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978-1-108-03715-0 - Catalogue of Plants Cultivated in the Garden of John Gerard, in the Years 1596-1599

Edited by Benjamin Daydon Jackson

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### **Catalogue of Plants Cultivated in the Garden of John Gerard, in the Years 1596-1599**

For twenty years, the herbalist John Gerard (1545–1612) served as superintendent of the gardens of Elizabeth I's minister, Lord Burghley. The 1596 edition of Gerard's *Catalogus* is probably the first complete catalogue of any one garden, public or private, ever published. Describing his own garden, the list includes frankincense, saffron, an almond tree and even tulips, then exotic and notoriously costly. Probably intended originally only for the interest of Gerard's friends, and containing numerous errors, it progressed in 1599 into a new, improved edition for a much wider readership. In this book, first published privately in 1876, the botanist Benjamin Daydon Jackson (1846–1927) reproduces both editions, preserving the original errors and adding a memoir of the author that demonstrates the depth of his own research. With the modern names of the plants printed beside their earlier counterparts, Jackson's text is a fascinating resource for historical botanists and taxonomists.

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A  
CATALOGUE OF PLANTS

CULTIVATED

IN THE GARDEN OF

JOHN GERARD,

*In the years 1596—1599.*

EDITED

WITH NOTES, REFERENCES TO GERARD'S *HERBALL*, THE

ADDITION OF MODERN NAMES,

AND

A LIFE OF THE AUTHOR,

BY

BENJAMIN DAYDON JACKSON, F.L.S.

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*Privately printed.*

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LONDON.

1876.

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## INTRODUCTION.

In issuing this edition of an exceedingly scarce and interesting work, a short account of the book itself, and of the Editor's additions, will be expected.

My aim has been to give an exact copy of the first edition of Gerard's Catalogue of his Garden, line for line, and letter for letter, carefully retaining the printer's errors, but not attempting an absolute facsimile. The various borders, head and tailpieces, and the type, are imitated as nearly as could be done with modern appliances, but I have not copied turned letters, letters from a wrong fount, nor certain curious braces, which, no doubt intended to bracket together nearly allied species, were strangely misapplied. The original printing is very bad, in some places very black, in others as faint; Italic, and small capitals are frequently used in place of Roman; as the printer, Robinson, was living at that time in "Fewter lane," not very far from Gerard's abode, that was probably the reason for the work being given to him. Lord Burleigh's coat of arms, on verso of title, which I have omitted, was worked from the same block which was employed for the Herball in the following year.

Next in order will be found a reprint of the second edition of the same work, having in the original two vertical columns, the first in Italic type, containing the Latin names, the second, the English equivalent; I have followed this plan, so far as the style of type is concerned, but on a smaller scale; and for the sake of economising space, I have not repeated the leading name of each plant, when it occurs more than once, but merely give the initial, according to modern usage. Following the Gerardian names, will be found references to the Herball (1597), so far as I have been able to correlate the plants of the Catalogue with those of the

larger work, no easy matter in many cases from the names failing to correspond ; the references are to the correct numbers of the pages which are sometimes at variance with the printed numbers. A dash —— following the English name, indicates that I am not able to quote the plant as occurring in the Herball ; where Johnson criticises Gerard, gives a better figure, or supplies one wanting in the Author's edition, I have also quoted the edition of 1633. It will be seen that extracts from the Herball are frequently supplied, when likely to add interest to the account of the several plants. In a few other cases, I have referred to the other works, for which I must refer the reader to the list of books quoted. With very few exceptions, I have strictly adhered to the original order in which the items occur, an occasional transposition having been made for the sake of convenience, and a very few obvious misprints corrected.

The names given last are in Clarendon type, and are those in modern use. In reducing the old nomenclature to its modern equivalents, I have made free use of contemporaneous botany. Johnson's edition of Gerard's Herball (1633), Bauhin's Pinax (1623), and Ray's *Historia Plantarum* (1686-1704), were in constant requisition, whilst Aiton's *Hortus Kewensis*, ed. II. (1810-13) was of great service in checking the results. Many otherwise doubtful plants have been determined by help of the Sloane Herbarium, the possession of which, contributes to render the British Museum unrivalled for such researches ; the only other place, in this country at all events, where similar facilities are obtainable, is Oxford, from the Sherardian Library and Herbarium in the Botanic Garden there. The vagueness noticeable in Gerard's works, has proved a constant source of annoyance and possible error in the task of determination ; I have, however, succeeded in escaping some mistakes which my predecessors in this unfrequented field have committed. How far I have completely avoided error, I of course cannot tell, but I may honestly state, that I have spared neither time nor pains to render this work as accurate throughout as possible ; those who have engaged in similar work to mine, will, I doubt not, look leniently upon the shortcomings of this work, to which I cannot blind myself. It has frequently been necessary, from the total incompatibility of the English and Latin names, to judge by probabilities, which denomination to follow.

The typographical execution of the second edition is far superior to that of the first, as will be seen on inspection even of this reprint ; the original pagination I have indicated by figures placed in the margin. The only copy of the first edition, so far as I am aware, is that in the British Museum, (Press mark, C. 18. b.) formerly in the possession of Sir Hans Sloane ; this is the copy described by Dryander in

Bibl. Banks, and followed by Pritzel, there is also a MS. copy in the Banksian collection, in the Botanical Department of the same institution. The second edition although far from common, is to be met with occasionally in private hands, as well as in public libraries. It is erroneously described by Pritzel in both editions of his *Thesaurus*, from the copy in the Bodleian Library, as a quarto; it is really a small folio. An example to which great interest is attached, is bound up with a copy of the *Herball*, now in the Botanical Department of the British Museum, and formerly belonging to James Petiver; this has suffered from the depredations of mice, and injudicious trimming of the gnawed edges to conceal that injury as much as possible. Petiver has written on the title page “*Ex dono generosi D. R. Reynardson,*” and the epithet “*cornicula æsopica Clusii*” has been added to the author’s name by some earlier owner. A few MS. notes are scattered through this copy, and the certificate has been defaced as mentioned on p. 55, and as I believe by L’Obel himself.

From its rarity, and careless printing, I should infer that the édition of 1596 was chiefly intended to circulate among the author’s own immediate friends; but after the *Herball* appeared, the amended edition of 1599 would command a much larger circulation, and the copies would be more carefully preserved.

It may be worth remarking that the weather about the time when Gerard published his *Catalogus* and *Herball*, was most unpropitious; for a series of years, wet summers had raised the price of corn, and in 1596, wheat in London reached the famine price of £5·4 0 per quarter; this too when the purchasing power of money was fully six times its present value. This fact should be borne in mind, when noticing the Author’s statements about his garden.

The memoir of the Author has been drawn up from all available sources, the *Herball* largely contributing; from contemporary writers a good deal has been obtained; the parish registers both of his native place and his residence in London, have been utilised, and some information has been gleaned from the Public Record Office, whilst the College of Arms, and the Registers of the Stationers’ Company have been laid under contribution. The chief source of hitherto unpublished information relative to Gerard, has been gained from the Archives in the possession of the Barbers’ Company. Had these last been in better order, and in worthier keeping, probably more might have been ascertained than I have been enabled to do. At the time of Gerard’s connection with this Livery Company, its power was at its zenith; but as time passed on, it proved inadequate to fulfil the

requirements of the day, and like the great majority of similar corporations, now only exists for the gratification of its members.

The circumstances attending my search in the Barbers' Records are worthy of remark. In the first instance, I wrote to the Clerk of the Company, Mr. HENLEY GROSE SMITH, asking if he could give me any information about the subject of my work; after waiting for more than a week, without receiving any answer, I went to the Hall in Monkwell Street, and was thence referred by the housekeeper to the Clerk's office in the City. In my interview with him, he said that he was pressed for time just then, and that if he sent a clerk to the Hall purposely, he must charge his time to me, but that if I would consent to wait a fortnight, his clerk would be at Barbers' Hall, and I could "take advantage of his being there." Although the delay was irksome, I consented to wait, but shortly afterwards, Mr. SMITH, for his own convenience, wrote to postpone the date of my visit, to nearly a month subsequent to my interview with him. On the day appointed, I carefully looked over such of the books about the required date as the clerk could find, and quitted the place in less than three hours from the time of entering. The following day to my extreme surprise, I received a note from the Clerk, requesting me to remit one guinea "for clerk's time." I replied, pointing out how monstrous it was to charge me with an exorbitant amount, merely for his deputy's trouble in finding and placing before me certain books, for whilst I was at the Hall, the Clerk's clerk was engaged in work for the Company, apparently preparing notices to be sent to the members. For answer to this letter of mine, I had an offensively worded epistle, totally ignoring the questions I had put, and taking credit for making no charge for correspondence. In rejoinder I said, that the so-called correspondence consisted of these items: (a) *Not* answering my letter of enquiry, and thus compelling me to call at two places, (b) altering the date of my visit to suit himself, (c) sending in his claim, (d) his attempt to justify it. Although strongly urged to withstand this imposition, I felt it impossible to remain under the slightest obligation in this quarter, and therefore sent a cheque, enclosed in a brief note, expressing my sense of the want of right feeling displayed by twice charging for his clerk's services, first to the Company and then to me, who neither had, nor required, the undivided attention of his subordinate. I received no acknowledgement whatever of this letter.

There only remains the pleasing duty of acknowledging the kind assistance of those who have so materially contributed to the completion of my task. To the officers of the Botanical Department of the British Museum, Mr. WILLIAM CARRUTHERS, F.R.S., Dr. HENRY TRIMEN, and Mr. JAMES BRITTEN, I must express

my deep obligation for help afforded during the entire period of preparation ; to Mr. JOHN GILBERT BAKER, of the Kew Herbarium, for assistance in several doubtful points ; to the Rev. FOSTER GRAY BLACKBURN, M.A., Rector of Nantwich, for obliging information as to the Registers of that place ; to Mr. JOSEPH GREENHILL, the Registrar of the Stationers' Company, for permission to inspect the Registers under his care ; and lastly to Mr. HENRY WICKS, of the Firm of Pewtress & Co., for the time and attention he has bestowed upon the printing.

B. DAYDON JACKSON.

30, STOCKWELL ROAD,

LONDON, S.W.

*June, 1876.*

LIST OF  
QUOTED BOOKS AND AUTHORITIES.

- Barb. MS.* Records of the Barbers' Company.  
*Barb. List.* List of Masters and Wardens of the Barbers' Company.  
*Bauh. Pin.* Bauhin, Pinax, . . . Basiliæ, 1623.  
*Biog. Brit.* Biographia Britannica . . . London, 1747-66.  
*Coles.* Coles, W., Adam in Eden, . . . London, 1657.  
*Cordi Annot.* Cordus, V., Annotationes . . . Argent, 1561.  
*Fl. Middx.* Trimen and Dyer, Flora of Middlesex, London, 1868.  
*Ger.* The Herball, . . . by John Gerard . . . London, 1597.  
*Ger. Cat. ed. I.* Catalogus . . . London, 1596.  
*Ger. Cat. ed. II.* Ibid. ,, 1599.  
*Ger. em.* The Herball . . . enlarged and emended by Thomas Johnson, London, 1633.  
*Haller, Bibl. Bot.* Haller, A., Bibliographia Botanica . . . Tiguri, 1771.  
*Hentz. Itin.* Hentzner, Itinerarium, . . . Breslau, 1617.  
*Lansd. MSS.* Lansdowne MSS. British Museum.  
*Lob. Adv.* L'Obel and Pena, Adversaria nova, London, 1570.  
*Lob. Adv. Alt. pars.* L'Obel, Adversariorum altera pars, London, 1605.  
*Lob. Ill.* L'Obel, Illustrationes, London, 1655.  
*Lob. MS.* L'Obel, MS., notes in a copy of Gerard's Catalogus, Ed. II. v. p. vii.  
*Lob. Rond.* L'Obel, . . . Rondeletiana, [in Lob. Adv. Alt. pars.]  
*Lyte.* A nieuwe herball, . . . by Henry Lyte, . . . London, 1578.  
*Maitland* Maitland, W., History of London, . . . London, 1739.  
*Mill. Gard. Dict.* Miller, P., Gardener's Dictionary, Ed. VIII. London, 1768.  
*Noorthouck* Noorthouck, J., History of London, Westminster and Southwark . . . London, 1773.  
*Park. Par.* Parkinson, J., Paradisus terrestris . . . London, 1629.  
*R. Hist.* Ray, J., Historia plantarum . . . London, 1686-1704.  
*Rees, Cyclo.* Rees, A., Cyclopædia . . . London, 1819.  
*Salm.* Salmon, W., Botanologia . . . London, 1710-11.  
*Spreng. Hist.* Sprengel, C., Historia Rei. Herbariæ Amst, 1807-8.  
*Stow.* Stow, J., A survaye of London. . . . London, 1598.  
*Strype.* A survey of London and Westminster, by J. Stow, edited by J. Strype. London, 1720.

A  
L I F E  
O F  
T H E A U T H O R.

JOHN GERARD was born at Nantwich,<sup>1</sup> in the county of Cheshire, in 1545,<sup>2</sup> but owing to the loss of the baptismal registers of that place, from May in that year to 1572, we are not able to give any closer approximation to the precise date. He was descended from some younger branch of the Gerards of Ince, in Lancashire, as we learn from his own Coat of Arms,<sup>3</sup> which bears a crescent for difference, the crest, a lion's gamb, erased, inverted, holding a hawk's lure, with the motto *D'assenti buone*. There are no records at the College of Arms to shew his parentage. His name is most frequently spelled "Gerarde," but this mode arises, no doubt, from an engraver's error in the Title-page, for Gerard himself, and his friends, invariably spelled his name without the "e" final.

He went to school at Wisterson, or Willaston of the Ordnance Survey, two miles from Nantwich,<sup>4</sup> and probably there received all his scholastic education.<sup>5</sup> At an early age he was drawn to the study of medicine,<sup>6</sup> and travelled, possibly as ship's surgeon, on board some merchant vessel trading northwards, since he speaks of having been from "Narua vnto Moscouia, . . . the Sownde, beyonde Denmarke,"<sup>7</sup> and again, "Denmarke, Swenia, Poland, Liuania, or Russia, or in any of those colde countries, where I haue travelled;"<sup>8</sup> he may possibly also have visited the Mediterranean.<sup>9</sup>

He must have settled in London before 1577, since he speaks of having superintended the gardens belonging to Lord Burleigh, in the Strand, and at Theobalds in Hertfordshire, for twenty years, which occupation took up the greatest part of his time.<sup>10</sup> His employer expended £10 weekly, to keep the poor employed in his gardens; he also says, "For my servants, I keep none to whom I pay not wages, and give liveries, which I know many do not."<sup>11</sup> L'Obel mentions Lord Burleigh's garden in London,<sup>12</sup> but as he is totally silent in his earlier works about Gerard, it affords additional proof that the latter had not then made his mark as a successful gardener. Hentzner, who visited Theobalds, Sept. 8th, 1598, the day Lord Burleigh was buried, has given a description of the garden at that place, at the time when Gerard was the superintendent.<sup>13</sup> There is no existing list of admissions to the Freedom and Livery of the Barber-Surgeons' Company, about this time, so that we cannot from this source ascertain the date of his first residing in London; at that period, no one could carry on the trade of "barbarie or chirurgerie" in the City, without being at least a Freeman of that Company; recalcitrant members of the craft being summarily committed to the Compter.

He made friends in his profession, for George Baker, "one of the chiefe chirurgions in ordinarie" to Queen Elizabeth, had a high opinion of Gerard's attainments, since he says,<sup>14</sup> "I protest vpon my conscience, I do not thinke for the knowledge of plants, that he is inferior to any: for I did once

<sup>1</sup> Ger. 203.<sup>2</sup> Portrait in Ger. ante p. 1.<sup>3</sup> Ib. lefthand lower corner.<sup>4</sup> Ger. 1091.<sup>5</sup> Ib. 315.<sup>6</sup> Ger. cat. ed. II. præf.<sup>7</sup> Ger. 1177.<sup>8</sup> Ib. 1223.<sup>9</sup> Ib. 1171.<sup>10</sup> Ib. præf.<sup>11</sup> Biog. Brit. ii. 1267.<sup>12</sup> Lob. Adv. 422.<sup>13</sup> Hentz. Itin. 138.<sup>14</sup> Baker, in Ger.

see him tried with one of the best strangers that euer came into England, and was accounted in Parise the onely man, being recommended to me by that famous man M. Amb. Pareus, and he being here was desirous to go abroad with some of our herbarists, for the which I was the meane to bring them together ; and one whole day we spent therein, searching the most rarest simples : but when it came to the triall, my French man did not know one to his fower." This statement can only apply to Jean Robin, who, in 1597, was appointed keeper of the King's garden in Paris, on account of his success as a cultivator ; that Gerard was on intimate terms with Robin, may be seen in the number of plants received from him, and acknowledged in the Herball.

Gerard was elected a member of the Court of Assistants of the Barber-Surgeons, June 19th, 1595,<sup>15</sup> and in the following year, July 16th, 1596,<sup>16</sup> he was commissioned, with another, to seek a better place for a "fruit-ground" than that in "East Smithfelde or fletcherlane." At this time he had a house in Holborn,<sup>16</sup> then the most aristocratic portion of London; his garden was probably attached to his house, or may have been the identical plot mentioned above, in Fetterlane, as there were many gardens belonging to the wealthier citizens in that locality. The northern side of Holborn, which has been suggested as the probable site of Gerard's garden, is unlikely, since during the last few years of Elizabeth's reign, the spot now occupied by Ely Place and Hatton Garden, was a garden of forty acres, belonging to the Bishopric of Ely.<sup>17</sup>

The following interesting draft of a letter is in Gerard's autograph, and was probably drawn up previous to 1596:—

"After my most hartie commendacions, &c. As yt hath beene alwaies myne especiall care (neither doubt I but yt is yours also) to procure by all meanes possible y<sup>e</sup> flourishing estate of your universitie in religion & liberal sciences :—so at this p<sup>r</sup>sent (to my great comfort) I see yt not inferiour herin to any universitie in Europe or any other pat [*sic*] of y<sup>e</sup> world were yt not y<sup>t</sup> many famous nurseries (as *Padua Montpellier* that of *Vienna &c.*) others had prevented or rather provoked us by their good example, in purchasing of publike gardens and seeking out men of good experience to dresse and keepe the same Whereby that noble science of physicke is made absolute as having recovered y<sup>e</sup> facultie of *Simpling* a principall and materiall part thereof, wherefore not doubting of your readines in imitating or æmulating the best in so laudable actions I thought yt good to moove you herin & to commend this bearer *Ihon Gerard* a servant of mine vnto you : who by reason of his travaile into farre countries, his great practise & long experience is throughly acquainted with the generall & speciall differences, names, properties & privie markes of thousands of plants & trees. So y<sup>t</sup> if you intend a worke of such emolument to y<sup>s</sup>elves and all young students I shall be glad to have nominated and furnished you with so expert an *Herbarist* : & your selves I trust will think well of the motion and the man Thus desiring god to prosper all your godlie studies and painfull indevors I bidde you hartily farewell."

[Endorsed] "John Gerrard, [an erasure]

A bill [?] of his owne drawing for y<sup>e</sup> L. Ther. [Burleigh] to signe, to y<sup>e</sup> university of Cambridge, for planting of gardens."

(Lansd. MSS. Vol. 107, No. 92, fol. 155.)

<sup>15</sup> MSS. Barbers' Hall.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> Ger. pref.

<sup>17</sup> Maitland, i. 978, Noorthouch, 642. Stow, 313., Ibid. ed. Strype, iii. 252.

NOTE.—Timbs has stated that Gerard had a physic garden in Old Street, but I do not know on what authority, nor can I corroborate the statement.—*Vide* Something for everybody, 242 (1861.)



## xiii

In this year, 1596, our Author made his first appearance in print; being urged by many friends he issued a list of the plants he had cultivated in his own garden, for some years;<sup>18</sup> this catalogue will be found described in the introduction. So far as I can learn, this little work of twenty-four pages is the first professedly complete catalogue of any one garden, either public or private, ever published. There are two previous works indeed of somewhat similar purpose, but as will be seen, they really occupy different ground. In the one case Conrad Gesner drew up a codified list of choice plants, cultivated in the gardens of about twenty of his friends,<sup>19</sup> and short lists follow, of rarities in certain gardens; in the other, Johann Franke, published his *Hortus Lusatiæ*, an extremely scarce work, in 48 pages, which contains a catalogue of all plants growing near Launitz in Bohemia, both wild or cultivated, the latter being distinguished by the addition of the letter H.

The year following, Gerard was attacked by a "most greuous ague and of long continuance";<sup>20</sup> subsequently, he was appointed Junior Warden of the Barber-Surgeons,<sup>21</sup> and in December, the work by which his name has been preserved, appeared at his own risk (?),<sup>22</sup> under the title of "The Herball, or general historie of Plants," etc. The history of this work is curious, and well deserving of attention.

John Norton, the Queen's printer,<sup>23</sup> had commissioned a Dr. Priest, a member of the College of Physicians,<sup>24</sup> to translate Dodoen's *Pemptades* (1583) from the Latin into English,<sup>25</sup> but the translator dying before the completion of his task,<sup>26</sup> the unfinished work came by some means, into the hands of Gerard.<sup>27</sup> To mask the fact of his Herball being little else than a mere translation, he altered the arrangement from that of Dodoen's into that of L'Obel, and flippantly remarking that he had heard of Dr. Priest's labours, but the man being dead, his work had perished with him,<sup>28</sup> he had the effrontery to declare that his own researches had produced the work, to which that statement was prefixed. The wood blocks used by Tabernæmontanus in his *Eicones* (1590), (not the *Neu Kreuterbuch*, 1588), with some others, were procured from Frankfort by Norton,<sup>29</sup> but Gerard soon showed his slender knowledge,<sup>30</sup> by misapplying many of the figures, and caused so much confusion in the early chapters of the Herball, that the attention of the printer was directed to it by James Garret, a London Apothecary, and the correspondent of Charles de l'Escluse. L'Obel was thereupon invited to correct the work, and by his own account he actually corrected it in a thousand places, but further emendation was stopped by the author, who contended that the Herball was already sufficiently accurate, and that his censor had forgotten the English language.<sup>31</sup> I am disposed to credit this assertion, after careful comparison of the names used by Gerard, in both editions of his *Catalogus*, with those in his Herball, and although L'Obel addressed Gerard in very complimentary terms,<sup>32</sup> yet afterwards he used needlessly bitter language in speaking of his old acquaintance,<sup>33</sup> charging him with pilfering from the *Adversaria* without acknowledgement,<sup>34</sup> and giving inappropriate names to plants.<sup>35</sup>

The Herball contains upwards of eighteen hundred woodcuts, of which not more than sixteen appear to be original,<sup>36</sup> although Sprengel gives a list of twenty-five, either original or peculiar, some being no improvement upon the old figures;<sup>37</sup> yet Gerard ventured to excuse certain irregularities in his third book, owing to his being "hindered by the slacknesse of the cutters or

<sup>18</sup> Ger. Cat. ed. I. dedic.<sup>19</sup> V. Cordi, Annot. in Dios. foll. 236—288.<sup>20</sup> Ger. 1006.<sup>21</sup> List at Barbers' Hall.<sup>22</sup> Ger. pref.<sup>23</sup> Lob. Ill. 3.<sup>24</sup> Ger. pref.<sup>25</sup> Lob. Rond. 59.<sup>26</sup> Johns., in Ger. em., pref.<sup>27</sup> Bredwell, lit. in Ger.<sup>28</sup> Ger. pref.<sup>29</sup> Johns., in Ger. em., pref.<sup>30</sup> Lob. Ill. 2.<sup>31</sup> Lob. Ill. 3.<sup>32</sup> Ger. pref., & 55.<sup>33</sup> Cf. Lob. Ill. 34. 63. 95, III.<sup>34</sup> Ib. 95.<sup>35</sup> Ib. III.<sup>36</sup> Haller, *Bibl. Bot.* i. 389.<sup>37</sup> Spreng. *Hist.* i. 466.

grauers of the figures ;”<sup>38</sup> the index is very faulty and incomplete. A copy of this work, in the Botanical department of the British Museum, formerly belonging to James Petiver, contains references made by him to Tabernæmontanus, *Eicones Stirpium* (1590); one hundred and thirty-one, were either from Clusius, or the few original figures above mentioned. This original edition of the work is comparatively seldom quoted, since the emended issue under the editorship of Thomas Johnson in 1633, is greatly superior in every respect; indeed it was almost entirely due to the ability of the editor, that the Herball continued for so long, the standard for English students. It is but fair however to mention, that Gerard modestly avows his own slight attainments,<sup>39</sup> and states that it was principally intended for gentlewomen.<sup>40</sup> Neither of the two editions of the *Catalogus*, nor the Herball were registered at Stationers’ Hall.

Gerard, in Jan. 15, 1598, was appointed one of the examiners of candidates for admission to the freedom of the Barber-Surgeons’ Company;<sup>41</sup> later on, an order dated August 1, 1599, was issued by the Queen for the delivery of arms from the City Companies, upon which Master Warden Thornie lent “to Mr. Gerrard, one Corslet and one headpeece, a sworde and a dager.”<sup>42</sup> Why he borrowed these weapons, unless for personal defence in that troublous period, I can hardly understand, since the Members of his Craft were exempted by Statute,<sup>43</sup> from being called upon to bear arms, or to serve upon any inquest or watch. The same year witnessed the publication of the second edition of his *Catalogus*.

I cannot trace any particulars of Gerard during the three years following, at the end of which time he re-appears in the following entry, 2 Nov., 1602. “This day it is ordered that the committee for Mr. Gerrard’s garden, shall this afternoon meete at the hall to consider of the report for a garden for the said Mr. Gerrard.”<sup>44</sup> No subsequent minute appears with reference to the foregoing, but it is not unlikely, that the action of the committee resulted in a lease being granted to Gerard as under, by the Consort of James I.

<sup>45</sup> “ANNA R.

“Anne by the grace of God Queene of England, Scotland ffrance and Ireland To ALL, & whome these p’nts shall come greeting, Know yee that for and in consideracon of the some of ffive shillings of lawfull money of England in the name of a ffyne to vs before hand payd by John Gerrard of London Surgeon and *Herbarist* to the Kings ma<sup>tie</sup> (whereof and wherew<sup>th</sup> we acknowledge our self satisfied) as also for divers and sundry other causes and consideracons but especially of his singular and approved art skill and industrie in planting nursing and preserving plants hearbes flowers and fruits of all kindes We are pleased to graunt . . . . vnto the said John Gerrard one garden plot or piece of ground belonginge and adioining on the east part to o<sup>r</sup> mansion house called Somersett howse also Strond howse abutting on the west on the wall of the said house on the east vpon the lane comonly called Strond Lane on the south vpon the banke or Wall of the River of Thames and on the north vpon the backside of the Ten<sup>ts</sup> standing in the high Streete called the Strond conteyning by estimacon two acres or thereabouts w<sup>h</sup> free access ingress . . . . To HAVE AND TO HOLD to the said John Gerrard his executors administrators & assignes from the feast of Saint Michael next ensuing the date hereof the said garden plott or peece of ground and every parte and pcell thereof w<sup>th</sup>. all and evry the p’misses and their appurtenences for and during the terme of

<sup>38</sup> Ger. 1077.  
<sup>43</sup> 32 Hen. VIII. c. 42.

<sup>39</sup> Ger. pref.  
<sup>44</sup> MSS. Barbers’ Hall,

<sup>40</sup> Ibid. 707.

<sup>41</sup> MSS. Barbers’ Hall.  
<sup>45</sup> MSS. Record Office James I. (domestic.) Vol. IX. fol. 113.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

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o<sup>r</sup> naturall life and for and during the terme of one and Twentie yeares to be accompted and to begin from and ymediately after o<sup>r</sup> decease & fully to be complete and ended YEELDING and paying to vs o<sup>r</sup> executors or assignes during all the terme and termes aforesaide the yearlye rent of fower pence of currant money of England to be payd quarterly at the fower usuall feastes . . . . YEELDING also and annswearing yearlie to and for our owne vse onely at the due and proper seasons of the yeare a convenient proportion and quantitie of herbes flowers or fruite renewing or growing w<sup>h</sup>in the said Garden plott or piece of grounde by the arte and industrie of the said John Gerrard if they be lawfully required and demanded Given under o<sup>r</sup> seale at Whitehall the ffourteenth daie of *August* in the yeare of the Kings Ma<sup>tie</sup> of England ffrance and Ireland the second and of Scotland the eight and thirtie.”

This grant was “endorsed, 30 August, 1604.” The draft, which differs from the deed itself in some particulars, was drawn up at Theobalds. Gerard did not long enjoy the use of this garden, for by another endorsement we learn that he parted with all his interest in the lease, 26 Nov. 1605, to Robert Earl of Salisbury, second son of Lord Burleigh, then Lord Treasurer of England and Secretary of State jointly with Sir Francis Walsinghame, until upon the death of the later the whole of the duties of that office devolved upon the former. It is possible that Gerard occupied a similar position in the household of the son as in that of the father.

There certainly must have been some strong reason to prevent his sustaining all the honours of his position, for I find an entry, 26 Sept., 1605,<sup>46</sup> thus, “This day Mr. Gerrard was discharged of the office of second Warden and vpper governor of this Company vppon his suite and entreatie for certayne consideracons, And is fined for the said places x.l. ye which he is p<sup>r</sup>sentlie to pay p<sup>r</sup>sent Mr. or governor And is hereafter to take his place as though he had serued the place of vpper governor Anything to the contrarie notwithstanding.” Gerard consented to make the payment, but subsequently applied to have it remitted; in December he paid the £10,<sup>47</sup> but prayed that it might be treated as a deposit, until the next Court, in the hope that the fine would not be enforced; but the Court held 15 May, 1606, finally decided that the fine could not be foregone.<sup>48</sup> On 21 Oct. 1606, the subject of our memoir was fined by the court, amount not stated, for abusing John Peck, a fellow examiner, and ordered to be friendly and all controversy between them to cease.<sup>49</sup>

In August, 1608, he was elected Master of the Barber-Surgeons' Company, but the books of the Company are missing for that period; consequently I am unable to supply any further details of his life. He died in February, 1611-2, and was buried in St. Andrew's Church, Holborn, on the 18th of that month;<sup>50</sup> but there is nothing to indicate the actual spot; one of his friends Thomas Thornie has an elaborate monument in the Church.

Gerard, no doubt, had as good practical knowledge of plants as any of his countrymen then living, and owing to his patronage by the most powerful statesman of the Elizabethan Court, he had good opportunities of enriching the gardens under his care with new plants, and he certainly cannot be reproached with having neglected those opportunities. His accuracy however was not unimpeachable, he having recorded as natives of this country, many plants he could not have found under the circumstances stated.<sup>51</sup> Johnson and Parkinson, who came into notice, a generation later, were decidedly superior to Gerard, from nearly every point of view. Still Gerard drew

<sup>46</sup> MSS. Barbers' Hall.<sup>47</sup> Ibid.<sup>48</sup> Ibid.<sup>49</sup> List of Masters and Wardens, Barbers' Hall.<sup>50</sup> Regr. St. Andrew's, Holborn.<sup>51</sup> Vide Ger. passim.

attention to indigenous botany, and an impetus was given to the study, which no previous writer had succeeded in accomplishing; a comparison of Lyte's Herball with that under notice, will readily exemplify this. Of his family matters we know next to nothing; he was married,<sup>52</sup> and his wife assisted him professionally, but no hint is given of any other member of his family. The baptismal registers of St. Andrew's, Holborn, which commence in 1558, might throw some light upon this point, but the task would be a long and tedious one, in the total absence of a clue to guide the searcher to any particular period.

The list of names of his acquaintances, more than fifty, scattered through the Herball, is too long to give here. He received plants from all the then accessible parts of the globe, and from men of almost every rank in life. Robin of Paris, previously mentioned, Camerarius of Nuremburg, Lord Zouch, Nicholas Lete, and John Franqueville, the last two London merchants, Thomas Edwards, and James Garret, apothecaries, were amongst the contributors of exotic plants, whilst for indigenous, the names most frequently appearing are Thomas Hesketh, a Lancashire gentleman, and Stephen Bredwell, a physician. Gerard dispatched one of his assistants, as a ship's surgeon to the Mediterranean, in the *Hercules*,<sup>53</sup> that he might bring home some new plants. He, himself, had travelled over a large part of England, but Salmon's statement as to his living in Lincolnshire<sup>54</sup> refers to Johnson. There is no will of Gerard's at Somerset House, but it is not probable that he acquired wealth; the printer of the Herball in this respect, was more successful than the compiler.

A half length portrait of Gerard, engraved by William Rogers, faces p. 1. of the Herball; he holds a branch of the Potato plant. Beneath are his own arms, those of the City of London, and of the Company of Barber-Surgeons.

A reduced copy of this portrait appears on the title page of Johnson's edition, and Sir J. E. Smith possessed a copper plate<sup>55</sup> of another engraved by Hall, much worn, but I have not succeeded in tracing it, nor have I seen any impression from it.

<sup>52</sup> Ger. 695.<sup>53</sup> Ger. 1304.<sup>54</sup> Salm. Herb. i. 64.<sup>55</sup> Rees' Cyc. art. Gerard.

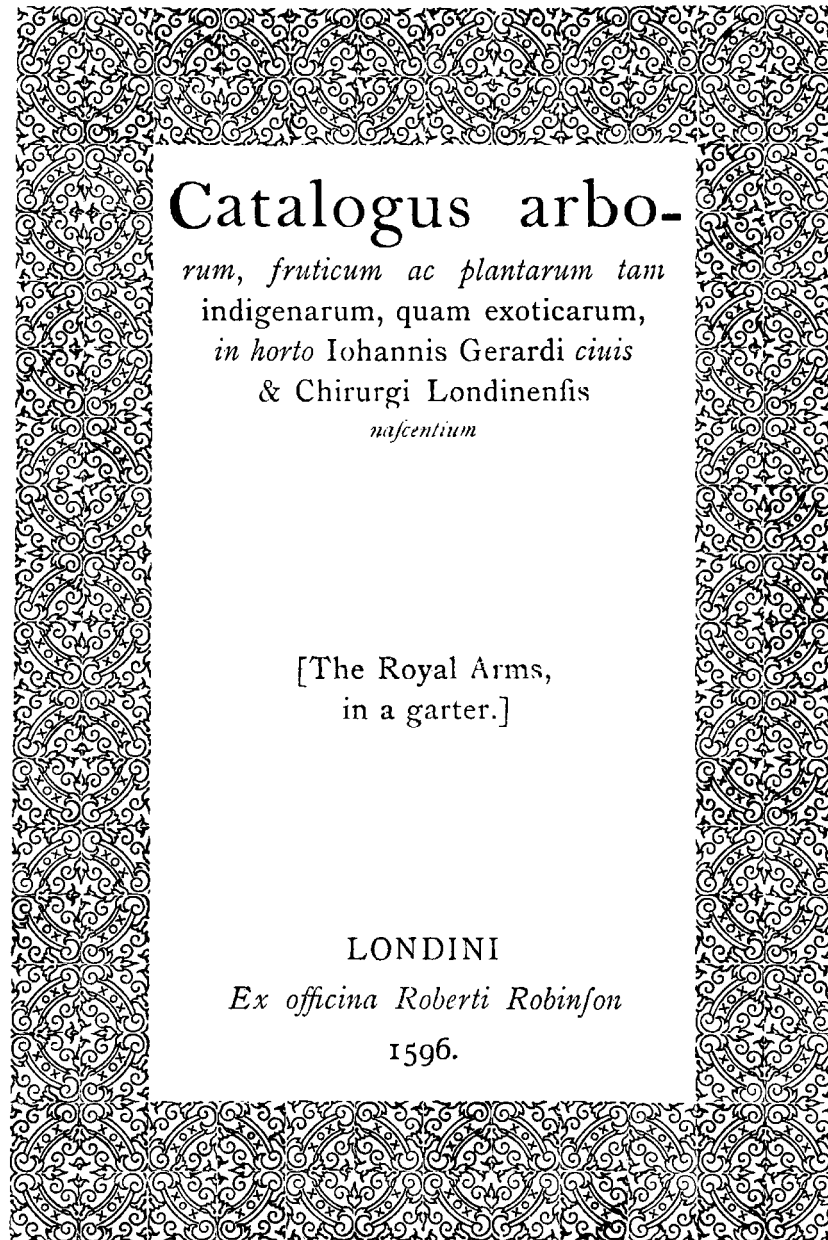
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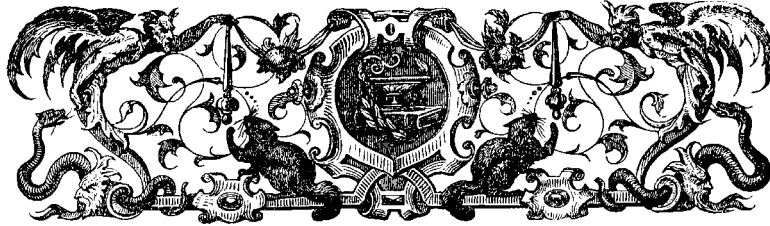
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[The Arms and Supporters of  
Lord Burleigh, with his motto  
COR VNVM, VIA VNA.]



## Honoratifs : atque prudentiss : viro Domino G. Cecilio Baroni

Burleienfi : Nobili Equest. ordinis Societatis Reg. Consilij Senat. graviss. Summoque Ang. Thesaurario, &c.

*Falicitatem optat, I.G.*



Vaserunt sæpius amicorum plurimi, rei Herbariæ studiosi (Honoratissime D.) ut Stirpiū siue Herbarum, quas meo non vulgari studio et industria, ex remotis. partibus quæsitæ, non segni cura et labore, in Hortulo meo suburbano per aliquot annos coluisssem ; Catalogum aliquē in publicum dare. Horum ego precibus tandem victus, (quibus negare nefas esset) Catalogum hunc manu propria, non sine molestia, describebam, quem cum illis communicasssem, ita mecum egerunt ; ut nisi in lucem emitterem, vix illis satisfacerem. Gratius scio studiosis nostra opera futura esset ; si non catalogum modo earum stirpium, quas  
apud

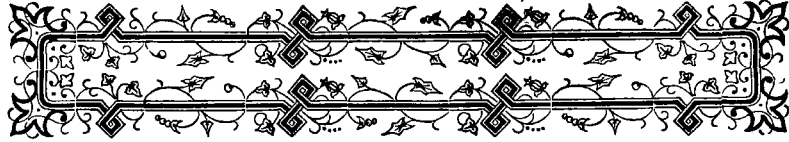
*apud me iamdiu alui, sed etiam icones nativis suis coloribus depictas, suisque abditis virtutibus ornatas, nostro idioma-  
te euulgassem: Cuiusmodi opus iampridem meditatam, nunc ferè absolutum, veluti foetum partui vicinum, tempus in lucem proferet. Accipe interea (illustris. Domine,) a seruo tuo, leuiusculum hoc munus, maioris nostri operis præludium; tuoque benigno aspectu fasciculum hunc dignare, sicut semper hactenus dignatus es; ut inde non minus foueatur, quàm flores Solis radiis reficiuntur. Ita fiet ut non solum præteriti laboris et industriæ non me unquam poenitebit, sed etiam futuri non pigebit, Et si quid emolumenti inde recipiant studiosi rei herbariæ, Tuæ D. acceptum ferant.*

Tibi semper deuinctiss.

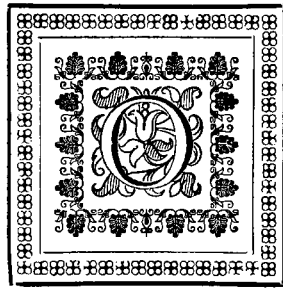
*Joh: Gerardus.*







Perbonis & studiosis stripium indaga-  
toribus. Io: Gerardus.



*Mnes hoc iucundissimo studio captos, rogatos velim, ut si quas præter has plantas reperiant; easdem nobis liberaliter communicent & nostros conatus iuvent, sibi que persuadeant tanto & reciprocomunere impertiri.*



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