultural Society, and an early critical discussion of the adulterated milk being sold by farmers to city dwellers. The journal supported the initial proposal to establish land-grant colleges as well as the general study of the science of agriculture.

Horticulturist and Journal of Rural Art and Rural Taste
Albany, New York (vol. 19, 1864–vol. 20, 1865)
The founding editor was Andrew Jackson Downing, an American landscape designer, horticulturalist, and writer, as well as a prominent advocate of the Gothic Revival style in the United States. The magazine focused on horticulture, landscape gardening, rural agriculture, pomology, botany, entomology, and rural economy, with illustrations. It provides hints on grape culture and letters to the editor asking for advice with ornamental gardens, hotbeds, ferns, and icehouses. Some articles are devoted to specific fruit varieties, such as pears and apples, and new or rare plants.

Gardener’s Monthly and Horticultural Advertiser
Philadelphia (vol. 8, 1866–vol. 22, 1880; issues lacking)
Edited by Thomas Meehan, noted British-born nurseryman, botanist, and author who spoke to “the thousands with slender purses and small yards and grounds, and others who, in numberless ways, could be benefited by little hints of a practical caste.” Contemporary critics regarded the magazine as “the premier horticultural publication of its time.” Regular features included columns devoted to seasonal hints, communications, new and rare plants, queries, and editorial notes. Specific attention was given to the establishment of Central Park in New York City as a victory over the usual political struggles that doomed such urban efforts.
THE EXCELSIOR LAWN MOWER 
FOR HAND OR HORSE POWER.

Manufactured by Chadborn & Coldwell Mfg. Co.,
NEWBURGH, N. Y.

BUILDING PAPER!

For Shingling, Roofing, Tiling, Catering, Tarring, and as a substitute for Muslin. Send for Sample
and Price List. To E. E. Hare & Co., 52 E. 25th St., N. Y., or ROCHESTER PAPER CO., Chicago.

BUILDING FITS.

This water-proof material, resembling fine leather, is for outside work (for Stevenson suits and) inside, instead of plaster, felt carpet, etc.; send two stamps for circular and sample.

C. J. PAY, Camden, N. J.

FARMERS, BE SURE AND EXAMINE THE EXCELSIOR LAWN MOWER, a superior Hay Slicer, Thresher and Sower, carried by all implement dealers. Send for full particulars.

50,000 VILLAGERS AND FARMERS 
NORTH AMERICA,
Manufactured by Chadborn & Coldwell Mfg. Co., Wheeling, W. V., and Embroidery, Three other styles at and printing, sewing machines, etc.

NUTRINA,
Made from finest roasted wheat. It will cure Dyspepsia and Constipation, and regular Digestion. It will keep fresh and sweet any length of time, and cook in less time than ordinary roasted wheat. Sold by Grocers. Sample package sent free on receipt of 5 cents. Manufactured only by
NUTRIO MANUFACTURING CO.,
1530 S. 8th St., Philadelphia.

RIZENA.
(The Starch of Rice)
For dessert purposes without equal. For invalids especially fitted—strengthening yet not cloying as other barley food.
DAN TALMAGE'S SONS,
Dry Merchants, etc.,
119 WASHINGTON STREET,
Cahan's Broadcast Seed-Sower.

Cahoon's Broadcast Seed-Sower.

CHEAP CORN CULTURE.

Thomas's Smoothing Harrow
And Broadcast Weeder.

Round Slanting Teeth of Tempered Steel.
9 & 12 ft. spread. Price, $25 to $35.

Owing to the direction of the teeth, the corn—being strongly rooted—is not injured by the passage of the harrow over it, while the tender surface roots are thoroughly loosened.

Over 50,000 acres were successfully cultivated last year by this tool.

In addition to the best pulverizer of all, it is used, as the toast almost solid with weeds, and allows the corn to root firmly, and has been used with gratifying success in nearly every State in the Union.

For full particulars send for Illustrated Catalogue, at our office in every leading town and Village in the United States.

J. J. THOMAS & CO., Geneva, N. Y.

CARMART's
Patent Two-Horse PULVERIZING CULTIVATOR.

Is superior to the best Wheel Cultivators.

It can be adjusted to any depth required without the use of wheels.

The draft is reduced nearly one half.

The price is only Twenty-two Dollars.

It pulverizes the ground thoroughly, and can be used for more purposes than any other implement on the farm.

BRADLEY MASTERS, Co., Syracuse, N. Y.

SESSIONS & KNOX
Patent Hard-Steel Plows

EMBRY in all that the scientific adaptation of natural lines embodied in KNOX'S PATENT, and have extra qualities. It pulverizes the ground thoroughly, and can be used for more purposes than any other implement on the farm.

BRADLEY MASTERS, Co., Syracuse, N. Y.

BRADLEY'S AMERICAN HARVESTER

For Sowing All Kinds of Grain and Grass Seed.

It does the work of five men. Joseph Harris, author of "Walks and Talks" in American Agriculturist, says: "I ought to say that the Bradley Harvester saved a mess of grass seed with it in six hours." For sale at all prices.

D. H. GOODSELL, Sole Manufacturer, Antrim, N. H.

Bradley's American Harvester

We warrant it to cut any grain that grows, and in every condition.

It will do better work, is more durable, and is to every...
The Torrey Botanical Society is an organization for people interested in plant life, including professional and amateur botanists, students, and others who simply enjoy nature. The society, which began informally in the 1860s under the aegis and inspiration of Columbia College professor John Torrey, is thought to be the oldest botanical society in America. The early members were amateur botanists, students, and colleagues of Torrey who were interested in collecting and identifying plants and occasionally meeting in the evening to discuss their findings. The organization was named with the appearance of its first publication, *Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club*, in 1870, and was incorporated in 1871 (it also published *Memoirs* and *Proceedings*). The bulletin began with 30 subscribers and was devoted to “flora of this vicinity” [i.e., New York City]. The magazine paid particular attention to the study of plants in their native haunts, considering that essential to the advance of this science. Lists of plants found in the vicinity, giving genus and species as well as the location in which found, were most useful for the scientist and serious amateur. It is illustrated with line drawings and sketches. Torrey died in 1873, and the Watkinson copy has a photo of him tipped into his biography published in that year’s edition.

Orange Judd championed the idea of clear and concise writing in journals and was able to turn a paper of scientific jargon into something any literate farmer was able to understand. Editors would obtain scientific material from colleges and would evaluate it and make it accessible for readers. He also was one of the first people to practically apply opinion polls—sending out questionnaires on crop reports to his subscribers between May and September and publishing the results in the *American Agriculturist*. Frank Luther Mott, historian and bibliographer of American periodicals, wrote that “few if any of the hundreds of agricultural periodicals which have been published for longer or shorter terms in the United States have had more important careers than this journal.” It absorbed 26 competitors in the 30 years before 1872. This made the *American Agriculturist* into one of the leading agricultural journals in the nation, going from a circulation 1,000 in 1856, to over 100,000 in 1864 and a peak of 160,000 in 1869. However the paper was hard hit by the depression of 1873, and was failing by 1879. It was saved over time and is still published today” [1968]. The magazine was published monthly in quarto format with large woodcuts in the style of *Harper’s Weekly*. Contents addressed crop and livestock prices, advice regarding choices such as “which is the best butter churn” and best methods to cut ice, blast rocks, and lay out flower beds, as well as valuable contributions to scientific farming. There were columns directed at boys and girls and brief extracts of letters to the editor. The journal also is notable for its many and varied advertisements for seeds, oil, mechanical appliances, toys, and even pianos, which give a good sense of what the subscribers were buying in the mid- to late 19th century.
Massachusetts Horticultural Society
Transactions
Boston (1879-1908)

This publication reproduced minutes of meetings and committee reports of the group as well as very extensive and detailed papers presented before the society. Examples include “Influence of Stock upon the Graft” (40 pages) and “Culture and Marketing of Apples” (58 pages). Considerable commentary on each presentation by those in attendance as well as records of prizes awarded for notable fruits and vegetables also were included.

Garden and Forest
New York v.1 (1888) - v.4 (1891)

“A journal of Horticulture, Landscape Art and Forestry” edited by Harvard botanist Charles S. Sargent, Garden and Forest was “instrumental in redefining the fields of botany and horticulture, while also helping to shape the fledgling professions of landscape architecture and forestry”. The lead article of the first issue was an obituary for Asa Gray with a photogravure of a bronze plaque of him. Among the articles are, “The Future of American Gardening”, “The Future of our Forests”, and “Growing Deciduous Trees from Seed”. Regular departments in the magazine included “Retail prices in the flower market” and “Public Works” which described new gardens and parks. Information about new cultivars, notes on various plants and flowers, articles on insects that are harmful to plants, book reviews and questions and answers were also regularly published. Each volume has an extensive index and list of illustrations.

Meehan’s Monthly
Philadelphia (vol. 1, 1891-vol. 12, 1902; complete)

Founded by Thomas Meehan, nurseryman, formerly editor of the Gardener’s Monthly and Horticultural Advertiser, this “magazine of horticulture, botany and kindred subjects” contains beautiful colored lithograph illustrations as well as black-and-white illustrations and later, photos. This highly literate magazine, which had high production values and a restrained tone, was produced for professionals and serious amateurs. It addresses what to plant, how to care for those plants, and recipes. It also contains articles on wildflowers and those that are domesticated. This magazine was the summation of a life’s work for Meehan, produced toward the end of a 50-year career, and it terminated one year after his death.

Rhodora
Boston (vol. 1, 1899-vol. 61, 1959)

The journal of the New England Botanical Club and volumes issued after 1960 are housed in the main library. Rhodora is a journal of botany devoted primarily to the flora of North America. “Special attention will be given to such plants are newly recognized or imperfectly known within our limits” [i.e., New England]. Preference for publication was given to “newly observed fact, tersely stated,” which led to fairly technical and highly descriptive brief articles. The magazine also contains black-and-white lithograph illustrations of plants, seeds, and leaves. In addition to personal descriptions of the discovery of domestic and wild plants, fungi were described in detail, including a fascinating first-person description of the symptoms and the course of an illness due to foraging, cooking, and eating a misidentified poisonous mushroom!
We have received from our much esteemed friend, Major Lachlan of Upper Canada, a most valuable essay on the Insects and Diseases Injurious to the Wheat Crop, by H. Y. Hind, Esq., Prof. of Chemistry at Trinity College, Toronto, to which was awarded, by the Bureau of Agriculture and Statistics of that province the first prize. So valuable do we consider the matter of this essay that we shall from time to time place copious extracts from its pages before our readers.

"There is no branch of natural history which can claim so many distinct objects of study and admiration as that of Entomology."* number of distinct species of insects contained in collections, probably amounts to two hundred thousand. In the Museum at Berlin one hundred thousand species are arranged and classified, which are upward of forty thousand coleoptera or beetles, and computed that all the species of insects taken together, which exist in nature, do not fall short of four hundred thousand.

* is, however, probable, that there are more known species of but the vegetable world has been far more search of than the apparently less striking and A very large number of plants have a valuable, and, without the insects that their lives with a single p