A Gallery of Oaks

Historic Drawings

Guy Sternberg(1) and Eike Jablonski(2)

1. Starhill Forest Arboretum of Illinois College, Petersburg, Illinois USA
2. LTAE, Dept. Horticole,, B.P. 76, L-9001 Ettelbruck, Luxembourg

This year’s Gallery of Oaks features historic drawings from several centuries of talented, oak-loving artists. They were selected and reproduced from the libraries of Guy Sternberg at Starhill Forest Arboretum in Illinois and Professor Eike Jablonski in Ettelbruck, Luxembourg.

Sources from Starhill Forest include Dodona’s Grove (1640) by James Howell; Rei Agrariae (1674), by Wilhelm Goes; John Evelyn’s Silva (1775), with artwork by William Burgh; A Treatise on Forest Trees (1775), by William Boucher; Descriptions and Sketches of some Remarkable Oaks ... (1790), by Hayman Rooke; Robin Hood (1795) by Joseph Ritson, with artwork by Thomas Bewick; Sylva Britannica (1830), by Jacob George Strutt; the North American Sylva (1857) by François André Michaux, with illustrations by Pancrace Bessa, Pierre-Joseph Redouté, and Henry Joseph Redouté; English Trees and Tree Planting by William Ablett, 1880; Der Wunderbaum von Harreshausen (2005) by Georg Wittenberger, featuring reprints of historic views of Die Shoene Eiche; and several unsourced prints.

Sources from Prof. Jablonski include Codex Manesse (ca. 1320), Heidelberger Liederhandschrift; New Kreüterbuch (1543) by L. Fuchs; H. Bock’s Kreuterbuch (1546); Harbkesche Wilde Baumzucht (1792) by J. P. DuRoi; Geschichte der Amerikanischen Eichen (André Michaux’s precursor to North American Sylva - 1802); William Forsyth’s A Treatise on the Culture and Management of Fruit Trees (1803); Flora Universalis (1828) by D. Dietrich; Arboretum et Fruticetum Britannicum by John Loudon (1844); Theodor Kotschy’s Die Eichen Europas und des Orients (1862); Köhler’s Medizinal-Pflanzen Atlas (1887) edited by G. Pabst; and Hempel and Wilhelm’s Die Bäume und Sträucher des Waldes (1898).

Our generation has not been the first to be inspired and awed by Quercus. There are many more illustrations which could have been included if we had more space – oaks are a popular theme for artists, both now and in the past. We hope you will take some time to appreciate the richness of some of these early drawings, and the feelings their artists had for oaks. A few of the ancient trees depicted in some of these drawings may still be seen growing today.

Guy and Eike
14th Century

*Quercus robur*, from *Codex Manesse*, ca. 1320, Heidelberger Liederhandschrift
16th Century

Quercus robur from Kreuterbuch, by Hironymus Bock, 1546

Das bleich geel färbig laub / wurst leiger ist grüner wund harrer / wol
toletische laub ein Eichbaum erstmals auch braun vor wurt / sonderlich
an den jungen stauden. Nach dem geseet kommen als bald die aller fleis
ste rote bläulins aus stengeln/ daraus werden Eichelchen/ eswan drei oder
vier auch einem dienen fallen stengeln. Ob aber die Eichelchen heissen nigfsten
nimpe man war wund S. Jacobs tag/ als der sechst man die gebrannter
Eichelchen aus jen schüsslet schieffen/ Ein jede Eichel hat nach dem schuf
selt zuw bert/ die eüfserst ist die jede harte schelet/ die ander das brennstil
bigetter heiselt wund den herben biretten kern gewachsen.

Eichliche Eichbaum gewinnen im Lenge runeb lücke spßselin/ als s spinach
inwendig voller herben feuchtigkeit/ darin wachsen maben / wund werden
saher sitzliche daran.

Gegen dem Herbst bringe das Leiche laub etwas runeb lücke spßselin/
auss der seiten gegen der eden/ eswan dieß oder z spßselin an erenbläten/ das
wachsen auch maben/ die werden mit der zeit / so der Herbst wärn ist/ zähr
flügen und schnechen/ und das sind aber nie die sechten fall spßsel das
mit man serbe/ Von den selben heran.
New Kreütterbuch, *Quercus robur*, by L. Fuchs, 1543
17th Century
Oak with acorns, from *Dodona's Grove*, 1640
Quercus Robur, from Dodona's Grove, 1640
Dodona's Grove author James Howell portrayed leaning against Robur Britannicum (English Oak), 1641 Edition.
REI AGRARIAE
Auctores legesque variae.
Quaedam nunc primum, cetera emenda-
tiora prodeunt curâ
WILELMI GOESII.
Cujus accedunt
Indices, Antiquitates agrariae & Notae:
Una cum
NICOLAI RIGALTII
Notis & Observationibus, nec non
Glossario ciusdem.

AMSTELREDAMI,
Apud JOANNEM JANSSONIUM &
WAESBERGE, 1674.

Title page from Rei Agrarie, by Wilelmi Goesii, 1674
Oak and other trees, from *Rei Agrariae*, by Wilelmi Goesii, 1674

Oak on a hill, from *Rei Agrariae*, by Wilelmi Goesii, 1674
18th Century

Thomas Bewick, 1795 woodcut illustration to Joseph Ritson's *Robin Hood: A Collection of All the Ancient Poems, Songs and Ballads*

William Burgh, from Evelyn's *Silva*, 1775, A Winter View of the Cowthorpe Oak
Quercus leaves from *Harbkesche Wilde Baunzucht* by Johann Philipp Du Roi
DESCRIPTIONS AND SKETCHES
OF SOME
REMARKABLE OAKS,
IN THE PARK AT WELBECK,
IN THE COUNTY OF NOTTINGHAM,
A SEAT OF
HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF PORTLAND.
TO WHICH ARE ADDED,
OBSERVATIONS ON THE AGE AND DURABILITY OF THAT TREE.
WITH
REMARKS ON THE ANNUAL GROWTH OF THE ACORN.

BY HAYMAN ROOKE, ESQ. F.S.A.

LONDON,
PRINTED BY J. NICHOLS, FOR THE AUTHOR:
AND SOLD BY B. WHITE AND SON, FLEET STREET;
AND J. ROBSON, NEW BOND STREET.
MDCXC.
From *Descriptions and Sketches of Some Remarkable Oaks*, by Hayman Rooke
Two large trees in Welbeck Park called the Porters, by H. Rooke, pub. 1790.

The Seven Sisters, by H. Rooke
A Remarkable Tree near the Seven Sisters, by H. Rooke

The Green Dale Oak, by H. Rooke
The Oak of Ashe, by H. Rooke

A View of Welbeck with part of the Lake, by H. Rooke
The Parliament Oak in Clipstone Park, by H. Rooke

An Ancient Oak in Birchland Wood, by H. Rooke
The Beauty Oak of Harreshausen, Germany as drawn in 1766

The Beauty Oak of Harreshausen, Germany as drawn in 1781
Pruning or pollarding an oak in Edinburgh, William Boutcher, 1775
Oak of Rest (Balut es-Sebat), also known as Abraham's Oak - Artist unknown. This ancient *Quercus ilex* tree, which reportedly marked the burial place of Abraham's wife Sarah near Hebron, survived until 1996.

The King Oak from *English Trees and Tree-Planting* by William Ablett, 1880
Post Oak, *Quercus stellata* from *The North American Sylva* by F. André Michaux, illustration by Pierre-Joseph Redouté
Yellow Oak or Chinkapin Oak, *Quercus muehlenbergii*, from *The North American Sylva* by F. André Michaux, with illustration by Pierre-Joseph Redouté
Dwarf Chestnut Oak, *Quercus prinoides* from *The North American Sylva* by Francois Andre Michaux, with illustration by Pancrace Bessa
Laurel Oak or Shingle Oak, *Quercus imbricaria* from *The North American Sylva* by F. André Michaux, with illustration by Henry Joseph Redouté
Black Jack Oak, *Quercus marilandica* from *The North American Sylva* by F. André Michaux, with illustration by Pierre-Joseph Redouté
Bear Oak, *Quercus ilicifolia* from *The North American Sylva* by F. André Michaux, with illustration by Henry Joseph Redouté
Chêne quercitron or Black Oak, *Quercus velutina* from *The North American Sylva* by F. André Michaux, with illustration by Pancrace Bessa
Ivenacker Eichen

Deutschlands merkwürdige Bäume: Die Eichen zu Ivenack.

Ernst Keils Nachfolger
Leipzig - publication 1895
Source scan eines Sammelbandes aus eigenem Besitz.
Quercus phellos, from Geschichte der Amerikanischen Eichen, by Andre Michaux, 1802
Quercus virginiana, from *Geschichte der Amerikanischen Eichen*, by Andre Michaux, 1802
Quercus oak treatment or oak pollarding from William Forsyth's
A Treatise on the Culture and Management of Fruit Trees, 1803
Quercus alnifolia from Kie Eichen Europas and des Orients, T. Kotschya, 1862
Quercus american or American oaks from Flora Universalis by D. Dietrich, 1828
Quercus cerris from *Die Bäume and Sträucher des Waldes*, by Hemple and Wilhelm, 1898
Quercus frainetto from *Die Bäume and Sträucher des Waldes*, by Hemple and Wilhelm, 1898
Quercus cerris from Arboretum et Fruticetum Britannicum, by John Loudon, 1844

Winfarthing Oak from Arboretum et Fruticetum Britannicum, by John Loudon, 1844
Quercus macrocarpa. The large-fruited Oak.

Quercus macrocarpa from Arboretum et Fruticetum Britannicum, by John Loudon, 1844
The Beauty Oak of Harreshausen, Germany as drawn in 1895.
The New Forest, Great Britain, shown on the frontispiece of *Sylva Britannica*, by Jacob George Strutt, the Octavo Edition, May 1830.
Sylva Britannica;

or,

PORTRAITS OF FOREST TREES,

distinguished for their
antiquity, magnitude, or beauty.

Drawn from nature
by
Jacob George Strutt,

Author of "Deliciae Sylvarum," &c.

Hail, old patrician trees!

Cowley.

arched walks of twilight groves
And shadows brown, that Sylvan loves,
Of pine, or monumental oak.

Milton.

London:
Published for the Author,
3, Duke Street, St. James's,
By Longman, Rees, Orme, Brown, and Green.

(Octavo Edition, May 1830)
The Great Oak at Pansanger, by J. G. Strutt, 1830

The Wotton Oak, by J. G. Strutt, 1830
The Chandos Oak at Southgate, by J. G. Strutt

The Squitch Banks Oak in Bagot's Park, by J. G. Strutt
The Beggar's Oak at Bagot's Park, by J. G. Strutt

The Salcey-Forest Oak, by J. G. Strutt
The Bull Oak, Wedgnock Park, Warwickshire, J. G. Strutt

The Swilcarl Lawn Oak, by J. G. Strutt
The Mocas Park, by J. G. Strutt

The King Oak of Savernake Forest, by J. G. Strutt
The Creeping Oak of Savernake Forest, by J. G. Strutt

The Gospel Oak near Stoneleigh, Warwickshire by J.G. Strutt
The Cowthorpe Oak, by J. G. Strutt

The Greendale Oak, by J. G. Strutt
The Shelton Oak, by J. G. Strutt

Queen Elizabeth's Oak, by J.G. Strutt
Sir Philip Sydney's Oak at Penhurst, by J. G. Strutt

Oaks in Yardley Chase named Gog and Magog, by J. G. Strutt
Oaks at Fredville named Stately, Majesty and Beauty, by Strutt

Pascha Weitsch: Oak Forest near Querum with Self-Portrait, 1800