

Paula Deltz is a garden writer and regular contributor to such publications as the *New York Times*, *Gardens Illustrated* and *Harpers Bazaar*. She spends her summers writing on her porch overlooking Blue Hill Bay or reading 19th-century British or American novels. She is currently collecting her essays and articles of the last 15 years for a book to be entitled *Deltz on Design*.

Grandmother's Garden The Old-Fashioned American Garden, 1865-1915 (Abrams, \$45.00) by May Brawley Hill. Inspired by the perfect marriage of American cottage gardens and Impressionist art, Ms. Hill spins an intelligent and colorful narrative about the emergence of vernacular gardens following the Civil War. Harking back to idealized Colonial gardens, these fenced-in beds burgeoning with native flora possessed regional variations and supplied literary themes for Emily Dickinson's poems and Sarah Orne Jewett's novels.

The Muses of Gwinn: Art and Nature in a Garden Designed by Warren H. Manning, Charles A. Platt & Ellen Biddle Shipman (Sagapress, \$39.95) by Robin Karson. Based on meticulous research, Ms. Karson describes the evolution of Gwinn, a great country place overlooking Lake Erie that became a landmark example of how formal and informal landscapes meshed in the early 20th century. After Platt designed the framework in the Palladian style with terraces and garden rooms and Manning a 21-acre wild garden in the Olmstedian tradition, Shipman supplied the ingenious planting plans. Archival and contemporary photographs of the gardens, including Beaux-Arts fountains in woodland clearings, reinforce the spirit of this cooperative artistic endeavor.

Wild Flowers by Snowdon (Pavilion Books, \$14.50) with foreword by Sir Roy Strong and text by Penny David. In the centuries-old tradition of botanical prints, Lord Snowdon has created a quintessential British herbal with photographs of 40 wild flowers in various stages of bloom against a white background. The witty text complementing these stark and evocative compositions relates scientific knowledge, literary descriptions and local lore. A poppy that rivals "the repertoire of a sari shop" takes the prize along with fluorescent yellow rape whose crops in "abstract panels" assault the countryside.

The History of the Modern Taste in Gardening (Ursus Press, \$11.95) by Horace Walpole. This most famous of British garden history essays tracing the development of the English landscape style is often quoted but rarely found in print. Based on the 1782 edition and with a critical introduction by John Dixon Hunt, this gem that travels from Homer and Pliny to Capability Brown centers on the transition effected by William Kent who "leaped the fence, and saw that all nature was a garden." This is a fresh, primary source by a writer who was there.



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