

# **FERNS IN THEIR HOMES AND OURS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649582358

Ferns in Their Homes and Ours by John Robinson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**JOHN ROBINSON**

**FERNS IN THEIR  
HOMES AND OURS**



FERNS OF  
CALIFORNIA

IN THEIR HOMES AND OURS.

BY

JOHN ROBINSON,

PROFESSOR OF BOTANY AND VEGETABLE PHYSIOLOGY, MASSACHUSETTS  
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, BOSTON; IN CHARGE DEPARTMENT  
OF BOTANY, PEABODY ACADEMY OF SCIENCE,  
SALEM.



SALEM:

S. E. CASSINO, PUBLISHER,  
NATURALISTS' AGENCY.

1878.

SB429

R6

TO YIND  
AIRBORNE

MAIN LIBRARY-AGRICULTURE DEPT.

COPYRIGHT, 1878,  
BY S. E. CASSINO.

*Stereotyped*  
By C. J. Peters & Son,  
Boston.



Dedication.



I DEDICATE THIS LITTLE BOOK

To My Friend,

EDWIN COURTLAND BOLLES,

AS A SLIGHT ACKNOWLEDGMENT

FOR THE ASSISTANCE HE HAS SO KINDLY  
RENDERED ME IN ITS  
PREPARATION.

J. R.



646287

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37





## INTRODUCTION.

---

**F**ERN-CULTURE in America has still the characteristics of novelty, although ferns have long been favorites in other lands; for some of our New-England species have been under cultivation in Old England for two hundred and fifty years. John Tradescant introduced into Europe, in 1628, the *Cystopteris bulbifera* and the Maiden-hair (*Adiantum pedatum*); while other species, including the Walking-Leaf Fern (*Campiosorus*) and the Sensitive Fern (*Onoclea*), soon followed. In the Kew Gardens at London, about the first of the present century, there were eighty-three species of exotic ferns under cultivation, while at the same time there were thirty species in the Botanic Garden at Berlin; and in 1866 the collection at Kew numbered more than a thousand species of exotic ferns. Besides the large collections of famous public institutions, there have been and are many private collections of ferns in

England which rival and even surpass them. The competition is there so keen in obtaining fine specimens of rare ferns, that as much as fifty guineas (\$250) has been paid for a single plant. It is not therefore to be wondered at, that, in countries where ferns have so long been under cultivation, numerous works upon the subject of their structure, growth, and culture, have appeared.

In America there are but few large special collections of ferns, although there are many smaller ones as well as individual specimens of rare excellence. The beautiful ferns, palms, and other rare plants, exhibited by Mr. Such of New Jersey, in a side-room of the Horticultural Building at the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia, was the one redeeming thing among the contents of that great structure; at least, at the time of the writer's visit in June, 1876. This was unfortunate, as it misrepresented the condition of American horticulture, besides being a severe criticism on the patriotism of American horticulturists.

There has not yet been published in this country any work devoted exclusively to the cultivation of ferns. There is, therefore, less hesitation on the writer's part in presenting to the public this little book, in which he has endeavored to adapt the subject and its illustrations to the wants of persons in the United States. He has, during the last ten years, followed in practice the theories and

suggestions of the numerous English treatises on fern-culture ; and, without pretending to compete with these numerous and valuable as well as expensive works, he trusts that this volume may be of service to those in this country who desire to cultivate ferns, and need a guide especially adapted to the circumstances of their home.

By introducing the subject with two chapters on the growth, structure, and classification of ferns, an attempt has been made to impress the mind of the beginner with an idea that a knowledge of these subjects will vastly add to his success.

Numerous authors are quoted in the following pages, and it is believed that due acknowledgment has been made in every case where use has been made of the thoughts of others.

The writer desires to express his gratitude to those who have aided and encouraged him during the preparation of the book. Among such friends are T. F. Hunt, Esq., who has kindly furnished the materials for some of the best designs given in the plates ; and Dr. A. S. Packard, jun., who has not only furnished the valuable plate illustrating the insects which destroy ferns, but has also kindly revised the chapter upon this subject, and added several points of value. Mr. Emerton has given great care to the drawing of the illustrations, and has certainly succeeded in making them all that could be desired.