

NEW OR LITTLE KNOWN PLANTS. ROSA MINUTIFOLIA.

UR wild Roses have an ill reputation among botanists for the uncertainty which often attends the determination of their species. But there are some, fortunately, about which there can be no doubt, and we have given the figure of one which carries its distinctive characteristics obtrusively to the front and cannot be mistaken. Not only is there no other American Rose like it, but it stands alone in the genus . . . It has been found only on the peninsula of Lower California, near All Saints (Todos Santos) Bay, about 40 miles south of San Diego, where it was discovered in 1882, forming low, dense thickets upon the dry hillsides bordering the shore. . . . Evidently the flower in its wild state cannot be commended as well suited to the florist's needs, but from its habit of growth the plant may well prove a decided ornament to the lawn and garden in our more southern States, where it would doubtless be hardy.

S[ereno] W[atson].

[Garden and Forest 2 (1888): 103. Engraving by C. E. Faxon]

December of 1895; and of a more practical nature R. H. Price wrote on the "Classification of Varieties of Peaches" in January of 1897.

The list of botanical themes goes on: biographical sketches of famous botanists of the past, including one in the May 1894 issue on Stephen Elliott (for whom the rare genus Elliottia had been named); an esoteric five-part series by W. R. Gerard on "Plant Names of Indian Origin," which appeared in June and July of 1896; and even features as technically challenging as John George Jack's "Some Unusual Androgynous Flower-clusters," which ran in June of 1895. In fact, the scope of the articles that were published in Garden and Forest spanned the entire corpus of botanical science as it was known in the late nineteenth century. Taken together this literature comprises a remarkable trove of information that is not found elsewhere in botanical literature and that in many ways remains relevant even today, as well as of great historical value.

On December 29, 1897, the five hundred and fourteenth issue of Garden and Forest included an announcement that it was to be the magazine's last. This last issue brought the total number of pages published during Garden and Forest's ten-year life to an impressive five thousand six hundred and sixty-eight! The reason for termination was financial: "This experiment . . . has shown conclusively that there are not persons enough in the United States interested in the subjects which have been presented in the columns of Garden and Forest to make a journal of its class and character self-supporting." This was a sorry commentary on the dearth of interest among the wider American population in issues concerning botany, forestry, conservation, and landscape design.

Since the demise of Garden and Forest, no attempt has been made to re-institute the kind of interdisciplinary dialogue it had provided for a brief ten years. The several profes-

sional disciplines it addressed have evolved and diverged, becoming more and more distinct and isolated from one another. Even today a journal similar to Garden and Forest might face financial difficulties, but many would welcome a new vehicle for exchanging information and ideas among all the professions that are fundamentally plant-based.

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