

Memory Lane ...Lenox Garden Club Celebrates 100 Years 1911-2011 Garden Club Memories from the L.G.C. Archives

Let's Look Back In LGC History....from The Garden Club of America, HISTORIC ROOMS and FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS in miniature

The exhibition, "Historic Rooms and Flower Arrangements in Miniature" photographed in this catalogue was staged at the Annual Meeting of the Garden Club of America in Minneapolis, Minnesota in June, 1976. Conceived as a gesture to celebrate the Bicentennial of the United States, the exhibits were created by members of the Garden Club of America from all parts of the United States, and together represent over three hundred years of American interiors.

Each miniature room crystallizes a moment, or a period in our country's development...from a 1652 Dutch Citizen's House to a Space Age Condominium in 1969 when we landed on the moon. Each room is historically significant to the part of the country from which it comes, and all are constructed on a scale of one inch equalling one foot. Much of the furniture was made by members.

Beside each room was a flower arrangement displayed in its own niche and required to be suitable to the room it accompanied, but done on a larger scale for easier viewing. These arrangements presented an intriguing history of the development of the art of Flower Arranging in America, and in their diversity, the rooms and arrangements present a real flavor of the American experience and its myriad people.

Exhibitors were permitted to use plant material on Conservation Lists if they so desired, in consideration of the unique historic nature of the total exhibit. This material had to be identified as such to promote recognition of plants now endangered and under protection. The texts or legends accompanying the photographs in this book were written by the exhibiting clubs and were displayed with the rooms and arrangements. Some of the rooms will be permanently on display in the areas from which they come.

It is hoped that this photographic record will be a permanent witness to the ingenuity and talents of those who worked so diligently to recreate those moments in history, and that it can share with its viewers some of the excitement and pleasure of this remarkable and enchanting exhibit.

Nancy B.W. Coe, Chairman, Flower Show Committee
Lucia Stokes, Chairman, Judging Committee



The Berkshire Garden Club and The Lenox Garden Club Zone I

1851 Study, ARROWHEAD

"Moby Dick" which is one of the greatest books ever written, was completed in the upstairs study at Herman Melville's home, Arrowhead, in Pittsfield, Massachusetts.

The flowering of New England literature was many faceted things, and happened in many places and in many ways. Nathaniel Hawthorne, Herman Melville, Oliver Wendall Holmes and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow were all friends and neighbors in the Berkshires, as well as frequent visitors to Melville's study, and were a large part of this flowering.

The view of Mount Greylock, the highest point in Massachusetts, is what Melville saw as he sat at his writing table. The resemblance of the mountain to a whale must have been an awesome sight for Melville as he created his story of the great white whale, "Moby Dick." The whale in this room is a genuine piece of scrimshaw.

Arrowhead has been acquired by the Berkshire County Historical Society, and the house and grounds are being restored to the way they were when the Melville family lived there (1850 - 1863).

The flower arrangement on the old basket consists of evergreens and dried flowers. Melville mentioned many of these in one of his letters written at Arrowhead. The use of dried materials has always been a part of every New England home. Those flowers that could not be used during the short but bountiful summer were saved and dried for use during the long winter months, when the outdoors yielded only evergreens.