



*Newsletter  
December  
2017*

**150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

**HANBURY  
BOTANIC GARDENS**

*Realized with the aid of Peter and Mary Mc Laughlin*

Patronized by Comune di Ventimiglia

and British Consulate Genoa

Twinned with  
Amis Jardin Villa Thuret Association



The translation are cared by  
Alessandro Bartoli, Flora Capostagno and Carolyn Hanbury

The imagines of 150° were realised by Fulvio Gazzoli and Bruno Manzone



### GIARDINI BOTANICI HANBURY

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# HOW TO ARRIVE

## BY CAR

- From Italy, motorway A10 exit at Ventimiglia, follow the SP 1 Aurelia direction France - Ponte S. Luigi (km. 8,2)
- From France, motorway Escota A8 exit at Menton, follow RN 7 direction Italia, Pont Saint Louis (km. 7,8) – La Mortola (km. 3,0)

## TRAIN

- station FS di Ventimiglia + taxi or bus to Ponte S. Luigi (**Riviera Trasporti** phone +39.0183.7001 o +39.800.034.771)
- station SNCF Menton or Menton Garavan + taxi or bus to Pont Saint Louis, follow to La Mortola by bus (**Riviera Trasporti** phone +39.0183.7001 or +39.800.034.771)

## OPENING HOURS HANBURY BOTANIC GARDENS

Closed on Monday from the 8<sup>th</sup> of November to the 28<sup>th</sup> of February  
Spring/autumn: 1<sup>st</sup> March / 15<sup>th</sup> June and 16<sup>th</sup> September / 15<sup>th</sup> October, 9.30am/5pm, closes 6.00pm  
Summer: from 16<sup>th</sup> June to 15<sup>th</sup> September, 9.30/6.00pm, closes 7.00pm  
Winter: from 16<sup>th</sup> October to 28<sup>th</sup> February, 9.30/16.00 closes 5.00pm

## Amici Giardini Botanici Hanbury FREE ENTRANCE

### LOW-SEASON PRICE (from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 19<sup>th</sup> March)

Normal ticket: euro 7,50 School reduction: euro 4,50 - min. 15 pax

Reduced tickets: euro 6,00 - groups (min. 20 pax), over 65, 6/14 years, members FAI-T.C.I.

Family ticket: euro 20,00 (parents + children 6/14 years)

### HIGH-SEASON PRICE (from 20<sup>th</sup> March to 30<sup>th</sup> June)

Normal ticket: euro 9,00 School reduction: euro 6,00 - min. 15 pax

Reduced tickets: euro 6,00 - groups (min. 20 pax), over 65, 6/14 years, members FAI-T.C.I.

Family ticket: euro 25,00 - (parents + children 6/14 years)

**Annual membership:** euro 25,00 - over 65 years euro 15,00

## SERVICES OFFERED

**Guided tours for groups:** pre booked: 20 euro

**Educational activities for schools:** pre booked, 2 euro (for each student + ticket)

Explanatory panels relating to the plants. Refreshment buffet / and picnic area, for parties.

Time required for visit: a minimum of 1-1.30 hours. The route is indicated by following the arrows.

The difference in height is 100 mt.

**DISABLED:** One can avoid the steps by using an alternative path. Guide dogs are allowed in the gardens and the water is available upon request at the ticket office and at the refreshment buffet.

**NOT PERMITTED:** All animal; they can be left at the entrance.

## WHERE TO STAY

I.A.T. (Ufficio Informazioni e di Accoglienza Turistica)

Lungoroja G. Rossi, 18039 Ventimiglia (IM) Tel. +39 0184 351 183; fax +39 0184 235 934

Email: [infoventimiglia@visitrivieradefiori.it](mailto:infoventimiglia@visitrivieradefiori.it)



## EDITORIAL FROM THE PRESIDENT



*Alain Elkann President*

The year which is about to end has been distinguished by important events and anniversaries for our Gardens. The celebrations of 150 years since the foundation of the Hanbury Gardens, organized by the University of Genova, the Commune of Ventimiglia and the Friends of the Hanbury Botanical Gardens, have enjoyed the involvement of many authorities including His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco, the British Ambassador in Italy Jill Morris, the Undersecretary of MIBAC the Honourable Ilaria Borletti Buitoni, the British Consul in Genova Denise Dardani, Ventimiglia Mayor Enrico Ioculano, the Honourable Franco Vazio, and many descendants of Thomas Hanbury who have come to Mortola from Great Britain at the invitation of our council-member

Lady Carolyn Hanbury. It gives me pleasure on this occasion express my gratitude to the President of the Republic Sergio Mattarella, who was kind enough to send his congratulations and best wishes on the anniversary event, and bestowing on the ceremony and the Gardens the Presidential Medal which I passed on to Professor Luigi Minuto on the 6th of May last. It was also extremely helpful to the successful outcome of the celebratory occasion to have had the support, both televisual and journalistic, of our friend and colleague Antonio Ricci and his staff at Striscia la Notizia, who helped make the general public aware of the events and ceremonies at the Gardens on the 6th and 7<sup>th</sup> May last. I must also thank our councillor Carlo Perroni for having involved the Ligurian press in order to make sure that our activities and initiatives were adequately covered in regional publications.

The Association's activities in 2017 have received both major organisational and financial support from the University. Amongst other things I have in mind the research grant bestowed on Dott. Alessandro Guiggi for his important work on re-cataloguing the historic herbarium, the provision for the Gardens shuttle bus on many events, and support in the form of voluntary work on the ground in the Gardens, for which my sincere appreciation goes to the Vice President Ursula Salghetti Drioli Piacenza and the other members.

I must also mention the publication, at the hand of Daniela Gandolfi, of the second Notebook of the Friends of the Hanbury Gardens, dedicated to the outstanding Daniel Hanbury, brother of Sir Thomas and both a great botanist and pharmacist, who put so much of his efforts into the first years of the Gardens. I am also eagerly looking forward to the

next edition of the Notebook, dedicated to the landscaping and sections parts of the Gardens, and including numerous beautiful views taken by the noted garden photographer Dario Fusari, as well as an important article written by the English historian Robin Lane Fox, thanks to the efforts of Carolyn Hanbury with the editor of the Financial Times, together with our secretary Alessandro Bartoli, who is also taking care of the restyling of our web site.

Finally I should like to thank all those members who have collaborated in the activities of our association, in particular our irreplaceable treasurer Marta Garulli, our new council-members Parodi and Barone for setting up the association's Instagram profile, Bruno Manzoni who continues to take care of the tours, and all council-members and Friends who provide me with such enthusiastic involvement.

We are all very pleased with the calm and positive atmosphere which has been created between the University, the authorities, the staff and the Friends. I should like to offer my personal and most affectionate thanks to all the gardeners, volunteers, Friends and all those who support us, such as the English Foundation presided over by Fram Dinshaw, and the Royal Horticultural Society. This all acts as encouragement to the ever-more-numerous students and researchers who come to work and learn at the Hanbury Gardens. To everyone I offer my warmest regards and most heartfelt thanks.

Turin, October 2017  
Alain Elkann, President

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## HANBURY BOTANIC GARDENS

*by Denise Dàrdani, Her Britannic Majesty's H. Consul in Genoa*

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2017, at the Fifth Edition of the “Premio Giorgio Gallesio” in Savona, I made the acquaintance of Carolyn Hanbury and that event gave me the insight into the world of the Hanbury Botanic Gardens.

It was my pleasure to accompany Her Majesty's Ambassador Jill Morris CMG, on the 6<sup>th</sup> May for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the Gardens, where I was able to appreciate this reality of 150 years of love, dedication, programming and hard work in upkeeping Sir Thomas Hanbury's dream.



*From left D.Dardani, U. Piacenza, J. Morris, A. Bartoli,  
S. Arnaud Ricci, L. Minuto.*

On that occasion, my friend and photographer, Fulvio Gazzoli, covered the Ambassador's visit to the Hanbury Gardens as it was an event to be immortalized. Not even the torrential rain succeeded in dampening our spirits. The consequent results were then exhibited in the Church of the Holy Ghost to mark the Ambassador's first visit to Genoa on 17<sup>th</sup> October. The photographic exhibition was attended by many friends of the Hanbury Gardens, friends of the Church (the last Anglican Church remaining in Liguria), supporters, sponsors, British citizens, members of British Companies, the congregation and the Mayor of Genoa, Marco Bucci.

Today the Ambassador and I are committed to assist, in whatever way we can.

I believe that a project for joint collaboration, in relation to studies and research with the Royal Horticultural Society, should be realized in the near future, thanks to the intervention of the Ambassador.

I am determined to follow this through and I shall endeavor to make the Ligurians aware of the fascinating story behind these magnificent gardens, of Sir Thomas Hanbury's arrival, his choice of the location at La Mortola and his decision to specialize in tropical plants.



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# THE FINANCIAL AIDS TO THE HANBURY BOTANIC GARDENS GIVEN BY THE AMICI

*by Marta Garulli*  
*treasurer*

during 2016:

- sprays for the green houses	€ 171,55
- painting the Foresteria	€ 1.000,00
- scan herbarium	€ 1.766,50

and during 2017:

- scan herbarium	€ 1.235,00
- n. 10 plants for the garden	€ 80,00
- plants for Pergola	€ 222,00
- roses	€ 142,00
- scan herbarium	€ 2.942,00
- camellias fo the Gardens	€ 315,00
- scan herbarium	€ 1.058,00
- mini van service	€ 700,00
	<hr/>
	€ 9.632,00



# CELEBRATE THE PAST TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

*by Luigi Minuto*

## Introduction

This year we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the Gardens. This is a very important occasion in the life of this little corner of heaven. As always, these occasions should not be considered as points of arrival but as places of departure, of enhancement and improvement. Anniversaries are the best times to look back at the road travelled, to gather the positive aspects together and to look ahead to the future with new enthusiasm, towards new goals. What can a garden such as the one Thomas Hanbury wanted offer in the future? These few pages will try to analyse the past and to foresee the future in the light of Thomas Hanbury's original ideas of the garden. A pinch of enthusiasm added to a great deal of realism will enable an analysis of the past and an attempt to envisage what the near future holds and, why not, the long-term future too.

## Management by the University

Today the University of Genoa carries out the maintenance and management of the collections of the structure with due diligence despite encountering a serious number of issues. After 150 years of history, the garden complex has become progressively more articulated, extending over an area of 18 hectares (9 cultivated), it is home to over 4,000 taxa divided into biogeographical collections. Inside the garden stands the ancient four-storey Palace, plus a group of a dozen outbuildings which house the Museum, the Herbarium, the Seed Bank, the guest house, a refreshment point and the bookshop as well as service areas. There is a nursery with three greenhouses and the whole complex has 19 full-time staff occupying different positions, including 9 gardeners. An apparently large number of staff is still inadequate for the many maintenance activities the University is called on to carry out every year: routine tasks, infrastructure maintenance to which non-scheduled activities need to be added, due to the many old buildings which require major restoration.

This complicated situation does not stop the planning of important projects that are carried out within extremely intense work schedules, distributed throughout the year. Within this context the many cultural and didactic activities promoted by the University need to be remembered: in addition to 35,000 visitors to the garden, about 50 laboratories are organized, 15 summer shows, 2-3 conferences each year, the promotion and advertising of the garden and its activities, the science-based management that maintains and enriches the living collections (seed exchanges, exchanges and purchases, the Seed Bank, etc.), the management of the green spaces - also integrated with external services, interns, work experience schemes, and other activities such as the organization of congresses, conferences, filming, etc.. Participation in scientific projects and cultural activities at national and international levels must not be forgotten either, providing extra funding which is welcome help to an often problematic

budget.

Lastly, there are major management problems due to the nature of the garden and the nature of public body that must manage it, the University. A historical reality, the garden has numerous constraints (monumental and landscape heritage, environmental, archaeological and naturalistic), and national and international regulations (management of the collections) which constrict it and involve a lot of paperwork and numerous administrative procedures that result in extremely slow projects and maintenance works.

The University fulfils these tasks with a great spirit of service but each year it is forced to record heavy economic liabilities that are hard to overcome.

The University uses its own funds to pay staff whilst the ticket proceeds only cover in part the costs of ordinary maintenance which the University undertakes to cover. Everything that comes under the heading of extraordinary maintenance must be funded solely through self-financing activities. The University makes its own scientific expertise available through local and European projects and manages to get funding for infrastructure work. Funds arriving through external aid, although extremely worthy, including the Association of Friends of the Hanbury Botanic Gardens, unfortunately provide only a small percentage of the solution to specific problems.

It must also be borne in mind that, as the University is a public body, it should rightly be accountable for anything it does as a requirement of transparency in public administration. This slows its interventions to a snail's pace due to the enormous amount of bureaucracy that every action provokes. An example of this would be if slightly stronger than usual rain causes a wall or part of a wall to collapse, any restoration work could not be done until about two years have gone by. Unlike a private organization that can contact a professional or a firm that has given the best quote to then do the urgent work, sometimes skipping any necessary permissions, the University has, quite rightly, to follow an extremely convoluted procedure that requires internal and external permissions, formal publications, certifications and so on. This is an enormous limitation on the management of a fragile complex that really requires quick action and prevention but that, unfortunately, risks deterioration due to the slowness of the work that, with the best will, are attempted.

### **The inspiring principles of Thomas Hanbury as an outlook for the future**

The maintenance and preservation of the collections of the past and of the garden's tradition today are not only an attempt to stop time and maintain the value of existing assets but they are



*View of the Garden*



*View of the Garden*

the express will of the University of Genoa which recognizes the ideas of the garden's founder as inherent in its own and so wishes to maintain them. Future projects and programmes of the University will broadly follow the fundamental ideas of the garden's essence as expressed by Thomas Hanbury:

### **A - A garden for people**

The garden today is certainly a pleasant place and receives many thousands of visitors each year, about 35,000, even if numbers have fallen in comparison to previous years. The fall in the number of visitors can quite simply be linked to the serious global economic situation of recent years, but more specifically it could be linked to a lack of publicity of the garden. In recent years the University's goodwill has not been sufficiently focused on understanding what was necessary nowadays to make the structure a place of interest and attraction to a wider public. Schoolchildren and tourists from all over Europe are only too pleased to come to this ribbon of coast, and they are pleasantly surprised by the amount of flowering present in the garden uninterruptedly from September to June. This is still a little known aspect and if properly promoted should reduce seasonal fluctuations of visits from the high of spring to all year round.

Thomas Hanbury's intent was always to bring people from all walks of life - both cultural and social - to visit his garden. This is precisely spirit of the Alcotra Project "Nature & Culture for everyone" that is nearing completion in coming months; it aims to create tools and initiatives that promote interest in the garden for as large a number of people as possible: families, people with disabilities, different cultural levels. For a long time, the properties of the garden were promoted in the academic world or with keen gardeners and lovers of horticulture. They will still remain attracted to the proposed activities but "seeds must be sown" for new generations as well. New techniques and attractions are needed, therefore, events and occasions that will catch the attention of ordinary people. A very interesting example of this occurred last May with the celebrations for the 150th anniversary of the gardens' foundation: tableau vivant of characters in period costume gave snippets of history to an audience that in just one day numbered 1500 people. These occasions might not have a particularly high cultural content, but they gave renewed enthusiasm to staff who saw appreciation of their many years of work.

Another fundamental idea of Thomas Hanbury was to draw closer to the local population: this is another prospect to be revisited in the future. Proof of this was seen with the anniversary celebrations, when many local people from the Ventimiglia area returned to La Mortola to discover that there is still an important heritage to show to the world. So it is not by chance that this year we have chosen to create a Hanbury Botanical Gardens branding that portrays them in a contemporary way. Under the formal name and logo is the name of Ventimiglia, to emphasize the desire to collaborate in the promotion of this area.

A great opportunity for the University in planning for the future has been given by the recent acquisition of the ground floor and lower floor of the palace by the State Property Agency. With possession of all the areas, it will be easier to have exhibition areas and organise events, even simultaneously.

### **B - Centre for botanical research**

Since its inception no effort has been spared to make the garden of La Mortola an important

acclimatization garden of subtropical plants and a recognized scientific research centre equipped with specific structures, such as the Botanical Museum or the Herbarium etc.

Today, through the University of Genoa, undergraduates and trainees from all over Europe take turns to be in the garden. Among the more important research activities examples are the Regional Bank of Germplasm created with the Region of Liguria in order to preserve rare and endangered species of wild Ligurian flora.

For the future, there is a chance of funding for the Rural Development Plan from the Liguria Region that should enable the development of the Seed Bank, and a study on the behaviour of some alien species that were introduced as exotic plants but are fast becoming potential invaders of the surrounding territory. For these purposes, controlled cleaning and care of the green area along the Rio Sorba is being planned, with the purpose of preserving the spontaneous vegetation and limiting the pressure exerted by species that have escaped from cultivation inside the garden.

### **C - A garden of relationships**

Thomas Hanbury gave great impetus to his garden thanks also to the ideas and experiences exchanged with other scientific facilities and private gardens of the Riviera, including the important relationship with Gustave Thuret and Ellen Willmott. Since the early years, he repeatedly drew up lists of cultivated plants in order to be able to exchange them with all the scientific institutions. He also did this for the list of seeds harvested (*Index Seminum*) which has traditionally been a means of exchange between all the Botanical Gardens of the world.

Today, thanks to close relationships and collaboration with institutions worldwide, the Gardens exchange scientific knowledge with a further 450 botanical gardens. The Hanbury Botanical Gardens are members of BGCI (Botanic Garden Conservation International) at a scientific level, participate in the Italian network of the Italian Botanical Gardens managed by the Società Botanica Italiana and are head of the Ligurian Network of Botanic Gardens. These international contacts will hopefully mean a greater opportunity to exchange plants and so sustain the richness of the collections in the garden. In particular, July this year marked the official twinning of Hanbury Botanical Gardens to Villa Thuret in Antibes, to collaborate in scientific research and to encourage the exchange of plants and technical expertise between the staff.

To promote tourism and raise awareness, Hanbury Botanical Gardens are also part of the network *Grandi Giardini Italiani* and are one of the *Partners Gardens* of the Royal Horticultural Society that showcase the most famous gardens for horticulture enthusiasts worldwide.

Just as in the time of the Hanburys, so too this year we have had the opportunity to welcome as guests famous people and heads of state on the occasion of the celebrations for the 150th anniversary of the gardens' foundation. Of them all, the visit by H.S.H. Prince Albert of Monaco and, representing Great Britain, the Ambassador in Italy Jill Morris stand out. Preliminary contacts for future collaboration were initiated with them.

### **D - Training new generations of gardeners**

In the first years of the garden the Hanbury brothers chose to employ local workers and teach them gardening skills. Thus was born the great tradition of floriculture in western Liguria that

throughout the twentieth century has made this territory famous throughout Europe.

Today, the garden hosts dozens of trainees every year who come from schools of horticulture from all over Europe, some of them remain for long periods of vocational training and they are accommodated in the Guest House situated inside the garden. Still to be implemented in coming years is a specialist international school of sustainable Mediterranean gardening, and support has already been forthcoming from different international institutions and the Municipality of Ventimiglia with regard to the infrastructure needed to accommodate the school.

### **E- Ongoing awareness of nature**

Thomas Hanbury was the promoter of a general love toward nature and one of his favourite sentences reads: "...to distribute seeds and plants, and to encourage others in their love of nature..." a deep love that went beyond the specific use and function of the plant.

It is not really by accident that the garden and the surrounding territory are a Regional Protected Area given in management to the University of Genoa. In addition, the promontory and the sea around the garden are two Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), both land and sea are of Community importance according to the European Habitat Directive (recognition by SCI at SPA happened at a European level between 2016 and 2017). Management of the SPAs is also entrusted to the University of Genoa which has drawn up and obtained approval for specific Management Plans during 2017 which foresee a series of maintenance and improvement of vegetation before too long. A final feature of the University's promotion of Hanbury Botanical Gardens as a natural resource is its application for the territory to be a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The whole territory from the seabed in front of the gardens and continuing up to the highest peaks of the Maritime Alps represents a unique example in the world of the overlapping of three orogenic processes and, in particular, what is currently visible is an entire section of the chain of Alps for the opening of a new small ocean between our coast and Corsica, -2500 meters at its deepest.

For a structure such as Hanbury Botanical Gardens, a long and well-developed history is a source of wealth to show and to preserve, but it is also a powerful stimulus to plan for something new. This is not a structure linked obstinately to the past, but a garden with a dynamic nature that to be kept alive must continuously seek and promote something new; sometimes it may change its outward aspects but its spirit and inspiration will always remain intact.



## PHOTOS ALBUM OF THE 150° ANNIVERSARY



*The mayor Ioculano, Albert II, rector Comanducci, state secretary Borletti Buitoni and ambassador Morris*



*Alain Elkann showing the president of the Republic's medal, by his side Luigi Minuto*



*Alain Elkann's speech*



*state secretary Borletti Buitoni with ambassador Morris*



*Albert II of Monaco planting a camellia in occasion of his visit in the Hanbury Garden*



*Carolyn Hanbury's speech*



*From left: U. Piacenza, A. Bartoli, Silvia & Antonio Ricci*



*From left: A. Bartoli, Silvia & Antonio Ricci  
and Paolo Pejrone*



*Carolyn Hanbury, Denise Dardani, Jill Morris*



*Albert II with Jill Morris, British Ambassador  
in Rome*

## AN ENGLISH GARDEN IN MENTON: CLOS DU PEYRONNET

*by Carolyn Hanbury*

The Clos du Peyronnet lies nestling between the mountains and the sea just over the Italian border at Menton Garavan, with wonderful views of both. It was bought by Derrick and Barbara Waterfield in 1912, at the time it was an ancient olive grove of which one magnificent specimen of 600 years remains. The Waterfields' created a garden of Mediterranean plants mixed with rare exotic specimens on almost a hectare of land, which thanks to the layout of long paths many changing levels and rooms seems much bigger. The present owner William Waterfield took on the garden from his uncle Humphrey who had redesigned and modified it. His motto was, "Good plants, well shown" and William has continued this philosophy with additions of his own; pots of his own, garden ornaments and works of art. William was also a passionate collector of bulbs some of which are displayed in pots today. Each pillar in the entrance is wrapped in the thick foliage and trunk of an ancient wisteria as if holding the whole loggia together.

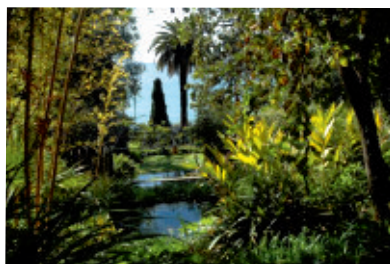


*William Waterfield*

Other striking parts of this garden are: the central feature of a water staircase consisting of five ponds falling away from consecutive terraces, a small orchard of exotic fruit trees including the rare "rose apple" or Jaboticaba, a clump of magnificent yellow bamboo and about 8 avocado trees of various varieties. The whole garden exudes harmony and creativity.



*Clos du Peyronnet - entrance*



*Clos du Peyronnet*

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# NEW YORK GREEN: FROM CENTRAL PARK TO THE BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDENS

*by Alessandro Bartoli & Chiara Ferrando*

When you think of a great New York park, you cannot fail to consider Central Park, a large, elegant green rectangle, established in the heart of mid--nineteenth-century Manhattan by the architects Law Olmsted and Vaux, and inspired by the great urban parks of Europe, from London's Hyde Park to the Bois de Boulogne in Paris.

There have always been other, smaller green spaces in Manhattan, such as the collection of gardens of Bryant Park, the one next to the New York Public Library, Madison Square Park and Washington Square. There are also several mossy cemeteries flanking colonial-era churches and for more than a century swallowed up by high-rise Downtown and Midtown.



*Brooklyn Botanic Garden, the torii*

More recently, in Manhattan, newspaper articles have featured the intelligent restoration and reuse of the old elevated railway line (the High), which used to run between 10th and 11th Avenue in Chelsea. After falling into disuse in the late 1970s it was slowly colonized by spontaneous and disordered plant growth, making its way along the steel rails and wooden cross-ties of the old line. Out of these early beginnings came the idea of following the example of nature by creating a long hanging garden that now stretches for several blocks, offering residents and tourists alike the opportunity for a long walk in the very heart of the city, but totally cut off from the traffic and confusion below.

However, to visit the city's most interesting garden, the thing to do would be to cross Brooklyn Bridge and head for the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens.

The Gardens comprise an extensive park covering about 52 acres, originally established by the Brooklyn municipality, and opened in 1910. While maintaining an harmonious unity, the park is set out as a series of different gardens, each one characterized by a different stylistic,



*New York, Central Park South*



architectural, or botanical quality, and in some way self-contained.

After the cold wet winters of New England, towards the end of April the park reawakens and begins to attract numerous visitors at the time of the annual flowering of around 200 examples of cherry, celebrated by the hanami, the traditional Japanese festival which marks flowering, somewhat like the Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington. In fact the Brooklyn gardens have retained, unchanged, their special bond with Japanese botanic and horticultural culture. It is probably fair to say that the very heart of the park lies around the small garden and artificial lake



*Brooklyn Botanic Gardens,  
the gate*

created by the landscape artist Takeo Shiota between 1914 and 1915. The garden in Brooklyn was the first public Japanese garden in North America, established around a small lake, on the edge of which was erected a large sacred Shinto shrine (tori), brought from Japan, and whose piles are sunk into the lakebed, as are those of the most famous tori in the whole of Japan, on



*New York, Central Park, Cherry blossom*

the sanctuary island of Miyajima, near Hiroshima. But links with the land of the rising sun are not limited to this part of the garden. They recur in the elegant greenhouses which nurture the refined collection of hundred-year-old bonsai from China and Japan.

A tour of the Gardens would be incomplete without a visit to the rose-garden, which contains 5,000 examples of more than 1,200 varieties, subdivided into orderly collections of tea rose, old

rose, floribunda, grandiflora and rambler. Close by, bedded out, is a major collection of tree peonies, surprising for their variety of colours.

Particularly interesting for those visiting the park with young people is the Children's Garden, perhaps the oldest of its kind in the world and dating from 1914. The Garden extends over an acre and the park's youngest visitors are able to follow paths on which they will learn about cultivation, pollination, the grafting of fruit trees and the importance of compost.

Close by lies the small garden, designed on the theme of William Shakespeare, donated by Henry Clay Folger, and with, at its centre, a small Tudor-style cottage. The garden displays



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more than eighty plant species mentioned by the Stratford bard in his plays and sonnets.

If the trip to Brooklyn were not to entirely satisfy lovers of beautiful New York gardens, we would suggest a final visit to the northern most tip of Manhattan Island, to find Fort Tryon Park, with its wonderful mediaeval cloisters, bought in Europe by J. D. Rockefeller Jr., then taken apart and re-erected in this tranquil New York park, facing the calm waters of the Hudson River. A place of peace, silence and antique beauty. Entering the cloisters of the grand neo-mediaeval complex, one is momentarily disoriented, transported as if by magic from New York to the heart of Burgundy or Murcia.



*High Line, New York*

# CLARENCE BICKNELL, ELLEN WILLMOTT A GARDENS' LOVERS FRIENDSHIP

by *Susie Bicknell*

*This article is based on 20 letters written by Clarence Bicknell to Ellen Willmott and found in Berkeley Castle (Essex) by Ursula Piacenza e Carolyn Hanbury*

Carolyn Hanbury and Ursula Salghetti Drioli Piacenza told my husband, Marcus Bicknell, and me about a collection of letters from Clarence Bicknell to Ellen Willmott who created the Boccanegra Gardens. The letters were found in the archive of Berkeley Castle near Stroud in Gloucestershire. The Castle terraces were planted by Lady Georgina Fitzhardinge in the 1880s, followed in the early C20 by Major Robert Berkeley, who also developed the plant collections



*Ellen Willmott*

at Spetchley. His aunt was Ellen Willmott of Warley Place (Essex) one of the most famous gardens of her time, while among visitors to Berkeley were Gertrude Jekyll and Vita Sackville West. Ellen Willmott is not known to have done any work at Berkeley Castle gardens, but the archive there contains 20 letters from Clarence Bicknell to her.

By the time this correspondence starts, Ellen Willmott (1858-1934) was already a celebrity in the world of horticulture. She was the fourth generation of a family who were "amateur gardeners of distinction".

Her parents owned Warley Place in Essex which had 33 acres (130,000 m2).

Ellen became a member of the Royal Horticultural Society in 1894, and only three years later received the RHS Victoria Medal of Honour inaugurated that year to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Year. She, along with Gertrude Jekyll, were the only two women of 60 recipients to get the award. She was also elected to the coveted RHS Narcissus Committee, and over the years won numerous RHS Orders of Merit, and also gold medals particularly for her various groups of rare daffodils. In 1904, she had the honour of being one of the very first women to be elected a fellow of the Linnaean Society. She had over 60 species named either after herself (for example the *Rosa Willmottiae* pictured, right) or after Warley Place.

In 1888, Ellen became a very wealthy woman when her godmother, Countess Tasker, died leaving Ellen £140,000, the rough equivalent today of £5 million. Then followed years of profligate spending. In 1890, she bought a chateau at Tresserve near Aix-les-Bains in France and established a second garden to develop her love of Alpine plants. It wasn't until 1905 that Ellen bought Boccanegra, the house and hanging garden close to the Hanbury Gardens, near

Ventimiglia, Italy, from Giuseppe Biancheri.

Clarence was corresponding with her (2<sup>nd</sup> February 1902) about rare bulbs and plants she did not have.

*"I wish I could send you something? Can I not? Some dried plants for your Herbarium? Some uncommon bulbs? Is there nothing you do not possess?"*

Then in September that year, he sends her a card offering her, one supposes, a rare *allium* bulb, but is worried that he has the wrong address. Clarence may be a little star-struck, as he adds, in relation to the address:

*"I imagine 'England' would be enough for anyone of worldwide fame"*

Clarence and Ellen collaborated with Alwyn Berger who was curator of the Hanbury Gardens from 1897 to 1914. In his 1912 catalogue, Berger thanks Clarence for helping him compile it, and that *"the Western and Southern Mediterranean plants were contributed by Miss Willmott, Mr. C. Bicknell of Bordighera and M. Henri Correvon of Geneva"*. Berger was perhaps not the easiest man to work with. Ellen must have complained about him for in an undated 21 January letter, (probably 1914/15 after Berger's departure from La Mortola), Clarence says: *"I had not heard of Berger's insolence, but he had good qualities but could see below the surface his conceit and 'Germany overall' feelings"*.



*Boccanegra when belonged  
to Ellen Willmott*

Most of Clarence's letters to Ellen concern seeds, and clearly he found her a bit of a poor correspondent. In 1913, Ellen was completing her great work *"The Genus Rosa"*, and in the 4th November 1913 postcard Clarence writes... *"M. Burnat has twice written to me to ask about your Preface to the Roses, some sheets if I remember right he sent to you for some information. He does not say exactly what he wants to know, but he feels you have vanished. Perhaps he has written to you; I might let him know you are not a famous scribe. Did any of Luigi's mountain seeds come up? I hope your garden is not stopping for the war. Will you come out here? There is hardly anybody. All best wishes. Yours truly. C. Bicknell"*.

The only letter from Ellen to Clarence in this Berkeley Castle collection is what must be a draft reply (undated) to this chiding letter from Bicknell. Ellen was clearly very busy.

She corresponded widely, and did try to organise herself. As she only visited Tresserve and Boccanegra twice a year, usually for a month, she *"kept in constant contact with the head gardeners at all three gardens through the clever use of a series of preprinted addressed postcards which were left with the gardeners so that 'they may instantly communicate' with her when needed"*.

Ellen became a rather sad and impoverished figure towards the end of her life. Financial difficulties forced her to sell her French and Italian properties, and eventually her personal possessions. She was increasingly eccentric, booby-trapped her estate to deter thieves, carried a revolver in her handbag and was arrested on suspicion of shoplifting in 1928 (later acquitted). She died of atheroma and embolus of the coronary artery in 1934, aged 76... that was 16 years after Clarence. Warley Place was sold to pay her debts and the house was demolished in 1939. The Boccanegra house and her gardens on the Italian Riviera live on today, in total splendour, tended by the Piacenza family.

## KATHARINE HANBURY ARRIVES AT LA MORTOLA IN 1868

*by Charles Quest Ritson*



*Thomas Hanbury together with his family in Mortola in 1869*

Katharine Aldam Pease married Thomas Hanbury on Wednesday 11 March 1868. Both spouses were devout Quakers. There are no priests or ministers within the Quaker religion, so English law permits 'Friends' to marry themselves to each other and for the whole congregation to be the witnesses.

After their wedding breakfast, Thomas and Katharine left for La Mortola, though the Pease family's celebrations continued for the rest of the day. The newly-weds were delayed for a day at Folkestone by rough seas but on 16 March, Katharine wrote to her stepmother from the Grand Hotel in Paris 'I am enjoying myself exceedingly... no-one could be more considerate and kind than Thomas'.

Men on honeymoon are usually considerate and kind, but Katharine's enjoyment of Thomas's company and conversation never left her. They travelled south by train, pausing to visit Avignon, Arles, Marseilles and the Roman amphitheatre at Fréjus. The French coast was very different then from now: Katharine wrote of Golfe Juan that it had 'a Hotel and a few scattered houses by the sea'. The hotel was full, so they stayed the night in 'a charming pension... the next morning was delicious, the sun warm, the air saturated with stocks.'

Thomas and Katharine arrived at La Mortola on 30 March. Katharine described the journey from Menton and her first impressions of the house that was to be her home for more than 50 years:

'... we came up the long hill towards Mortola. At the customs house some of the villagers greeted us... soon after, an old man, the father of one of the schoolmistresses greeted us, and then came the Grimaldi schoolchildren and presented us with two very pretty bouquets. Then we came to the Mortola. I wish I could describe what a picturesque and curious little village it is - it is very tiny, the houses perched on the steep hillside among olive trees.'

Thomas's father was waiting for them at the roadside and his mother Rachel down at the door of the house. Katharine liked the house exceedingly - it was a good size and not rambling. The furniture was simple 'but pretty', though the drawing room was, as yet, unfurnished. From her dressing room 'there is a lovely view of the coast looking towards Italy, bounded by the headland on which Bordighera is situated. There is another window looking up the olive yard,

through which is the path to the house. Above this are the Mortola cottages and the hills rising above them with... a peep of a mountain 1000ft [300m] high. The view in front of the house of the Mediterranean, which we see and hear breaking on the rocky shore below, is charming, and so is the view of the palm trees when standing on the marble terrace in the moonlight, with the lights of Mentone seen far in the distance'. Katharine's description of the view from the palazzo has not changed in all the 150 years since she wrote these words to her stepmother.

From the start of their marriage, Katharine was expected to run the domestic side of life at Mortola. As her father's eldest daughter, she had helped to manage his household in Bristol, especially during her stepmother's many pregnancies. Thomas had engaged a sixteen-year-old orphan Giustina Muratorio as a cook and general housemaid, and both Rachel Hanbury and her English maid, Whitting, began to teach her what was expected of her. Giustina was illiterate and spoke neither Italian nor French, only the local patois, and Katharine found it 'very amusing' using signs to show her where to clean and dust. Fortunately, she got on well with Giustina, who was very quick at taking in orders, though Katharine did comment that 'these Italian people are rather untidy and dirty in their ways,' although Thomas's mother 'has done much to induce cleanliness and order in the kitchen', adding that 'they are most industrious and never seem afraid of hard work.' She also mentioned that Giustina had 'very handsome, regular features'. In due course, those good looks captivated their German head gardener Ludwig Winter, who married her and begat some eleven children.

Thomas's mother had arranged for a wedding cake to be sent to Mortola from London, but was rather disappointed when it did not arrive. However, Rachel 'found a recipe in her cookery book which... Thomas wished me to turn into French and Thomas took it to the pastry cook in Mentone.' Katharine was amused by the customs officers at the frontier 'tasting our wedding cake and commending it'.

Thomas had said that he did not want a wife with social accomplishments; he valued kindness and integrity more highly. Nevertheless, Katharine had been well educated; Quakers taught the same academic disciplines equally to both boys and girls. She spoke better French than Thomas, and was also competent in German, of which Thomas knew little. Nevertheless, Katharine was brought up fairly strictly and had to make some adjustments after she married the rather more worldly Thomas.

Dancing was one activity where Thomas's attitudes differed from those of the Pease family. In a long letter to her stepmother written on 6 March 1869, Katharine explained: 'I have long been intending to write on the subject of our having dancing at our party. I should be very grieved to do any harm to anyone by setting an example of worldliness... Before I married I never saw any dancing and nearly always heard it spoken of in terms of condemnation. Thomas's opinion is that dancing in itself as an amusement and exercise is harmless if enjoyed in moderation.' And Katharine also came to the conclusion that a girl's character would not be altered by whether or not she danced.

Her own character never changed. Katharine remained kind, thoughtful and dutiful throughout her life. It is clear from the Hanbury family archives that, all through their married life of nearly 40 years, Katharine and Thomas both had complete confidence in each other's judgment. They learned from each other and became always closer in all their attitudes and opinions as the years passed by. Theirs was a true Quaker marriage - an alliance of equals.



## CAMILLO SBARBARO'S LICHENS

*We publish below an article which appeared in the Genoan newspaper Lavoro on 22nd May 1929, and which was recently "rediscovered" by prof. Domenico Astengo, a great scholar of the Ligurian poet Camillo Sbarbaro (1888-1967) with home (a friend and someone he used to see frequently). The text, apparently anonymous, was however attributed with certainty by Astengo to the enlightening pen of the Genoan journalist Giovanni Ansaldo (1895-1969), banned from official journalism in those years as he had signed Benedetto Croce's Anti-Fascist Manifesto in 1925 and had been arrested in 1927 while attempting to leave the country. Ansaldo consequently published his contributions to Lavoro and the magazines, directed by Leo Longanesi, under the pseudonym of "Black Star" or just a small black star; as in this case. In this article Ansaldo - perhaps the first - narrates Sbarbaro's great passion and botanical knowledge, a teacher of Italian hermeticism he died in Savona exactly fifty years ago. Sbarbaro's lichen collection was donated by the writer to the Genoa Museum of Natural History, where it is still today. Of the more than a 120 species of lichens described by Sbarbaro, twenty bear his name.*

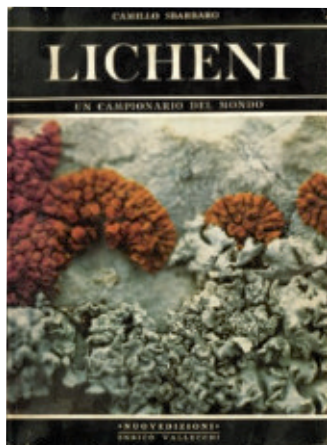
### SBARBARO'S LICHENS

*"Sbarbaro, estroso fanciullo, piega versicolori  
carte, e ne trae nevicelle che affida alla fanghiglia  
mobile d'un rigagno; vedile andarsene fuori".*

Thus wrote Eugenio Montale a few years ago, dedicating an epigram to his - and our - friend Sbarbaro; almost to indicate the childlike ingenuity with which this delicate artist composed his short prose poems, and abandoned them to chance, to the collections of small magazines that nobody reads any more, to the pages of La Riviera Ligure or the Gazzetta di Genova, until some gentleman passes notices them and gathers them up. "Whimsical child"; there is some truth in this epigrammatic definition by Montale. Do not been misled by Sbarbaro's abbot-like face and pleasantly convivial demeanour : this man is far more whimsical than he seems with his air of an eighteenth-century porcelain figurine, with his Vieux Saxe or Capodimonte gestures (Vieux Saxe and authentic Capodimonte obviously, not some cheap imitation). But few know of Sbarbaro's greatest whim; and until today Montale and ourselves had barely heard the news: lichens. This scholar, who with a light heart naively leaves - according to Montale - his "many-hued" cards to the current, instead collects with rigorous method lichens that grow in the cracks of old walls and on the barks of trees. To tell the truth, we have an extremely vague idea about lichens. To sum up our knowledge on the subject, it seems we can say that we came across lichens in the final pages of botany textbooks, where they deal with cryptogam plants; but we could be talking nonsense. Oh, and we also know this, having read it in some book on travel, that over there in Greenland, in Iceland, lichens constitute the only vegetation; and that the reindeer - poor reindeer! - are extremely fond of them... and that's it.

But Sbarbaro! To understand just how great the realm of lichens is, and how Sbarbaro is absolute lord, you need to have an extract of the botanical Archives entitled "New and interesting Italian lichens" in your hands, in which Sbarbaro sets out the results of his research. Awesome! Meanwhile Sbarbaro is unrecognizable. Where is the lavish style of the author of Trucioli? Here everything is strict scientific objectivity from the very outset: "For nearly a decade the writer has been collecting mosses and lichens, above all in Liguria where he lives". It reads like the beginning of a military report. And then the solemnity of the Latin names, given by Sbarbaro, or by his learned correspondents, to the newly discovered species in our mountains or on our coasts; and those Latin descriptions of abject seedlings, full of scientific abbreviations, rapid and severe quotes, formulas of which only expert botanists would know the in-depth meaning...

It's what we told you: a new world, and a new Sbarbaro. Here, for example, is our poet, the night-owl who everyone knows, the convivial dinner guest, who puts under the lens a species of lichen called, in his honour, *Parmelia Sbarbaronis*. He is transformed. Everything becomes things, findings, classifications. Twenty rows of scientific terms are set down, behind which one can surmise an absolute precision of scrutiny and thought, a rigorous attention, that no pretext or literary recollection can distract. The qualifying adjectives of *Parmelia* are let fly, one after the other in strict order. And the Latin description concludes with these words: "Sterilis. *Spermagonia non vidi*." In other words, the *Parmelia* is not suitable for marriage...He remembers to scrutinise everything, even the underside of lichens, this Sbarbaro the scientist,



*Sbarbaro, I Licheni, Edizione Vallecchi*



*Camillo Sbarbaro*

this Sbarbaro transformed. Transformed but never pedantic Why - curious! - Reading such a strictly botanic work leaves us an impression of open air, windswept countryside, sunny blue coastlines of freedom...and do you know where this impression comes from? By the details of the localities where Sbarbaro and his correspondents announce they have found their "new and interesting" lichens. This - says Sbarbaro - "was collected only once in Genoa, in Val Bisagno, on a calcareous rock at Ponte Carrega." This other, he announces, "was found for the first time on a cherry tree at Cantalupo Varazze; then in abundance in Villa Doria at Pegli." So then - we poor ignoramus are surprised to think - lichens are not only up there in Greenland or Iceland? Not only reindeer eat them! No, Sbarbaro warns us peremptorily: this, the *Parmelia dubia* "lives in Spotorno, on stones of dry stone walls in an arid area of pine trees above Prelo".

Happy *Parmelia*! Who knows how nice it is up there, where she lives, above Spotorno, among the pine trees, in sight of the sea...but there are also lichens of melancholic tastes: the "*Suamaria crassa*" for example, collected - attests Sbarbaro - only once in fruit above Staglieno (Aqueduct wall)..." and there are those more rustic or practical: "Gathered - the *Eudocarpon* Lunardi - abundantly on the stoneware tiles covering the roof of a hut at Piandegalotti, in the province of Modena". But the majority, as we see, love the Riviera. The *Opographa* which is "on the wood of old olive trees at Mola di Varazze"; the *Acarospora*, which was found "at Capo Noli, on the tufa of a slope, beneath the Semaphore...".

The magic of these names, sea and sun! You can feel it, this sense of open air exuding from it; you can guess, the unknown life of the "other" Sbarbaro...This man, who seen at the *Gambrinus* of before, seemed to be focused, he knows all the coasts of Liguria, and all the paths...Whoever suspected that such a love for his *Parmonia* would take him on an expedition to Ponte Carrega? Whoever would have thought he would spend long hours scrutinizing the bark of the trees in Villa Doria! Who does not envy him, all alone in hushed silence, seeking out lichens on dry stone walls above Varazze? Who would not want to climb with him, one morning, in the olive groves of Mola, or below the Capo Noli semaphore in search of unknown lichens?

Now we understand the man, over and beyond his apparent, and totally superficial, split between writer and botanist, between the author of *Trucioli* and the Archives collaborator. Now we feel that the "multi-hued cards" and botanical walks are closer in spirit than it seems; that his studied Italian sentences and his knowledgeable Italian descriptions come from an intimate desire for original and rare things, from an inspiration that is personal, capricious, undulating, always different, always distinct from the curiosity of the masses. "Sbarbaro whimsical child" is how he is, how he is revealed to be, better than his literary books is this austere list of botanical descriptions. This love for the humblest of Nature's small parts is an inspiration; this meticulous scientific research, which is fuelled by an endless curiosity, is an inspiration, a beautiful inspiration. Inspiration: poetry. It took another poet - Montale - to reveal, in a word, all of Sbarbaro's secret. ★

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## TOM BRIDGES: OBITUARY

*by Charles Quest Ritson*

So unassuming was his nature that many Friends of La Mortola will not have realised what extraordinary intelligence determined the life and work of Lord Bridges, who died aged 89 on 27 May 2017. Tom was born to a family that has distinguished itself for generations by its exceptional intellect, culture, creativity and commitment to service of the public good. His father Edward, 1<sup>st</sup> Lord Bridges, was Head of the Home Civil Service and Chancellor of the University of Reading. His mother was the Hon. Katharine Farrer, daughter of the 2<sup>nd</sup>



*Lord Thomas Bridges*

Lord Farrer. His paternal grandfather was Robert Bridges, the Poet Laureate; his great-grandfather was Alfred Waterhouse, the most successful architect of Victorian England.

Tom received the traditional education at Eton, from which he proceeded to New College, the Oxford college most distinguished, then as now, for intellectual excellence. He entered the Foreign Office in 1951 and, from the start, was marked for rapid promotion. His early years in Geneva, Bonn and Berlin were occupied with problems of international security, where he acquitted himself so well that he was recalled to London and appointed as an assistant Private Secretary to no fewer than four British Foreign Secretaries. He then went off to Athens as Head of Chancery, always the most important political job within an embassy. He greatly enjoyed Greece and spent much of his leisure time walking in the mountains and sailing in the Aegean sea. Tom was then posted to Moscow, again as Head of Chancery. He married, in 1953, Rachel, daughter of Sir Henry Bunbury. They were a devoted couple with many friends. Throughout this itinerant career, his wife Rachel was his rock - Rachel the organiser, the hostess, and of course the mother of their three children. Her energy was infectious – and Tom shared it well into retirement. Rachel's death in 2005 left a void in his life which, despite the love and support of his family and many friends, never could be filled.

From 1972 to 1975 Tom was Private Secretary for Overseas Affairs to the Prime Minister, first the Conservative Edward Heath and then the Socialist Harold Wilson. Both men admired Tom's ability to serve his political master without alienating members of the Foreign Secretary's department. He was promoted to become Minister (Commercial) in Washington, then returned to London as a Deputy Under-Secretary for Economic Affairs, including responsibility for EEC questions. His final appointment was as Ambassador to Rome, which he held from 1983 to 1987, receiving Margaret Thatcher for summit discussions, guiding the

Prince and Princess of Wales and arranging a state visit to Britain for President Cossiga. Tom learnt to speak the Italian language well and pleased his hosts by the earnest pleasure he took in their culture and civilisation. His manner was dignified, without any hint of pomposity; and he won respect and affection in Rome and in the course of his many visits outside the capital. On his retirement, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II appointed him a Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, the highest award ever made to British diplomats.

Charm, patriotism, open mindedness and integrity were the characteristics that he displayed all through his public and private life. As a diplomat, he devoted his life to protecting and advancing his country's interests. But, like his father, he was a scholar - quiet, gentle and unassuming in his manner, with a considerable interest in the arts, especially music. He had inherited his father's peerage in 1975 and with it went to right to sit in the House of Lords, where he sat on the Select Committee on European Communities. He was well regarded by fellow-peers and was one of the ninety hereditary peers elected to remain when the House of Lords was reformed in 1999. In accordance with British traditions of selfless public work, all the work that Tom undertook after retiring as Ambassador to Italy was done without remuneration - driven by his commitment to public service. He agreed to take on the chairmanship of the British Italian Society, and he also served on the council of the British School of Archaeology and the Arts in Rome. He never lost his enjoyment of all things Italian.

Lord Bridges was not a founder member of the English Friends of La Mortola, in 1984 but he knew of the problems that the Royal Horticultural Society and the Royal Botanic gardens at Kew sought to resolve. He was able to obtain an undertaking from the Italian government that the Hanbury gardens would be restored, supported and maintained by the Italian state. When he heard of Lupo Osti's efforts to establish an Italian association of Friends two years later, Tom invited members of the Committee to lunch with him at Villa Wolkonsky and to look at the Embassy's gardens, whose conservation was a concern of Rachel Bridges.

In 1995, he was invited to join the Committee of the Italian Friends of the Hanbury Gardens and regularly attended its meetings. Fundamental to his work for the Gardens was his friendship with the late Boris Biancheri, who was Director-General for Political Affairs at the Foreign Ministry in Rome from 1985 to 1987, and then Italian ambassador in London between 1987 and 1991. The profound respect that each diplomat had for the other was of immense benefit to the Hanbury Gardens.

Tom contributions to discussions among members of the Committee were always quiet, measured and well-judged. He remained an oasis of calm whenever English botanists and friends of La Mortola declared that insufficient progress was being made towards improving the management of the Hanbury Gardens. And he loved the garden itself, as well as its long history of English ownership. It was a great sorrow for his many friends, English and Italian, when age and sickness prevented him from travelling to La Mortola ever again.

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*Thomas Edward Bridges, 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Bridges, 27 November 1927 – 27 May 2017*

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## PRESENTATION OF ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS OF 2017

*by Ursula Salghetti Drioli Piacenza*

2017 has been particularly eventful thanks to the 150th anniversary of Thomas Hanbury's acquisition of the property. The highlight of the celebrations were on the 6th and 7th of May. In addition the Friends of Hanbury continued with their usual activities.



*trip to Pollone*

Our first meeting of the year was on the 28th January in our headquarters. Our member Delia Alborno suggested a meeting for members to share their experiences or plans that they hope to bring to fruition. A goodly number of friends met that afternoon for a very enjoyable exchange of pictures, photographs and stories about the Hanbury family and in particular of the garden.

Carolyn Hanbury initiated the proceedings, with an illustrated presentation of the family archives and with her own personal recollections of Dorothy Hanbury which immediately created a convivial atmosphere, encouraging others to take part. The second speaker, Mohamed El Sabaawi, presented examples of paintings done in the garden and amazed us with his technique in representing plants and corners of the garden with faithful precision. Also our associate Ines Delfitto Giaconia showed us photographs of a group of children wearing the traditional Ventimiglia costumes whom she had accompanied around the garden. The afternoon concluded pleasantly with English tea at Casa Nirvana.

In February Professor Vincenzo Aurelio held a lecture on the installation of an automatic irrigation system which was open to all and was divided into two parts, the theory section in our headquarters and the practical in the garden where we set up a small irrigation system around a rose bed.

On 26th March we went to Pegli to visit Villa Pallavicini Durazzo guided by the curator Riccardo Alberici. The garden, which represents scenes from Dante's *Inferno*, has been well restored. It was a pleasant surprise to admire Camellias and Rhododendrons growing strongly in the Mediterranean climate by the sea, thanks to the acid soil.

The 150th anniversary celebrations took place on the 6th and 7th of May, which have been amply reported by the media. Our association contributed to the weekend by organizing a free shuttle bus from Ventimiglia for a large number of visitors. Also our volunteers worked hard in collaboration with the gardeners to make the gardens even more beautiful and richer in plants, including a marvellous example of *Xanthorrea preissii* (blackboy) from Australia donated by our associate friends Manera, owner of the famous Cactusmania Nursery.

# THE V EDITION OF THE GIORGIO GALLESIO PRIZE AWARDED TO CAROLYN HANBURY

by *Alessandro Bartoli*

On April 22<sup>nd</sup> in Savona the “Circolo degli Inquieti” awarded the 5<sup>o</sup> Edition of the Giorgio Gallesio Prize to Carolyn Hanbury for her contribution to gardening, horticulture, botany and agriculture, in the presence of the British H. Consul Denise Dardini and the Mayor of Savona, Ilaria Caprioglio.

This prize is dedicated to the great scientist and Ligurian naturalist Giorgio Gallesio, author of the hugely important “Pomona Italiana”, who was born in Finale Ligure and is buried in Santa Croce along with other eminent Italians.

The Giorgio Gallesio Prize is now in its fifth edition. In the past it has been awarded to Paolo Pejrone, Emanuela Rosa-Clot, Gianfranco Giustina, Antonio and Silvia Ricci along with Marco Magnifico.

The prize was awarded to Carolyn Hanbury for the following reasons:

*“For over twenty years, Carolyn Hanbury has been engaged in supporting the delicate task of restoring the Hanbury Botanic Gardens founded by Sir Thomas Hanbury 150 years ago at La Mortola, in the community of Ventimiglia, to their former glory.*

*Carolyn Hanbury represents the fourth generation of the Hanbury Family who have been committed to public works in Western Liguria. Thomas Hanbury and his descendants have created the Hanbury Botanic Gardens, founded the Botanical Institute of the University of Genova and contributed many other philanthropic initiatives. Each generation of this illustrious family has contributed to the story of horticulture and gardening in Liguria and in Italy, including Carolyn, who with an energetic and noble spirit, has in her own way helped to safeguard this botanical heritage and the landscape of the Hanbury Gardens and has promoted their importance in the world. She has extended the hand of friendship to Italy and continues to be a stimulus for good relations between the United Kingdom and Italy, contributing to rebuilding the historic and special cultural and scientific ties that the Hanbury Gardens have always had with The Royal Gardens of Kew and the Royal Horticulture Society.”*



*Antonio Ricci's speech to Gallesio Prize*



*Alessandro Bartoli reads the motives*



## NOTE TO OUR BRITISH AND AMERICAN MEMBERS

The Vice President is available to consider letters from and give advice to members on matters relating to the growing of plants in a Mediterranean climate or those grown at Hanbury Gardens.

Members wishing to contribute articles or other publishable material for the Notiziario are kindly requested to forward their submissions by email. However, should they prefer to do so in paper form, any photographs submitted must be originals.

All material must reach us by 5 OCTOBER in order to be published in the DECEMBER issue.

The Secretary's address is :

Amici dei Giardini Botanici Hanbury  
Vico Hanbury, 1 - LA MORTOLA  
18039 VENTIMIGLIA (IM)  
Phone +39.0184.229447

open on SATURDAY from 9:30AM to 12:00AM

e-mail:[segreteriaamicigbh@gmail.com](mailto:segreteriaamicigbh@gmail.com)  
or [hanbury.carolyn@gmail.com](mailto:hanbury.carolyn@gmail.com)

For all information about events or concerning their personal situation with regard to the Association, individual members should contact the Administrative Secretary.

e-mail:[segreteriaamicigbh@gmail.com](mailto:segreteriaamicigbh@gmail.com)

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



<i>President:</i>	Alain Elkann
<i>Honorary president:</i>	Marella Agnelli
<i>Vice-president:</i>	Ursula Salghetti Drioli
<i>Honorary vice-president:</i>	Paola Profumo
<i>Secretary:</i>	Alessandro Bartoli
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Marta Garulli
<i>Members:</i>	Ursula Salghetti Drioli Silvia Arnaud Ricci Alessandro Bartoli Chris Brickell Patrick Fairweather Daniela Gandolfi Marta Garulli Carolyn Hanbury Paolo Pejrone Carlo Perrone Sandro Parodi Luca Barone

### *BOARD OF PROBIVIRI AND INTERNAL AUDITORS*

<i>Members:</i>	Duccio Guidi William Waterfield Jean Claude Lafaye
<i>Substitute:</i>	Luca Barbero Giuseppe Biancheri



## SUBSCRIBING AND ORDINARY MEMBERSHIP AT 2017

Surname/Company	Name	City	County/State
ABRIANI	Eugenio	VENTIMIGLIA	IM
ACCADEMIA PIEMONTESE DEL GIARDINO		REVELLO	CN
AGNELLI CARACCILO	Marella	TORINO	TO
ALBORNO RISI	Dilia	VENTIMIGLIA	IM
AMITRANO	Pietro	VENTIMIGLIA	IM
ANTIVALLE JIVRAJ	Gulshan	BORDIGHERA	IM
ARMANN	Remy	VALBONNE	(F)
ARRONI	Luciano e Maria Letizia	SANREMO	IM
ASTENGO MANTERO	Matilde	SAVONA	SV
BACCIALONE	Giovanna	BUSSANA di Sanremo	IM
BAKKER	Hannemieke	VENTIMIGLIA	IM
BAKKER	Albert	AMSTERDAM	(NL)
BARBERO	Luca	SAVONA	SV
BARNABA'	Enzo	VENTIMIGLIA	IM
BARONE	Luca	VENTIMIGLIA	IM
BARTOLI	Alessandro	SAVONA	SV
BARTOLI FERRANDO	Chiara	SAVONA	SV
BEAUMEL	Florence	VENTIMIGLIA	IM
BECCARIA	Verena	MONACO	(MC)
BESTAGNO	Davide Giovanni	SANREMO	IM
BIANCHERI CHIAPPORI	Giuseppe	VENTIMIGLIA	IM
BIANCHERI CHIAPPORI ARZENI	Flavia	ROMA	RM
BIANCHI	Renzo	TORINO	TO
BIANCHI QUARTARA	Renata	TORINO	TO
BICKNELL	Marcus	Chalfont St. Giles	(UK)
BICKNELL HODGEMOOR	Susie	Chalfont St. Giles	(UK)
BOELLA	Liliana	AIROLE	IM

BRICKELL	Christopher D.	PULLBOROUGH W. SUSSEX	(UK)
BUFFA DI PERRERO	Vincenzo	TORINO	TO
BUFFA DI PERRERO GAJA	Maria Cristina	TORINO	TO
BURATTO	Alberto	FRASCARO	AL
CAJELLO FAZIO	Rosnella	SANREMO	IM
CAPOZZI	Riccardo	GENOVA	GE
CAPOZZI GALLO	Gabriella	GENOVA	GE
CAPPUCCIO	Claudio	VENTIMIGLIA	IM
CARNAROLI MASSONE	Consolata Maria	MILANO	MI
CATTANEO	Francesco	MILANO	MI
CATTANEO	Gianfranco	RANICA	BG
CAUDANO	Marco	VENTIMIGLIA	IM
CLARKE	Alex	LONDON SW14 BAU	(UK)
CORDERO	Roberto	TORINO	TO
CORDERO CERESA	Maria	TORINO	TO
CORDONE	Elizabeth	BUSSANA SANREMO	IM
DALLATURCA	Valentina	GENOVA	GE
DARDANI ASHING	Denise Ann	GENOVA	GE
DARDANI PEROTTI	Arianna	MILANO	MI
DE RISI	Alessandro	ASTI	AT
DE VECCHI	Marco	ASTI	AT
DIAFERIO	Rosario	CUNEO	CN
DIAFERIO FORNERIS	Clara	CUNEO	CN
ELKANN	Alain	LONDON	(UK)
ELKANN	John	TORINO	TO
ELKANN BORROMEO	Lavinia	TORINO	TO
ELKANN SCHNABEL	Jacqueline	MONCALIERI	TO
EL-SABAAWI	Mohamed	OSPEDALETTI	IM
EL-SABAAWI	Melanie	OSPEDALETTI	IM

FAIRWEATHER	Patrick	TISBURY WILTSHIRE	(UK)
FALCIOLA ALBORNO	Carla	IMPERIA	IM
FERRARA	Paolo	ECCO	LC
FERRERO	Giovanni	CASSINA DE PECCHI	MI
FERRERO ONORATO	Mariapina	IMPERIA	IM
FIZZOTTI	Angelo	SAINT JEAN CAP FERRAT	(F)
GANDOLFI	Daniela	DIANO MARINA	IM
GANSTERER	Johann	NIEDEROSTERREICH	(A)
GARULLI	Marta	VENTIMIGLIA	IM
GIACONIA	Giorgio	VENTIMIGLIA	IM
GIACONIA DELFITTO	Ines	VENTIMIGLIA	IM
GIAI	Giorgio	PINEROLO	TO
GIAI SICILIA	Gabriella	BORDIGHERA	IM
GIUDICI SALVO	Alessandra	IMPERIA	IM
GUIDI	Duccio	NIZZA	(F)
HANBURY SEYMOUR	Carolyn	VENTIMIGLIA	IM
HOWORTH	Jolyon	VENTIMIGLIA	IM
HOWORTH SCHMIDT	Vivien A.	VENTIMIGLIA	IM
JARDIN EXOTIQUE DE MONACO		MONACO CEDEX	(MC)
KOULEMOU	Mamadou Telly	VENTIMIGLIA	IM
KULPER	Christine M.	SANREMO	IM
LA FILANTEA GARDEN CLUB	Pres. Maria Cepollina	SANREMO	IM
LAFAYE	Jean-Claude	VENTIMIGLIA	IM
LAMBERTI	Guido	TORINO	TO
LAMBERTI MARCHETTI	Letizia	TORINO	TO
LATRONICO ARBORETTI	Eliana	IMPERIA	IM
LENNOX-BOYD	Arabella	LONDRA	(UK)
LIKIERMAN	Margaret	MENTONE	(F)
MAIELLANO PISANO	Carmen	ALASSIO	SV

MALERBA	Giacinto	MONCALIERI	TO
MALERBA	Albina	MONCALIERI	TO
MANERA	Bruno	VENTIMIGLIA	IM
MANERA RAFFI	Neris	VENTIMIGLIA	IM
MANZONE	Bruno	TORINO	TO
MANZONE TESTA	Magda	VENTIMIGLIA	IM
MARONE CINZANO	Noemi	ARGIANO	SI
MC LAUGHLIN	Peter J.	Los Angeles, CA	(USA)
MC LAUGHLIN PERRONE	Mary "Jerri"	Los Angeles, CA	(USA)
MINGIONE	Laura	VENTIMIGLIA	IM
MORRIS	Jill	ROMA	RM
MURATORIO	Maura	DIANO MARINA	IM
ORSERO PIZZONIA	Paola	SAVONA	SV
ORSINI	Pia	VALLECROSIA	IM
PAGNI	Gabriele	MILANO	MI
PAGNI ATTANASIO	Monica	MENTONE	(F)
PARODI BORGHINO	Sandro	VENTIMIGLIA	IM
PEJRONE	Paolo	REVELLO	CN
PERRONE	Carlo Maria	ROMA	RM
PETERS	Peggy	DOLCEACQUA	(IM)
PIACENZA	Guido	POLLONE	BI
PIACENZA	Felice	VENTIMIGLIA	IM
PIACENZA SALGHETTI DRIOLI	Ursula	POLLONE	BI
PORCARI	Filippo	VALDENGO	BI
PRINCE	Suzanne Michael	MENTON	(F)
PROFUMO	Paola	GENOVA	GE
RENOSI CONSIGLIO	Rosa	BORDIGHERA	IM
RICCI	Antonio	ALASSIO	SV
RICCI	Ivano	DOLCEACQUA	IM
RICCI ARNAUD	Silvia	ALASSIO	SV

RICCI VANCE	Maggie	DOLCEACQUA	IM
ROSSI	Nathalie	MONACO	(MC)
ROTARY CLUB SANREMO HANBURY	c/o Grand Hotel Royal	SANREMO	IM
ROTHLEIN	Christan	KOCHEL	(D)
SELLA	Angelica	BIELLA	BI
SELLA	Maurizio	BIELLA	BI
SELLA GRIMANI	Clotilde	VENEZIA	VE
SELLA TOURNON	Sandra	BIELLA	BI
SEMERIA	Anna	OSPEDALETTI	IM
SISAWO	Muhammed	VENTIMIGLIA	IM
SUDELEY	Merlin	LONDON	(UK)
SUDELEY DUDINA	Tatiana	LONDRA	(UK)
TRECCOSTI	Ferdinando	GENOVA	GE
TRECCOSTI NOVELLO	Annalisa	GENOVA	GE
VAUGHAN MARTINI	Ann	VENTIMIGLIA	IM
VECCHIA	Maurizio	RIPALTA CREMASCA	CR
VECCHIETTI	Filippo	OSPEDALETTI	IM
VECCHIETTI CANTON	Nicoletta	OSPEDALETTI	IM
VITALI	Maria Laura	SANREMO	IM
VIVALDI LANTRUA	Anna Maria	ARMA DI TAGGIA	IM
VOGLINO	Rosanna	TORINO	TO
WALDER	Manfred	VERSCIO	(CH)
WALDER-AMBUEHL	Jolanda	VERSCIO	(CH)
WATERFIELD	William Henry C.	MENTON GARAVAN	(F)
WHITING	Alexia	MONACO	(MC)
WHITING HUGHES	Tatiana	MONACO	(MC)
ZANI	Catherine	LA GARDE FREINET	(F)
ZECCA TRUINI	Luciana	IMPERIA	IM





**Amici dei Giardini Botanici Hanbury**

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