

PROGRAMME

THE ROYAL GARDEN

WEDNESDAY MAY 6TH

- 12.00 p.m. **Opening by H.M. The Queen**
- 12.05 p.m. **Welcome by Kurt Almqvist, President Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation**
- 12.10 p.m. **Introduction by Susanna Popova, moderator**

HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION

- 12.15 p.m. **John Dixon Hunt** The Royal Garden as an Historic Concept
- 12.30 p.m. **Göran Alm** The Paradise - A Swedish Royal Garden Recreation
- 12.45 p.m. **Magnus Olausson** Travels, Tournaments and Freemasonry - National and International Influences in Royal Parks
- 1.00 p.m. **Discussion**
- 1.20 p.m. **Coffee**

TRANSFORMING HISTORY

- 1.50 p.m. **Åsa Ahrland** The Royal Park - from Regal Pursuit to Public Recreation
- 2.05 p.m. **Renske Ek** The Royal Baroque Garden at Het Loo as a Work of Art
- 2.20 p.m. **Patricia Bouchenot-Déchin** Louis XVI, André Le Nôtre and the Royal Garden of Versailles
- 2.35 p.m. **Discussion**
- 2.55 p.m. **Coffee**

THE ROYAL GARDEN TODAY

- 3.45 p.m. **Todd Longstaffe-Gowan** Sweet Prospects and Stately Avenues - the Role and Importance of the Lime Tree Avenues at Hampton Court
- 4.00 p.m. **Peter Wirtz** Case Study Domaine de Wideville - Revamping a Louis XIII Garden
- 4.15 p.m. **George Plumptre** Overview of, and Differences in, Ten Interesting Royal European Gardens
- 4.30 p.m. **Final Discussion**
- 5.00 p.m. **Erland Montgomery** At Slottsbacken, Accredited Architect Drottningholm Palace, Presentation of the Drottningholm Palace Park
- 5.30 p.m. **Drink**
- 6.30 p.m. **Dinner**

ORGANISATION

PRESIDENT: KURT ALMQVIST

PROJECT LEADER AND MODERATOR: SUSANNA POPOVA

PROJECT COORDINATORS: MAGDALENA BUJAK, VERONICA WAHLBERG

STAFF: DIDI CEDERSTRÖM, ANGELICA ERIKSSON, MATILDE JÄGERSTIG,

OSCAR NIKLASSON, ANNA RAHMAN, ERIK RAMSGÅRD



Stureplan 3, 103 75 Stockholm, Sweden
Telephone: + 46 8 788 50 50
www.axsonjohnsonfoundation.org

THE ROYAL GARDEN



MAY 6TH 2015
AT DROTTNINGHOLM PALACE

AN INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ARRANGED BY
AXEL AND MARGARET AX:SON JOHNSON FOUNDATION

OUTLINE

THE ROYAL GARDEN

The oldest gardens are thought to be found in China, but you also find early gardens in Persia, Mesopotamia, Egypt, Athens, around the Mediterranean sea as well as from the Islamic culture. These gardens have not only shaped our view on the idea of the garden, but have also influenced the practical planning of the more modern gardens.

In the Christian tradition the idea of Paradise, or the Garden of Eden, is a symbol of our origin and our destination, our place of birth as well as place of rest. After the offence committed within the Garden of Eden the human race is thought to be forced to work as deadly creatures slaving away to the last day.

But the garden is not only a symbol within Christianity, many gardens are also symbols for the time in which they were created. The royal garden, which will be discussed in this seminar, exuberates grandiosity, not only thanks to the resources that were available at their creation, but they are also shaped by the power and contemporary tastes which can be traced in these man-made landscapes. Animals, water, plants, trees, statues, gazebos and carousels were often

used as props, but what role did the planning of the gardens play during the different time periods? How has the garden been used as a social scene? How has visibility and seclusion, the public and the private been depicted? And how has the view of nature as either something to tame or to follow varied through time?

This seminar starts with an introduction to the history of the idea and concept of the garden. Following this, an overview of the major developments up until today will be discussed. Finally, we will discuss how kings and regents in Europe, have both shaped, communicated and reflected their contemporary time through their park creations.

Within kingdoms, gardens and parks have been planned, maintained and sometimes restored with the long-term approach nature demands. This approach allows the history of parks to continue to communicate through them, which is why we ask how royal gardens and parks can be understood today.



LECTURERS

ÅSA AHRLAND, Associate Professor and Senior Lecturer at the Department of Landscape Architecture, Planning and Management, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, SLU

She is Senior Lecturer in Landscape Planning and Sweden's representative in ICOMOS/IFLA International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes and Chairperson of the Swedish ICOMOS Working Committee on Cultural Landscapes 2014. In 2007-2013 she was the Editor-in-chief of Journal of landscapes and the built environment.

GÖRAN ALM, Former Director of the Bernadotte Library

He is a arthistorian, and wrote his dissertation on "Simpel but worthy, The architectural history of The Methodist Church in Sweden 1868 – 1910". He was employed by The Royal Court of Sweden 1974 – 2012 and Director of The Bernadotte Library and the Bernadotte Archives 2000 – 2012. He is now active as author and lecturer and a member of The Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities, Kungl Vitterhetsakademien, wich promote research and other activities in the humanities, theology, law, and social science disciplines, as well as stewardship of cultural milieus.

PATRICIA BOUCHENOT-DÉCHIN, Writer, Historian, Curator and Research Associate at Centre de Recher-che du Chateau de Versailles and Laboratoire de l' Ecole d' Architecture de Versailles

She was Curator of the exhibition "André Le Nôtre in Perspective, at Chateau de Versailles" between October 2013 and February 2014. She is also a writer of books, both non-fiction and fiction and is participating in tv and radio broadcasts. In 2014 she was awarded the Prix d'Academie of the Académie française for her current research on André le Notre. She is Knight of the Arts and Literature order. Curator of the exhibition André Le Nôtre in Perspective, 1613-2013, she is the editor and author, with Georges Farhat, of the published book to mark the 400th anniversary of Le Nôtre's birth. *Le Nôtre en perspectives* (Hazan, 2013) awarded, for the French version, the Prix historique of Prix J.-P. Redouté 2014 and the Prix René Pechère 2014. *Le Nôtre in Perspective* (Hazan - Yale Univerty Press, 2013) won, for the English version, the Award for Excellence in the Biography category for the 2014 by the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries Annual Literature, the Philip Johnson Exhibition Catalogue Award by the Society of Architectural Historians for 2015 and the 2015 J.B. Jackson book prize by the Foundation for Landscape Studies.

JOHN DIXON HUNT, Emeritus Professor of the History and Theory of Landscape at University of Pennsylvania

The work of English-born Dr Hunt particularly focuses on the time between the turn of the sixteen hundreds through the end of the seventeen hundreds in France and England. He is the author of more than twenty books, innumerable contributed chapters and articles and is a frequent lecturer at the Architectural Association, London and also invited lecturer on garden history at many universities and institutions in USA, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, China and around Europe.

RENSKE EK, Conservator Tuinen/ Garden Curator, Het Loo Palace

She is a biologist with Biohistorical research, Botanical collections and digitalisation projects, History of plant collecting and exotic introductions, Botanical gardens and Garden History as her focus areas. Presently she is Project manager part of the project 'Planting for the Future', Dutch Society of Botanical Gardens (NVBT) and Scientific advisor and Garden Curator, National Museum Het Loo Palace, Apeldoorn. She is also presently combining all plant collections of the Dutch Botanical Gardens in one database and making these collections available to new target groups in innovative ways. Recently she organized the symposium "The reconstruction of the formal gardens renovated", Het Loo Palace.

TODD LONGSTAFFE-GOWAN, Gardener and Landscape Historian at Todd Longstaffe-Gowan Landscape Design

He is a gardener and landscape historian. He is Gardens Adviser to Historic Royal Palaces, Landscape Adviser to the Crown Estate Paving Commission in Regent's Park, and President of the London Parks and Gardens Trust. He is author of several books including *The London Town Garden 1700-1840* (2001), *The Gardens and Parks at Hampton Court Palace* (2005), and *The London Square: gardening in midst of Town* (2012).

MAGNUS OLAUSSON, Director of Collections and Research at Nationalmuseum

Since 1985 Olsson has published extensively on the history of 18th century gardens, architecture, paintings and sculptures as well as on the history of collecting and contemporary photography. He has been responsible for some major exhibitions at Nationalmuseum as well as project coordinator in exhibitions produced together with the Louvre, Courtauld Art Galleries, the State Hermitage and Château de Versailles. For several years he was member of the advisory board of "Studies in the History of Gardens & Designed Landscapes." He is a member of the Royal Society for the publication of documents on Scandinavian history.

GEORGE PLUMPTRE, CEO of National Garden Scheme

He has been Chief Executive of the National Gardens Scheme (NGS), the largest garden-opening organisation in the world, since 2010. Prior to joining the NGS he enjoyed a career as a gardening author and journalist. He has published a total of eleven books on various garden subjects – the most recent of which, "The English Country House Garden", was published in 2014. His books also include "Royal Gardens", published in 1981, which describes the various public and private royal gardens in Britain, and "Royal Gardens of Europe", published in 2005. From 1994 to 1997 George Plumtre was Gardening Correspondent of The Times newspaper and he has contributed to a number of other newspapers and magazines, both in the UK and abroad. He was educated at Jesus College, Cambridge, where he read History.

PETER WIRTZ, Landscape Architect, CEO of Wirtz International

He has studied music at Antwerp Conservatory in Belgium and landscape architecture at Cornell University, USA. Beyond his formal education, Peter Wirtz has always had an intense affinity for horticulture: he was raised in the family nursery and garden in Schoten, Belgium, where he familiarized himself at a very early age with orchids, Mediterranean plants, roses, Japanese cherries, hydrangeas, fruit trees and vegetables. He has completed hundreds of private, public, corporate, and institutional projects in Europe and America with his brother and co-director, Martin Wirtz, and their design studio of eleven collaborators. Past and current garden projects include private projects Domaine de Wideville and Chateau de La Croe, both in France and the public park Jubilee Park in London.

REFERENCE GROUP

GÖRAN ALM, Former Director of the Bernadotte Library

KURT ALMQVIST, President, Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation

LEO ERIKSSON, Governor of the Solliden Palace

MORGAN GERLE, Senior Supervisor, Drottningholm Palace

PAULINA LANDIN, Gardener of the Royal Park, Drottningholm Palace

PJ ANDERS LINDER, Editor-in-Chief, Axess Publishing

ALEXANDER NYQUIST, Director of Logistics and Planning, Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation

MAGNUS OLAUSSON, Director of Collections and Research, Nationalmuseum

SUSANNA POPOVA, Project Leader, Axel and Margaret Ax:son Johnson Foundation

STEFAN WIRTÉN, Governor of the Royal Palaces