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“An ever-expanding universe of information”: Joseph Paxton and his followers in the communications revolution

David Bawden

“his literary ability was of a high order, as the eminence of his professional writings attest, and yet withal he was thoroughly practical”

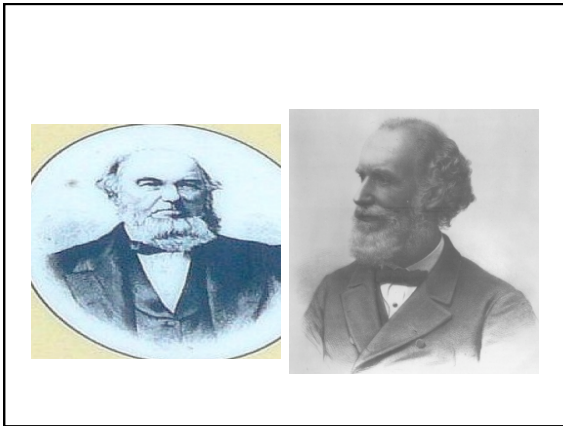
“it is impossible to study landscape and garden design in the nineteenth century without recognising the enormous influence of a rapidly developing technology, allied with an expanding communications network”
(Anthea Taigel and Tom Williamson, *Parks and Gardens*, 1993)

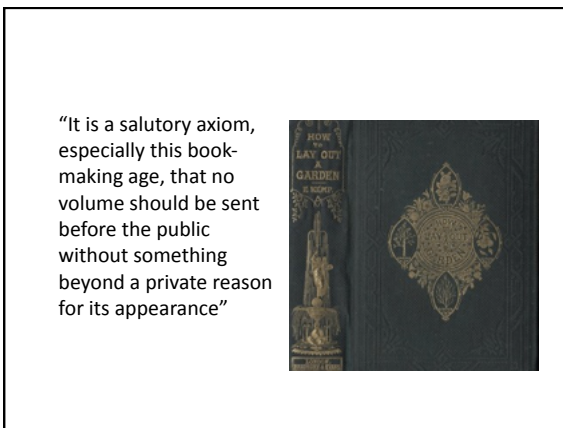
- Joseph Paxton (and others?)
- Edward Milner, John Gibson, Edward Kemp (George Eyles, J.C. Niven)
- Frederick Law Olmsted
- Predecessors (J.C. Loudon)
- Contemporaries (Robert Marnock, Joshua Major)

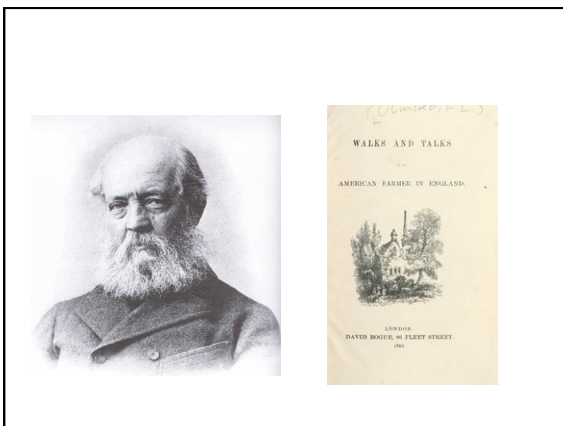


“a voracious reader on all subjects horticultural .. though perhaps not as prolific a writer as Loudon”

- *Practical Treatise on the Culture of the Dahlia*
- *Pocket Botanical Dictionary*
- *Calendar of Garden Operations*
- *Horticultural Register, Magazine of Botany, Gardener's Chronicle, Paxton's Flower Garden*
- *Daily News*
- *Punch magazine*
- pamphlets, reports, letters







Predecessors

"A gardener can no more acquire his profession without books than he can without tools"
(J.C. Loudon)



Contemporaries





Information/communication revolution



Information society



“an information society is defined as as one in which theoretical knowledge occupies a pre-eminence which it hitherto lacked ... By theoretical knowledge is meant that which is abstract, generalizable and codified in media of one sort of another”

{Frank Webster)

"I hope to see in all these large towns places of instruction and amusement combined ... I believe it would lend much to the advancement of our social condition to have all these advantages brought into one focus"

"It is significant that early 19th century gardening publications all carry numerous articles dealing with "self-instruction for young gardeners ..from temperance to literary composition, from botany to Sir Uvedale Price" (Chadwick, Works of Sir Joseph Paxton)



".. the best way to appear original – at least in your own eyes – is to be ignorant of the past"
(Brent Elliott, *The Garden*, 1998)

