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The Mill Hill Peter Collinson Heritage Garden

A catalogue of plants

Trevor Chilton

Ridge Way House feby 25: 1764
"I am here retired to my Sweet & Calm old Mansion, from its High Elevation, Look 40 or 50 Miles round Mee on the Busie Vain World below – Envying no Man but am truly thankful for the undeserved Blessings Good Providence hath pleased to confer on Mee. With a Pious Mind filled with admiration I contemplate the Glorious Constellations above, and the Wonders in the Vegetable Tribes below – I have an assemblage of Rare Plants from all quarters, the Industrious collection of forty years..."

These words are extracted from a letter Peter Collinson wrote to Cadwallader Colden, Governor of New York, physician and fellow 'Brother of the Spade'. At the age of seventy and approaching the borders of what he described as that "Happy land", he had every reason to view his life's achievements with satisfaction. He would be delighted and perhaps surprised, today to see the Sweet Chestnut, Oriental Plane, Lime, Black Locust and Tulip trees still standing where he planted them, a legacy now embraced by Mill Hill School.

The Heritage Garden cannot recreate Collinson's original collection nor is that its aim. Of the 181 species that were introduced by him for the first time to this country, many are now not available commercially and some are better represented by modern cultivars. No apologies are offered to the purist for this plant selection. It is not a museum, rather a fond demonstration of appreciation by the present custodians of this very attractive site for its illustrious former owner.

The plants described in this catalogue are listed in three sections. The first lists and describes those that were introduced to Britain for the first time by Peter Collinson. The second section includes plants remaining in the garden in 1843 and recorded in the *'Hortus Collinsonianus'* by Lewis Weston Dillwyn. The third section includes the labelled trees which surround the school and garden, some of which have survived from Collinson's time. Botanical and horticultural details may be obtained from alternative reference sources. The notes which accompany the plants attempt to place each one in an historical context, noting any unusual feature of interest and, where possible, referring to Collinson's extensive correspondence and memoranda.

Trevor Chilton 2017

THE PETER COLLINSON INTRODUCTIONS

Aronia prunifolia (Pyrus floribunda)
Purple chokeberry

Otherwise known as the purple chokeberry, a reference to the astringent taste of its berries, *A. prunifolia* is a shrub of the rose family, native to the Eastern Seaboard and Mid-West of North America extending in distribution from Nova Scotia to Alabama. The success with which it can propagate itself, both by seed and sucker has given it some notoriety as an invasive species, to the extent that it is sometimes referred to as 'garden thug' despite being widely grown as an ornamental. Despite their acidity, perhaps because of it, the black berries are currently gaining popularity in fruit juices and jams, particularly in Eastern Europe. Collinson established his specimens from seed and cuttings obtained in regular shipments from his 'Brothers of the Spade' in the North American Colonies, notably, John Bartram, his principal correspondent. Regarded as the best examples of their type, a specimen from the Mill Hill Garden was taken for Joseph Bank's famous collection, the Banksian Herbarium, now located at Kew Gardens.

Asplenium trichomanes (A. melanocaulon)
Maidenhair spleenwort

First introduced by Collinson in 1753, the name 'spleenwort' suggests a medicinal use. Like many of the plants sent by Bartram from North East America, it is associated with herbal cures though probably in this case, derived from the 'doctrine of signatures' whereby it was believed that plants with shapes resembling body parts were marked (signed) by God to suggest curative properties for that body part. With the Maidenhair Spleenwort it is the spleen-shaped spore capsules which populate the underside of the leaflets. (The suffix 'wort' is old English for 'plant'). It is more common to find this delicate, attractive fern growing out of limestone walls.

Cephalanthus occidentalis
Button bush

The frustration with indigenous plant names, often voiced by Carl Linnaeus, is well illustrated by this attractive shrub from Virginia sent to Peter Collinson for his collection. Collinson knew it as buttonwood, it is also called honey-bulb and in California there is a town called Buttonwillow named after it. It is valued as an ornamental plant and for its nectar favoured by butterflies. The name *Cephalanthus occidentalis* might be translated as 'Western Big Head", an apt description as this photograph illustrates.

Chelone obliqua
Rose turtlehead

Collinson writes in his notes, *"....Chelone with a rose flower. I had the first plant sent me from Virginia, in 1750; it is very rare in that country."*

Indigenous to the South Eastern States, the Rose Turtlehead is now listed as endangered in Kentucky and Arkansas. A guaranteed butterfly puller, it is a very attractive border plant due to its showy flowers, named for their turtle head shape. (*Chelone* is the Greek word for turtle)

Chionanthus virginicus (Lonicera cotinifolia)
Fringe tree

Collinson raised this tree from seeds he received from John Bartram and was delighted to record its first flowering in his Mill Hill Garden on June 9th 1760. Indeed, he had every reason to be thrilled by the cascading clouds of fleecy white fragrant flowers. This hardy member of the olive family is distributed naturally from Canada to the Gulf Coast. It is dioecious, meaning that plants are either male or female. The female produces blue black berries which are eaten enthusiastically by birds. In some Southern states it delights in the name 'Grandsie Greybeard' but equally descriptive is its Latin genus which derives from *'chion'* and *'anthus'* meaning snow flower in Greek.

Collinsonia canadensis
Horsebalm (US) Stone root (UK)

Of the 180 trees and plant species Peter Collinson introduced to the United Kingdom it is perhaps fitting for a man of his understatement that the one named by Linnaeus in his honour should be relatively humble in form. *Collinsonia canadensis* is a native of the Eastern states of the North American continent favouring a moist woodland habitat. A member of the Labiate (mint) family, it resembles its British cousins, the stinging nettle and dead nettle except for its tiny, yet beautiful, yellow flowers. These are aromatic and reward the curious with a lemony scent when crushed.

C. canadensis might have escaped the attention of the early plant hunter John Bartram altogether had it not been prized by native Americans for a wide range of medicinal uses. Commissioned by Peter Collinson to collect seeds and specimens, Bartram travelled widely from his home in Philadelphia, often alone in territory considered by many to be hostile but his engaging nature generally persuaded the native Americans he encountered of his good intentions and he encouraged them to share with him their extensive knowledge of medicinal plants. On one such trip in the early 1730s he brought back the plant he called Horsebalm, later writing in his notes:

"Collinsonia. This plant grows five feet high; hath, in the fall, after harvest, a smell something like hops; the seed is much like Sage seed. This, in some parts of the country, is called Horse Weed, not only because horses are very greedy of it, but it also is good for sore gall'd backs. The root is hard and knobby, and is much commended for womens (sic) after-pains, being pounded, boiled and the decoction drank."

Cornus amomum
Silky Dogwood

"Received from John Bartram Jan. 22, 1756, one white berried Cornus" is all Collinson writes about this shrub, a perfunctory reference that does little justice to a very decorative species, noted for its small white flowers and berries, which turn from white to inky blue, borne on pink stems and attractive red autumn foliage.

Cornus canadensis
Creeping dogwood

"Runs in the ground, grows about six or nine inches high; the fruit is of a bright red colour; grows all about Halifax and Newfoundland; called Baked Apples and Pears."

So wrote Collinson in his notes, accompanied by a rough drawing. *C. Canadensis* forms a dense green soil covering and produces tiny white flowers that give rise to bright red berries in late summer. These are edible and give off a characteristic smell of apples, hence the name favoured by Collinson. Linneaus must have despaired!

Dodecatheon meadia
Shooting star, American Cowslip

This woodland plant, a relative of the cyclamen was first grown by Peter Collinson from seed sent to him from Philadelphia by John Bartram. Bartram, in his letter of September 30 1763, records that he searched high and low to find *"the Maedia, only one plant"* as he crossed the river Shenandoah in the Blue Mountains of Virginia. The striking white or pink flowers arise in spring on leafless stalks from dense green foliage.

Chamaenerion angustifolium 'album'
(Epilobium angustifolium)
White Rosebay Willowherb

Unlike modern gardeners, Collinson was happy to give over areas of his plot to the common Rosebay Willowherb, known in North America as 'fireweed' for its red colour and propensity for rapid spread. Dillwyn's catalogue of Collinson's plants lists this variety as a Collinson introduction from Virginia and Florida. Unlike its cousin, it spreads less vigorously and produces pure white flowers which are very decorative.

Hamamelis virginiana
American witch hazel

It is likely that this small tree was more highly prized by Bartram and his North American compatriots than Collinson, at the time of receiving his specimen, might have imagined. It has certainly received much attention for its curative properties since its introduction. *H. virginiana* occurs widely all over Eastern North America and the first puritan settlers quickly learnt how to extract an anti-inflammatory liquid from its bark. It contains tannins, flavonoids and catechols which are variously effective in treating a wide range of ailments and swellings from haemorrhoids to nosebleeds. Lately and rather more interestingly it has been used for colon cancer. More bizarrely, the forked twigs are apparently prized by water diviners!

Hydrangea arborescens 'Annabelle'
Hydrangea 'Anabelle'

Collinson notes, *"My Hydrangea, perhaps the first in England, flowered in August,1746, in my garden at Mill Hill"*

'Annabelle' is a modern cultivar which is stunning when in flower. The straight wild form of this plant, which Collinson would have grown, has much smaller, flat, dingy flowers, but the exciting thing was that this was the first kind of hydrangea to be introduced to the UK. The ones we are used to seeing today, with the blue or pink flowers, were a much later introduction from China and Japan right at the end of the 18th C, long after Collinson's death.

Hydrastis canadensis
Orangeroot, Goldenseal

Collinson acquired this plant from John Bartram and records that it *"flowered and fruited in my garden Sept. 1765; a red sweet fruit, size of a large Raspberry; may be said to be a flower almost without calyx or petals, they so soon fall off, leaving a cluster of white stamina behind."* He referred to it as 'Yellow Root' which more accurately describes the knobbly underground tuber than the modern 'Orangeroot'.

As with Witch Hazel, Collinson makes no mention in his notes of the medicinal properties of *Hydrastis*. It might be concluded that his interest was essentially botanical for he was sure to have been told by Bartram of its curative properties. Native Americans taught the early settlers how to prepare it and today Orangeroot is one of the most popular herbs sold in the US and European market, used mostly as an anti-catarrhal and anti-inflammatory alternative medicine. Claims for its efficacy abound but caution should be the watchword as there are no supportive studies and the State of California is proposing to list it as a carcinogen.

Ilex cassine
Dahoon Holly

Mark Catesby (1682-1749), British expatriate resident of Williamsburg, Virginia, celebrated for his gloriously illustrated 'Natural History of Carolina, Florida and The Bahama Islands' had every reason to be grateful to Peter Collinson for he had funded the publication of this great volume, interest free, on behalf of the Royal Society. Catesby sent, amongst other specimens and drawings, an *Ilex cassine* bush which flourished in Collinson's Mill Hill Garden until the 10th of October 1765 when it was stolen. Collinson's notes refer to *"one Dahoon Holly, an old plant, and had stood years in the ground"* This tough Holly bush has a very wide distribution from Virginia down to tropical areas of the North American Continent. It is dioecious, having separate male and female flowers, both of which need to be in close proximity for the red fruits to be produced.

Catesby's drawing of Dahoon Holly

Kalmia latifolia
Mountain-Laurel

Catesby writes, *"After several unsuccessful attempts to propagate it (K. latifolia) from seeds, I procured plants of it several times from America, but with little better success, till my curious friend, Mr. Peter Collinson, excited by a view of its dried specimens and the description of it, procured some plants from Pennsylvania; which climate being nearer to that of England than from whence mine came, some bunches of blossoms were produced in July 1740."*

Collinson had asked John Bartram to send him this rather special plant, writing in 1736-7, *"Sir Hans Sloane very much desires some seed of that fine Laurel thee discovered beyond the Blue Mountains, and some specimens of it when in flower."*

K. latifolia is a very attractive shrub bursting with flowers in season. It occurs throughout Eastern North America and is the State flower of Connecticut and Pennsylvania. There is even a town in Mississippi named Laurel. Though poisonous its leaves were used as an analgesic wound dressing by Native Americans who prized the hard wood for carving into small household articles, notably spoons, for which it was called Spoonwood. Linneaus named it *Kalmia* after his Finnish student Pehr Kalm who was sent by the Swedish Government to report on the natural resources of North America.

Liatris spicata 'Kobold' (L. macrostachya)
Dense Blazing Star

L. spikata is named after its spike-like erect inflorescences. Native to eastern parts of North America it is very common, growing profusely on roadside verges, meadows, wetlands and prairies. Collinson first obtained a specimen from John Bartram in 1732 and later asked him to send more seeds for his friend Lord Petre noting that the plants first flowered in 1740. Like all plants with medicinal qualities, *Liatris* glories in a dozen or more common names. The Cherokee used it for lung disorders, fluid retention, wind and general aches and pains. They also smoked the leaves in herbal mixtures. In the UK, it was recommended for the treatment of venereal and kidney diseases but is studied now with a view to isolating new drugs, as are all plants with historical medicinal associations.

Matteuccia struthiopteris (Struthiopteris germanica)
Ostrich Fern

This ornamental garden fern with its statuesque 'ostrich' plumes was introduced to England by Peter Collinson in 1760. It is native to Central Europe and Asia where it occurs beside rocky stream beds and damp shady areas. Old herbal references exist referring to the use of its leaf bases to relieve back pain and speed up the expulsion of the placenta in childbirth but it is now known for the inclusion of its young tender shoots in upmarket salads. They are said to taste like asparagus.

Phlox maculata 'Alba'
Meadow phlox

P. maculata is native to Eastern North America, growing naturally on moist meadows and riverbanks. Collinson notes, *"tall spotted stalked Lychnidea (Phlox) was sent to me from Dr. Witt of Pennsylvania, 1740 and from me has been communicated to all others; this grows with me about four feet high ... flowered in my garden in Aug. and Sept. 1740"*. Dr. Witt, a neighbour of John Bartram's, was one of the many 'Brothers of the Spade' who bridged the Atlantic sharing their Quaker values and love of plants. The two *Phlox maculata* cultivars planted here are P. m. 'Alpha' [pink flowers] and P. m. 'Omega' [white flowers].

Phlox subulata
Moss phlox

So-called because it has a compact, ground-hugging habit, *P. subulata* forms an attractive mat under taller vegetation. It is one of six different species of phlox introduced by Peter Collinson in the mid-eighteen century and brought by him to the attention of Carl Linnaeus.

Rhododendron maximum
Mountain Laurel, White Laurel, Rosebay Rhododendron

A Collinson memorandum reads as follows, *"1756, June 25. The great Mountain Laurel, or Rhododendron, flowered for the first time in my garden." "The Chamaerhododendron (original name for this family of plants) of Catesby's Natural History flowered this year, 1760, most charmingly, in seven years from seed in my garden at Mill Hill. P. Collinson"* Writing to Bartram Aug. 4 1763 he says, *"The great Rhododendron has been glorious beyond expression."*

The modern name *R. maximum* was ascribed in 1753 by Linneaus, who undoubtedly saw it, perhaps for the first time, in Peter Collinson's garden in Peckham. It became a favourite of George II who bought a painting of the plant by George Dionysius Ehret (1708-70) which is now in the Royal Collection. Ehret, a very talented German botanical artist was tutored by Linnaeus in Holland, Bernard de Jussieu of the Jardin des Plantes in Paris and Philip Miller of the Chelsea Physic Garden and became friends with Peter Collinson from 1737 when he arrived to spend most of his working life in England. It is not unlikely that his painting of this plant was made at Mill Hill in the company of his friend who first introduced it.

Native to the Appalachians, it is common in the shady understory of upland forests from New England in the north to Georgia in the south. *R. maximum* has been used with other species to produce the many hybrid varieties which exist today, one of which, *R. ponticum* is regarded as an invasive weed in parts of Wales due to its vigour and competitiveness.

Rhododendron viscosum (Azalea viscosa)
Swamp Azalea

On a visit to Peter Collinson's Peckham garden in 1732, Mark Catesby noted that he saw *R. viscosum* in blossom and commented on the aromatically scented, white flowers. It is rather smaller and its flowers more delicate than it cousin illustrated above. The word 'viscosum' means 'sticky' as you will discover if you touch the flowers. It occurs naturally throughout the wetlands of Eastern and Southern North America from Maine to Florida and Texas.

Senna marilandica (Cassia marilandica)
Maryland Senna

Originally dispersed throughout Eastern North America, it is now relatively rare outside of the Midwest moist prairies and riverbanks. Senna is a legume, producing pea-like pods and leaves resembling those of the black locust tree which can be seen beside the main school building (an original member of Peter Collinson's collection). The leaves and pods are used by herbalists in diuretic and anti-worming preparations.

Yucca filamentosa
Adam's needle

Peter Collinson had various Yucca species in his garden in Peckham which he transplanted to Mill Hill. He notes, *"....July 16, the Pennsylvania Yucca folio filamentoso (sic), perhaps the first of the species that has flowered in England"*. Like Miller's Chelsea Physic garden and the collection of plant families at Kew (and unlike our collection here), he kept his plants in regular beds arranged with the primary aim of study rather than decoration.
It would be intriguing to know where *Yucca filamentosa* found its home as it is a very tall plant more usually associated with dry habitats. Native to South Eastern North America, it occurs abundantly from Virginia down to Florida and as far inland as the mid-west. Its spikey leaves earned it the name 'sentry plant' as it was commonly planted, like Agave, below the windows of Florida's señoritas to discourage suitors. Like Agave also, its leaves contain useful fibres for making cloth, ropes and basket materials. Traditional uses also include a medicinal poultice made from the leaf, root and stem for the treatment of skin diseases.

Veratrum viride
Indian Poke, American Hellebore

V. viride is relatively common in moist, sunny habitats in both East and West North America but not central areas. This odd distribution is the result of Midwestern glaciation which served to isolate populations of plants and animals. Collinson's notes include the following memorandum, *"A new hellebore, sent me from Pennsylvania, in leaf much like our common white Hellebore, but its flowers grow in large spikes, and are greenish with yellow stamina; first flowered May 23, 1742."*

Farmers in the US would fail to understand why Bartram might think this plant worth sending to his friend in England because it is extremely toxic to livestock. Native American friends of Bartram, however, valued it for its medicinal and insecticidal properties. It was applied externally and used to depress blood pressure and heart rate. Taken internally, it causes nausea and vomiting and anecdotal evidence suggests that it was used by some tribes as a test of manhood; the last man to vomit gained superior status. Times change, habits die hard but similar rituals are not unknown among the young today! It is no longer used as a herbal remedy because it has high levels of dangerous alkaloids. Homeopaths, however, remain interested in its medicinal properties.

OTHER PLANTS IN COLLINSON'S COLLECTION

Acanthus spinosus
Bear's Breeches

This striking plant is native to Southern Europe and was introduced from Italy in 1548. The name Acanthus comes from the nymph Acantha who was turned into a flower by Apollo. The leaves are spiny, hence *'spinosus'* and also very hairy, hence (though less obviously) 'Bear's Breeches". Students of architecture are familiar with the plant because it forms the decorative foliage topping Corinthian columns. These were created by the Greek sculptor, Kallimachos in the 5th century BCE inspired by a myth that a basket placed on the grave of a maiden from Corinth became overgrown and decorated by Acanthus leaves.

Cistus creticus
Rock Rose

This colourful sun-loving plant is a native of dry Mediterranean habitats. Herbalists know it for its leaves which are used as a substitute for tea and medicinally for treating catarrh and diarrhoea. More interesting perhaps is the oily resin called ladanum which is exuded from the hairs of leaf and stem. This is used as a food flavouring in products such as ice cream and chewing gum and in perfumery where it is an acceptable alternative to ambergris (obtained from sperm whales).

Cotinus coggygria 'Royal Purple'
Smoke Bush

Native to Southern Europe and East Asia, The Smoke Bush is aptly named for the profusion of feathery, rose coloured blooms produced in the summer resembling puffs of smoke. Peter Collinson used the rather more romantic eighteenth century term 'Venice Sumach', a reference to the autumn colours which were said to resemble a Venetian sunset. The variety 'Royal Purple' has been chosen for the Collinson Heritage Garden as the best modern representative of the species.

Cyclamen hederifolium

Cyclamen has no need of a common name, a testament to its popularity as a house and garden plant. In its native Mediterranean woodland habitat, it would be hard to spot because it is only in late autumn when the leaves of the trees drop and understory becomes illuminated that flowering shoots emerge from the underground tuber, followed closely by the ivy shaped leaves. Two cultivars are planted in the Heritage Garden: *Cyclamen hederifolium* 'Silver Alba' and *Cyclamen hederifolium* 'Silver Leaf'.

Eryngium alpinum
Alpine Sea Holly

As its name suggests, *Eryngium alpinum* is plant of the mountains, thriving in relatively dry alpine soils. Peter Collinson did well to keep it through the damp British winters and it is hoped that this can be repeated. The flowers are very handsome and are frequently dried for decorative arrangements.

Ferula communis
Giant Fennel

This Mediterranean plant is not the common fennel used in cookery. The leaves are said to be edible but perhaps the most interesting product is a resinous liquid which oozes from the roots when cut. It is called Gum Ammoniac and is used as an aromatic incense.

Fritillaria imperialis
Crown Imperial

A spring flowering plant of regal stature matching its name. *Fritillaria's* native range extends across central Asia from Turkey to the Himalayas. The flower exudes a smell which small mammals associate with foxes causing them to keep their distance.

Hibiscus syriacus
Rose of Sharon, Rose Mallow

Not from Syria as Linnaeus thought when he named it, *Hibiscus syriacus* occurs naturally throughout elevated areas of Asia and is adopted as the national flower of South Korea. It was introduced into The United Kingdom in the sixteenth century, valued for its attractive, though short lived, flowers and various culinary and medicinal uses. Modern herbalists describe its young leaves as 'acceptable additions' and its flowers as 'decorative additions' to the salad bowl, terms which avoid reference to flavour and taste, perhaps for a good reason. Here a modern cultivar has been selected to represent the species named 'Oiseau Bleu'.

Hyacinthus orientalis
Dutch, or Garden Hyacinth

True to the adage that the most gaily decorated species conceal the deadliest of weapons, *Hyacinthus orientalis* is very poisonous and given a wide berth even by the most avid herbalists. Introduced from its native South West Asia in the sixteenth century, it has become a favourite throughout the world, known in this country for its Christmas showing on windowsills, though in nature it is a spring flower.

Ilex glabra
Inkberry, Gallberry

Named Inkberry for its glossy black fruits, *Ilex glabra* is a close relative and neighbour of *Ilex cassine* described earlier. Both occur throughout Eastern North America and both were imported to England in John Bartram's boxes from Philadelphia. Unlike *I. cassine,* however, *I. glabra* is not listed in Dillwyn's catalogue of Peter Collinson's garden, probably through simple omission, so it is not certain whether this plant was introduced by Collinson. In its native land, it is now most famous for the bees which visit it to produce a highly prized 'Gallberry' honey. In earlier times, Native Americans made tea from its dried and toasted leaves, giving rise to its other common name, the, Appalachian Tea Plant.

Iris tuberosa
Snake's Head Iris

This plant is commonly found in the shallow rocky soils of its native Mediterranean habitat flowering, rather more timidly than its brighter Iris cousins, in April and May. As Curtis's Botanical Magazine (1801) puts it, *"This species of Iris, readily distinguished from every other by its quadrangular leaves, is more remarkable for (this) singularity than for the beauty of its flowers yet to some, not apt to be caught by gaudy attire, these sombre tints have their charms."* Doubtless, Peter Collinson was in the latter category.

Lilium candidum
Madonna Lily

Madonna lily is one of the most beautiful of its kind. Native to the Balkans and Middle East, it has been cultivated for over 3500 years. Biblical references to 'Shosannah', its Hebrew name, include reference to its depiction on the columns of Solomon's temple and the rather ambiguous quotation in Song of Solomon, "As the Lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters." A more mundane later use was to ease the sore feet of Roman foot soldiers by rubbing them with the crushed fleshy bulb.

Melianthus major
Honey Bush

First introduced in 1688, *Melianthus major* is a South African native. The name 'Honey Bush' derives from the very sweet nectar produced by its imposing flowers. Peter Collinson remarks on seeing this plant in flower at the home of Mr. Dubois in Mitcham, *"(it) flowers in the open ground annually."* This might surprise modern gardeners who take pains to protect this semi-tropical species from the worst excesses of winter by mulching.

Such jottings serve to remind us that the Eighteenth Century gardeners were pioneering horticulturalists. Nobody knew how one of these plants might fare in chalky or clay soils or how long and under what conditions a particular seed might be encouraged to germinate. It was all experimental and most turned to Peter Collinson for advice on these matters. As he remarks, *".....after I had Supplied the Several Persons in the following Lists with Seeds ... the next was pray Sr how & in what Manner must I sow them. Pray be so good Sr to give Mee Some Directions for my Gardner is a very Ignorant Fellow. This created more Trouble & Loss of Time yet to encourage Planting I never refused any One & they were not a few...."* (Dec. 16, 1766)

Narcissus tazetta 'Minnow'

This is a modern cultivar of a Narcissus, awarded a "Garden Merit' from the RHS for its charm and ease of growth. It has been chosen to match, as closely as possible, Collinson's original specimen. Many of the smaller wild ancestral types are under threat in their native field and woodland habitats in Southern Europe and North Africa and conservation measures are in place. Narcissus is one of the oldest cultivated plants, known in Ancient Egypt and Greece and grown in Britain since the end of the sixteenth century.

Polemonium caeruleum
Creeping Jacob's Ladder

Collinson called this plant by its old American name, Greek Valerian. It is native to Eastern North America where it occurs in damp woodland habitats, flowering in late spring. It is known to herbalists as 'Abcess Root', an astringent, for which read 'thoroughly unpleasant' bronchial expectorant.

Pyracantha coccinea
Firethorn Hedge

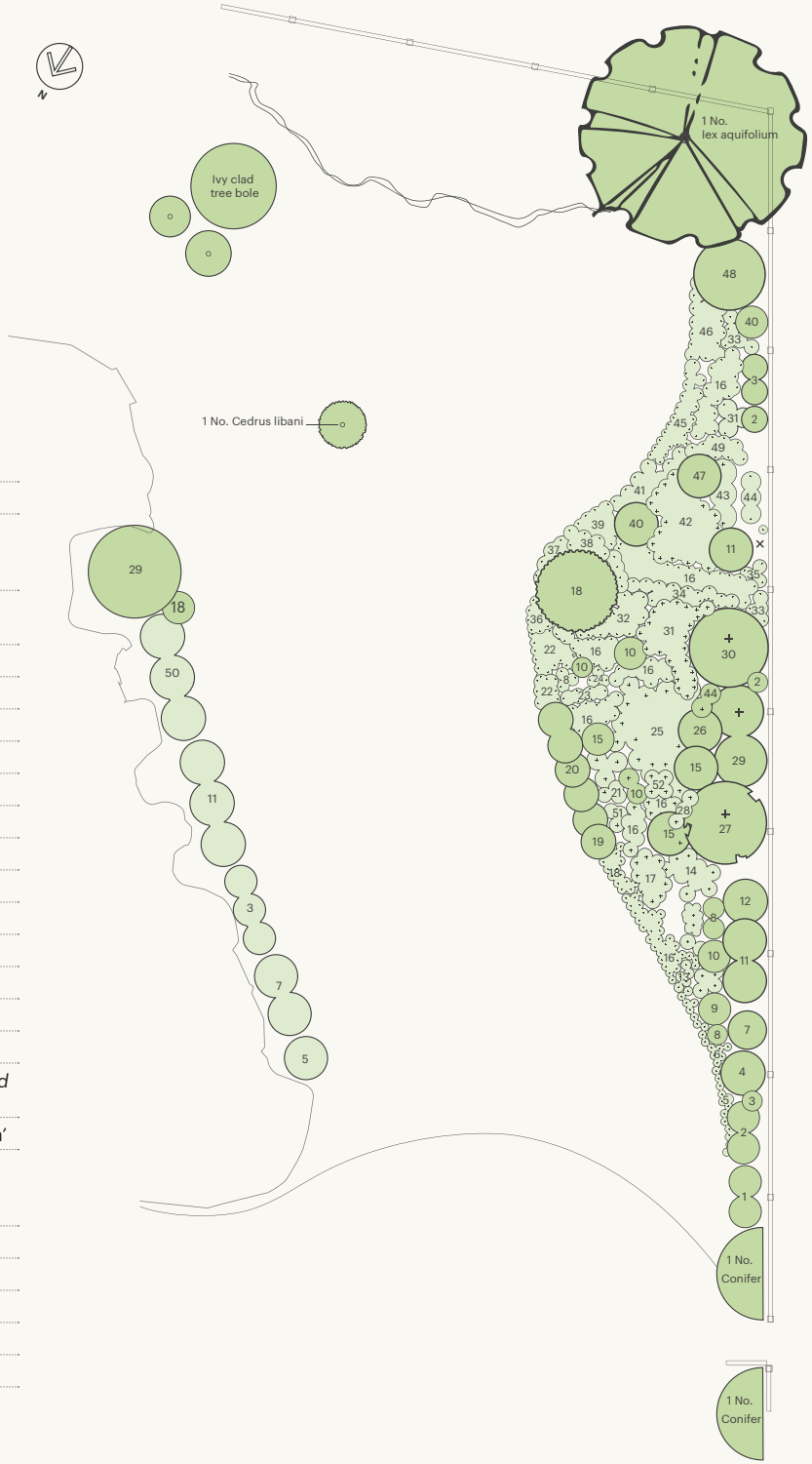
Collinson and Bartram's transatlantic exchange was a two-way process. The Firethorn Hedge was common in British gardens from the end of the sixteenth century and found its way to North America in the eighteenth century almost certainly in a box addressed to John Bartram from Peter Collinson. The consignments from Philadelphia included seeds, roots, plants, cuttings, even insects, frogs, turtles and birds, minerals, fossils, maps and extensive notes. In return, Bartram writes appreciatively of Collinson's gifts of plants such as tulips and carnations plus *"nails, calico, Russian linen and the clothes for my boys."*

The Firethorn Hedge produces clusters of white flowers, much visited by bees. These give rise to bright orange berries providing food for birds. It is often grown against walls where its sharp thorns offer an additional benefit, discouraging human climbers.

THE MILL HILL PETER COLLINSON HERITAGE GARDEN

Garden Plants

01 Viburnum tinus ‘Variegata’
02 Hydrangea arborescens ‘Annabelle’
03 Cephalanthus occidentalis *underplanted with Iris tuberosa*
04 Pyracantha (pre-existing)
05 Yucca filamentosa
06 Phlox subulata ‘Scarlet Flame’
07 Cotinus coggygria
08 Salvia officinalis ‘Icterina’
09 Robinia hispida
10 Santolina chamaecyparissus
11 Cornus amomum
12 Ilex cassine
13 Phlox subulata ‘Emerald Cushion Blue’
14 Collinsonia canadensis
15 Ferula communis
16 Eurybia divaricata
17 Liatris spicata
18 Phlox subulata ‘McDaniel’s Cushion’
19 Rosmarinus officinalis
20 Acanthus spinosus
21 Eryngium alpinum
22 Phlox subulata ‘White Delight’
23 Stokesia laevis
24 Cistus creticus
25 Phlox maculata ‘Alpha’
26 Hibiscus syriacus ‘Oiseau Bleu’
27 Quercus laevis
28 Chelone obliqua *underplanted with Narcissus ‘Minnow’*
29 Kalmia latifolia
30 Chionanthus virginicus *underplanted with Cyclamen ‘Silver Alba’*
31 Chamaenerion angustifolium ‘Album’
32 Asclepias incarnata ‘Ice Ballet’
33 Matteuccia struthiopteris
34 Vinca minor
35 Asplenium trichomanes
36 Thymus ‘Silver Posie’
37 Vinca minor ‘La Grave’
38 Polemonium caeruleum
39 Thymus ‘Russettings’
40 Viburnum tinus
41 Vinca minor ‘Gertrude Jekyll’
42 Phlox maculata ‘Omega’
43 Senna marilandica
44 Phlox paniculata ‘Rijnstroom’
45 Cornus canadensis *underplanted with blue Hyacinthus orientalis*
46 Vinca minor ‘Argenteo-variegata’
47 Hamamelis virginiana *underplanted with Cyclamen hederifolium ‘Silver Leaf’*
48 Rhododendron viscosum
49 Dodecatheon meadia
50 Aronia arbutifolia ‘Brilliant’
51 Lilium candidum
52 Fritillaria imperialis



The focus of the proposed planting is along the east-facing, fence line; creating a mixed border with 18th century plants. The majority were introduced to this country by Peter Collinson. Widening this bed creates a natural avenue.

The focal point is the majestic “Cedar of Lebanon” with the bole of the original, behind. The original tree was planted by Collinson in 1756. A calm, secluded seating area is created in the corner of the garden for people to relax and enjoy the planting.

Note: This garden, like the original, will evolve and change over time. It is to be expected that some of the plants will be lost in adverse conditions and others used to replace them as necessary, striving always to maintain the heritage theme.

Robinia hispida
Rose Acacia

This attractive small tree is native to South Eastern North America and found its way to Britain in 1741 in a package sent by Sir John Collins of Exmouth, Carolina to Mark Catesby. It seems Peter Collinson acquired his specimen from the same source. *"Robinia with red flowers, and the shoots armed with brown spines and deep rose-coloured flowers, sent me from South Carolina; figured (painted) by Catesby; the first in our London gardens, 1750."*

The Cherokee people used this plant, known then as Bristly Locust, as a tonic to alleviate toothache and for making bows and blowgun darts. You can see its relative, *Robinia pseudoacacia* or Black Locust tree, which was planted by Peter Collinson 250 years ago, located near the entrance to the school from Top Terrace.

Rosmarinus officinalis
Rosemary

Rosemary is best known today as the blue flowered shrub whose leaves are used to flavour meat dishes. Named for its abundance close to the sea in its native Mediterranean habitat, and known colloquially as 'Sea Dew' (Latin *ros* = dew, *marinus* = sea) it was widely cultivated in the gardens of the ancient Greeks and Romans, valued for its decorative features but also as an aid
to memory. It is said, for example, that Early Greek students wove it into their hair to help improve their performance in examinations. Throughout history the association with remembrance has prevailed. Collinson remarks only on its size, *"Rosemary, in Italy, grows eight feet high and as thick as one's arm."* But two centuries earlier, Sir Thomas More comments, *"As for Rosemarine, I lette it runne all over my garden walls, not only because my bees like it but because it is the herb sacred to remembrance, therefore to friendship..."*. This theme of remembrance and friendship is preserved today in its use at weddings and funerals. Sprigs of Rosemary are worn, for example by Australians in remembrance of the fallen, on ANZAC day.

Salvia officinalis 'Icterina"
Sage

Like Rosemary and Thyme, sage, best known today as a culinary herb was widely cultivated in the Ancient Mediterranean world and introduced to Britain by the Romans. It is named for its healing properties (Latin. *salvere* = to heal) and has been used throughout history for an impressive range of ailments from toothache to snakebite. The species name officinalis indicates a plant with healing qualities. This comes from the word *officina* describing the room in a monastery where herbs and remedies were stored. John Gerard's widely read *Herball*, 1597, alleges that sage is *"singularly good for the head and brain. It quickeneth the senses and memory, strengtheneth the sinews, restoreth health to those that have the palsy and taketh away the shakey trembling of the members."* Bold claims indeed but modern double-blind trials have established the effectiveness of sage oil in improving cognitive skills in Alzheimer's patients and motor function in Parkinson's disease sufferers.

Santolina chamaecyparissus
Lavender cotton

This small shrub with its bright yellow button-shaped flowers was a favourite in the Elizabethan knot gardens. Not related in any way to the lavender plant, nor smelling like it, *Santolina* is used in a similar way in *pot pourris* and hung up in wardrobes to repel clothes moths. It has also been used medicinally; the flowers and leaves boiled in milk, for example, were used to purge the body of worms and parasites. More oddly, the dried leaves have been recommended as a tobacco substitute but little modern evidence is available.

Stokesia laevis
Stokes Aster

This small thistle-like plant, native to South Eastern North America was named after Jonathan Stokes (1755-1831), a botanist and physician better known for introducing digitalis to the clinical world. Collinson records receiving a plant from James Gordon, Nov 1, 1767 which he had raised from seed obtained originally from Carolina. He had known James Gordon as a young talented gardener in the employment of his great friend Lord Petre at Thorndon Hall, Essex. When Lord Petre died of smallpox in 1742, Gordon set up a nursery in Mile End. Collinson said of him, *"Mr. Gordon ....(who) for many years, I have assisted with seed and who, with a sagacity peculiar to himself has raised a vast variety of plants from all parts of the world."*

Thymus serphyllum
Wild Thyme

Wild Thyme, like Sage and Rosemary, originates from the coastal areas surrounding the Mediterranean. Like them it came to Britain with the Romans and is used as a culinary herb with additional medicinal qualities, notably for de-worming. Since its introduction, numerous cultivars have been developed, two of which, 'Russettings' and 'Silver Posie' have been selected to represent Peter Collinson's specimens.

Viburnum tinus 'Variagatum'
Flowering laurel

Collinson's garden catalogue records a specimen named *Viburnum tinus* dentatum sent to him from Pennsylvania by Dr. Witt in 1739. Born in Wiltshire, Christopher Witt (1675-1765) migrated to Pennsylvania in 1704 where he lived to a grand old age in German Town practicing medicine and developed a lifelong passion for botany with his neighbour John Bartram in Skullkil. As with all of Collinson's American 'brothers of the spade' their bond was a shared, Quaker-based philosophy, a love of good and natural things and an overriding sense of duty to share, to conserve, to observe, investigate, record, catalogue and pass on the custodianship of their labours to succeeding generations.

Vinca minor
Lesser Periwinkle

Vinca minor, a native of Central and Southern Europe is a common perennial bedding plant, valued for its colour and ground cover, also for the way in which it suppresses the growth of weeds. Doubtless Peter Collinson cultivated it in his garden for the same reasons. Many modern cultivars now exist and the following have been chosen to represent his original, unknown varieties: 'Argenteovariegata', 'Atropurpurea', 'Gertrude Jekyll' and 'La Grave'.

The Madagascan periwinkle *Catharanthus roseus* produces two important alkaloids in its sap, vinblastine and vincristine, which have important uses in the treatment of Hodgkin's disease and leukemia.

Acer x Freemanii
Freeman's Maple

This decorative tree was planted 2007 by HRH the Countess of Wessex to commemorate the bicentennial year of Mill Hill School's foundation. It was chosen as a modern cultivar of *Acer saccharinum*, the Silver Maple introduced by Peter Collinson in 1725. It is a hybrid between *A. saccharinum* and *A. rubrum*, the Red Maple, both of which are native to and very common in Eastern North America. Collinson grew both in his Mill Hill Garden from roots sent to him by John Bartram. *A. rubrum* had been cultivated in Britain since the mid 17th century thanks to the earlier plant collector, John Tradescant who brought it back with the Tulip tree (see later) after his trip to Virginia between 1628-37. The wood of *A. saccharinum* is notoriously prone to splitting and is not recommended for gardens, hence the choice of the hybrid. A number have, however, been planted in the grounds of St. Bees and on Top Field near the science block. The name 'saccharinum' implies sweetness and indeed the sap of these maples can be tapped to make maple syrup. However, it is inferior in quality and quantity to that of the sugar maple, *Acer saccharum*.

Aesculus hippocastanum
Horse Chestnut

Native to the Balkans, Horse Chestnut trees were first brought to Britain from Istanbul in Turkey in 1576 and used to decorate and give shade in parks and gardens. Turkish soldiers are said to have fed conkers to their horses and so these trees became known as Horse chestnuts and were originally named *Castanea equina*. Linnaeus renamed them to distinguish them from the edible *Castanea sativa*, Sweet Chestnut (described below). Unlike the sweet chestnut, the timber is not very useful for making furniture though its creamy soft texture is valued for carving. A current worry is that Horse Chestnut trees are under attack by a little moth which lays its eggs on the leaves. The eggs hatch out into tiny caterpillars called leaf miners because they tunnel through to feed on the sugary sap in the veins.

Ailanthus altissima
Tree of Heaven

Peter Collinson made the following notes on this tree, which he grew in Britain for the first time. *'A stately tree raised from seed from Nankin in China, in 1751, sent over by Father D'Incarville, my correspondent in China to whom I sent many seeds in return; he sent it to me and to the Royal Society.'* In 1764 he adds, *"I have from China a tree of surprising growth that much resembles a Sumach, which is the admiration of all that see it. It endures our winters. We call ours the Varnish Tree."*

Pierre Nicholas d'Incarville had been introduced to him by his friend, Bernard de Jussieu, curator of the Jardin des Plantes in Paris. Collinson distributed seeds of this tree to the Chelsea Physic garden and to his many 'Brothers of the Spade' in the great gardens of England. It is now a very familiar street tree, valued for its vigour and resistance to pollution though prone to splintering in strong wind.

The name 'Tree of Heaven' was ascribed by the eighteenth and nineteenth century gardeners who prized it as a fast-growing exotic, it is commonly known as 'Stink Tree; by those who are less enamoured by the foul smell of its male flowers. The sexes are separate so no such criticism can be levelled at the two trees planted here in Mill Hill which are both female.

Betula pendula
Silver Birch

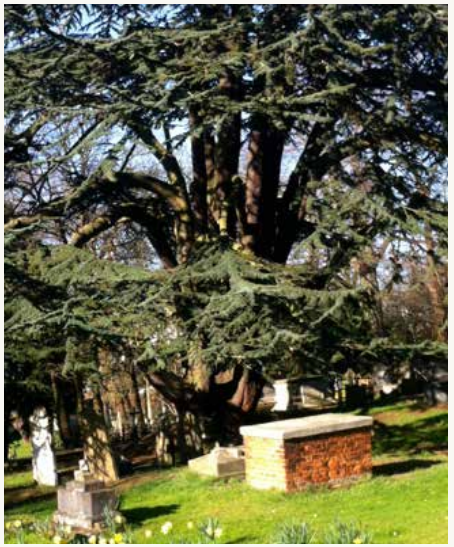
This common European native extends throughout the Northern temperate zone as far as Siberia and is honoured in Finland as a national symbol. It has many economic uses from paper pulp to skis, clogs and brushwood fences. The bark was ground to make a primitive bread by Scandinavians in times of famine and the sap can be tapped to produce a rich edible syrup. Add to this, the shimmering beauty of its fine leaves and white bark and one would imagine a tree prized by all. That it is not necessarily welcomed in some Eastern States of North America where it is labelled 'invasive', is due to its remarkable ability to colonise cleared land and compete with other vegetation.

Peter Collinson's catalogue refers to two other species of birch, *Betula papyrifera*, the paper birch, and *Betula Nigra*, known as red birch, both native to North America. He is said to be first to have raised *B. papyrifera* from seed in 1751 and introduced *B. nigra* to England in 1736.

Castanea sativa
Sweet Chestnut

Collinson was an admirer of this tree. He writes, *Sept 16. 1758*
"In Writtle Park.....is a stately chesnut tree which I measured, five feet above the ground and found its girth forty-five feet ..... the tradition in the neighbourhood is that fifteen deer could shelter under it.."

He planted a number in his garden at Mill Hill, one of which survives on top terrace and is illustrated here. It is native to the Middle East and Southern Europe and arrived in Britain with the Romans, whose soldiers ground the nuts to a flour they called polenta with which they made bread. (Polenta is now more commonly made from ground corn). Since then, it has become very popular for its ability to coppice and for its valuable oak-like timber.



St. Mary's churchyard, Hendon

Jardin des Plantes, Paris

Cedrus libani
Cedar of Lebanon

This statuesque tree is the national emblem of Lebanon, used by its ancestral people, the Phoenicians to build their ships and by King Solomon to build the temple in Jerusalem. Much valued by the leading eighteenth century landowners, it is one of the more commonly recognised species in the grounds of the stately Manors of England. Peter Collinson acquired a number of specimens. He writes, "1751. our two large Cedars of Lebanon, on each side of the *grass walk, were given me by the Duke of Richmond and brought from Goodwood ..... six grew"*
"April 30,1761, Six Cedars of Lebanon, five years old in the field, given me by Mr Clark – all grew"

Of the many Cedars of Lebanon that Peter Collinson planted, at least three remain in the Mill Hill area planted around 1756, one at Belmont The Mill Hill junior school, one in Parson St. Hendon where it towers over the front gardens of houses which post-date it by 200 years and one in St. Mary's churchyard, Hendon (pictured). Older residents of Mill Hill will remember the stately specimen which grew in the Collinson garden, sadly now just a stump, yet heartened to see its replacement, donated by Mill Hill Preservation Society, growing strongly.

Despite his worldwide network of business and plant-hunting contacts and correspondents, Peter Collinson rarely travelled except to visit the gardens of his English friends. In 1734 he made an exception and crossed the English Channel to visit his friend, Bernard de Jussieu, curator of the Paris Jardin des Plantes. The evidence can be still be seen, a very healthy Cedar of Lebanon which he took and planted in the garden there (pictured).

Cedrus atlantica
Atlas Cedar

The Atlas Cedar is named after the mountains of its homeland in Morocco. It appeared for the first time in Britain in the 1840s. The Mill Hill School specimen was planted by HRH Queen Elizabeth II in 1957. It shares so many features with the Cedar of Lebanon that the two are extremely difficult to tell apart but *C. atlantica* is much easier to cultivate and for that reason far more common in parks and gardens. Represented also on Top Terrace are two other cedars: *Cedrus atlantica f. glauca*, a sub-species with blue / green needles, and *Cedrus deodara*, the Deodar Cedar, a Himalayan native with filmy, droopy branchlets.

Fraxinus americana
White Ash

A native of Eastern and Central North America, this handsome tree was introduced to Britain for the first time by Peter Collinson in 1724. He acquired his specimen from Mark Catesby who knew it as *Fraxinus caroliniana*. White Ash is so called for the colour of its timber which is highly valued in the US for its fine-grained strength. It is commonly used for flooring and the manufacture of baseball bats.

Juniperus virginiana
Eastern Red Cedar

Peter Collinson writes in his notes *"Juniper from New England, of a very bluish green... raised from seed sent me from thence by Governor Shirley, in 1758."*

This fine specimen, located just to the south of the Collinson Garden looks too vigorous to be that same tree yet it is not impossible as Eastern Red Cedars are known to survive up to 900 years. If this is not the original, then the probability is that it is the offspring of the original.

The Eastern Red Cedar is native to North East America where it often appears in cleared land as a pioneer species growing slowly but strongly and not always welcomed. The timber is aromatic and very inflammable. It is red in colour, hence the name, and is used now for pencils and aromatic boxes. Native American people used it to create defensive barricades against invaders leading French colonists to name Baton Rouge ('red pole'), Louisiana.

Liriodendron tulipifera
Tulip Tree

Peter Collinson was an admirer of this imposing tree, first introduced by Bishop Gunning in 1685. He wrote, *"The tulip tree at Waltham Abbey, in flower June 26, 1745, ninety six feet high and nine feet round, or three feet in diameter, is now, 1761, the largest tree. In 1756, the famous tulip tree in Lord Peterborough's garden at Parson's Green, near Fulham, died; it was the tallest tree in the grove, above seventy feet high, and perhaps a hundred years old, being the first tree of the kind that was raised in England, and had for many years the visitation of the curious to see its flowers and admire its beauty, for it was as straight as an arrow, and died of age by gentle decay; but it was remarkable, the same year this died, a Tulip Tree I gave Sir Charles Wager flowered for the first time, whose house and garden was opposite to Lord Peterborough's and this Tulip Tree I raised from seed and was thirty years old before it flowered"*

One of his original plantings at Mill Hill can be seen beside the northeast end of the school building. The fact that it survives is due to very unusual circumstances, for in 1977 it was struck by lightning and was cut back to a stump. As it began to coppice itself the following year, all but the strongest young shoots were removed and the remaining one rapidly grew into the specimen pictured here. In its native North East America, it is valued for its fine grain timber. Early English settlers were struck by the abundance of these very large majestic trees with their beautiful lime yellow, tulip-like flowers, noting how the trunks were hollowed out for canoes by the local people.

Platanus orientalis
Oriental Plane

Peter Collinson had seen this tree in a garden in St. Albans.

"I am told that Lord Verulam's seat is now Lord Grimston's, near St. Albans: by him was there planted the first oriental Plane Tree." (undated)

It is likely that he obtained seeds or seedlings from his friend Bernard Jussieu in Paris. The Jardin des Plantes has a few specimens of similar age to the one, pictured here, he planted on Top Terrace. This tree occupies a very exposed West facing position which accounts for its relatively small size in comparison to its cousins in France.

Its native range extends from central Europe as far East as India and it was grown in Persian and Greek gardens from ancient times, valued for its spreading shady canopy. The London plane, so familiar in our streets and public parks is a hybrid of *Platanus orientalis* and *Platanus occidentalis*, the American sycamore. Its flaky, paper-like bark peels off, conveniently discarding the coating of particulate pollution leaving an attractive patchwork appearance.

Pterocarya fraxinifolia
Caucasian Wingnut

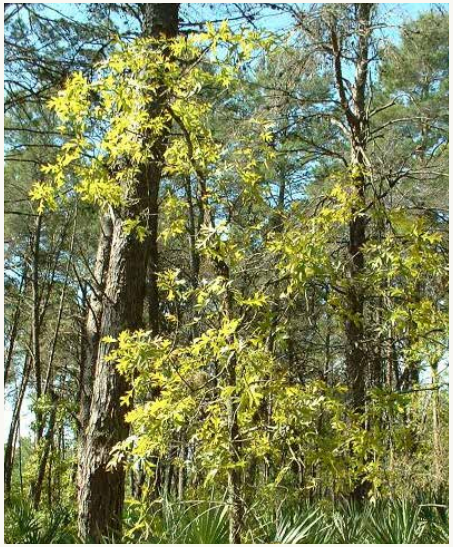
The name 'Caucasian' indicates that this large spreading tree is a native of North and Central regions of Asia, from the Black and Caspian Seas down to Iran.

The specimens now growing beside the Biology Block have arisen from seed and root sprouts derived from a large original specimen which no longer exists. It is rather rare in Britain and arrived in Northern Europe in the late eighteenth century, signalling the possibility that these trees are descendants of an original planted by Pater Collinson.

Quercus ilex
Holm Oak

Memorandum Oct 10, 1765
"Lord Rochford, our Ambassador in Spain, says that in those parts where he had been there are very few forest trees worth notice, but the Ilex about the Escurial are fine; one sort produces acorns of a monstrous size, which they eat in Spain at their best tables and they are nearly as sweet as chestnuts." P.Collinson

A very large specimen of this evergreen oak tree, located by the Collinson House footpath, was a much-lamented casualty of the great storm, the night of the 15th October 1987. A replacement was planted on top terrace in memory of David Smith, a long serving Governor of the school and friend to all who shared his love of the grounds. The School lost many trees that night including some original plantings of Peter Collinson.



Quercus laevis (Q. catesbaei)
American Turkey Oak

Collinson introduced this tree to Britain having received a specimen from Catesby in Virginia. He knew it as *Quercus catesbaei*. In comparison to *Q. robur*, the English Oak on Top Terrace which has overseen all the changes from Peter Collinson's time and now dominates the skyline, *Q. laevis* is relatively small and unprepossessing, that is until autumn when it outshines its cousins, producing fine red foliage.
It is native to Eastern North America with a distribution from Virginia in the north to Central Florida in the south, growing in scrubby soils, resistant to drought and adverse conditions. It is valued in its native land as its acorns provide food for black bears, white tailed deer and wild turkeys. The name Turkey Oak, however, refers to the shape of the leaves which resemble the spikey feet of these birds. Unfortunately, the description has been used a number of times for similar leaves, for example, *Q. cerris*, the European turkey oak.

Quercus robur
English Oak

The fine specimen pictured here is a survivor from Collinson's garden. It dominates Top Terrace. Together with its neighbour, the old sweet chestnut, it has seen the world change around it over the last 250 years yet the view to the west is much the same as it was when Peter Collinson stood by it. The English Oak, a true native species, is famed for supporting the greatest biodiversity of all British trees.

Quercus rubra
Northern Red Oak

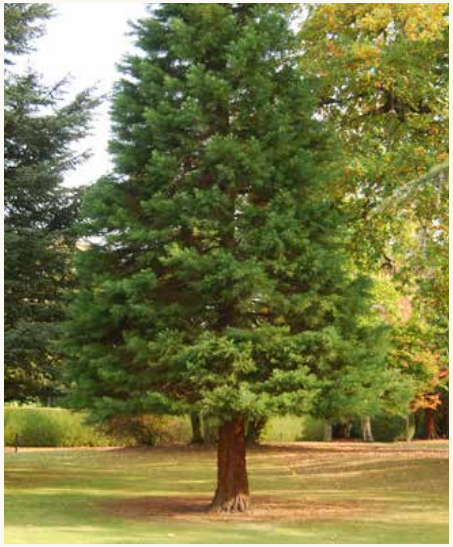
The Red oak, named for its bright autumn foliage, is a robust tree much valued for its timber in its native North East America. Like its cousin *Q. robur*, it supports a very diverse fauna. The two specimens which frame the front of the school were planted to commemorate the bicentenary of the Foundation. It is recorded as having been introduced in 1724.

Whether Peter Collinson was responsible, in the absence of evidence, is open to question. It is significant, however, that his friend and protégé, Mark Catesby collected and illustrated this tree in his American travels of this period.

Robinia pseudoacacia
Black Locust Tree

The specimen illustrated here was undoubtedly planted by Peter Collinson. It survives due to new growth from its root suckers surrounding the heart of the old tree, now reduced to a stump. A native of Eastern North America it is likely to have been included in Collinson's imported boxes of seeds though it was known in England since the early seventeenth century. A pioneer species, it is a hardy tree which colonises cleared land spreading by means of root suckers as well as by seed. Its flowers hang in large clusters producing copious nectar which bees convert into the famed 'Acacia honey'.

The name 'locust tree' has a biblical origin as the seeds of a locust tree were thought to have sustained John the Baptist in the wilderness, a Mediterranean cousin, however, not this American species.

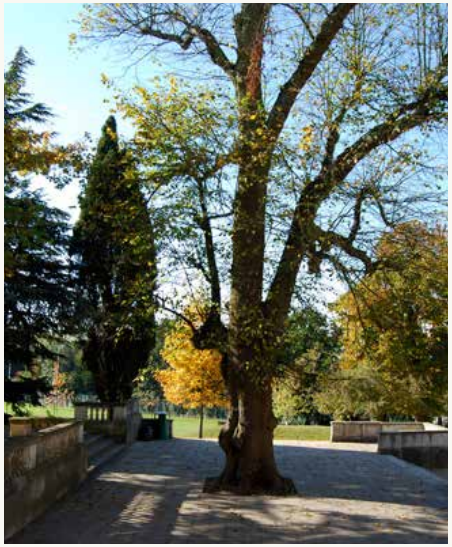


Sequoiadendron giganteum
Giant Redwood

This majestic tree was first discovered in its native Sierra Nevada by European travellers in the 1830s and introduced to the British Isles in 1856. How Collinson would have loved it! A record breaker in terms of height, girth and volume, it can also vie with others in the longevity stakes, some specimens living up to 2500 years. It has the good fortune to be a particularly poor timber source as its wood is very brittle and splinters easily, otherwise the magnificent Californian groves might well not exist today. Strangely, its survival depends to some extent on forest fires. The redwood bark, being thick and fibrous and soft to the touch, is resistant to fire damage and the heat of fire causes cones to open releasing the tiny seeds. These in turn have a greater chance of germination in the mineral rich ash that lies in the areas newly cleared of undergrowth.

Taxodium distichum
Swamp Cypress

The swamp cypress is native to the South East coast of North America extending from the Delaware river to the Florida Everglades where it thrives in the wet conditions. It was introduced in 1640 by John Tradescant. Collinson planted a number of specimens by the stream running the far side of Top Field, one of which survives despite wind damage to its crown. Like the Larch, it is a deciduous conifer, losing its delicate, fern-like leaves in winter.



Tilia x europaea
Common Lime

This stately tree is often seen lining the grand avenues in parks and country gardens. The European Lime, native to Britain is a hybrid of the small leafed *T. cordata* and the large leafed *T. platyphyllos*. Two large specimens survive from Collinson's time, one of which, illustrated here, occupies a dominant position by the quad. Lime trees support a great diversity of insect and bird life and are noted for the sweet lemony smell of their fruit in summer and the less attractive sticky drops of honey dew exuded by countless feeding aphids on their leaves.

APPENDIX

Thanks to those who have donated and planted trees some of which are listed below:

Acer x freemanii	Planted by HRH countess of Wessex in 2007 to mark the 200th anniversary of the School's foundation.
Acer saccharinum	4 specimens, donated by David Roe (OM) Planted by TJC, 1991 in St. Bees garden. 1 specimen donated by the Fox Family (OMs) planted by William Winfield on Top Field North Bank.
Ailanthus altissima	1 specimen planted by TJC on the Ridgeway by the Plaque to Peter Collinson to replace a beech felled in the hurricane 1987. I specimen donated by 'Join Lambert', Rouen to commemorate the Mill Hill – Join Lambert exchange, planted by TJC, 1988 on Top Terrace.
Cedrus atlantica	Planted on Top Terrace by HRH Queen Elizabeth II to mark the 150th anniversary of the School's foundation.
Cedrus atlantica f Glauca	Donated by Rodney Fitzgerald (Murray House 1937-39) planted by TJC on Top Terrace.
Cedrus libani	Donated by the Mill Hill Preservation Society in the Collinson Garden to replace Collinson's original specimen. Planted by John Living 2009.
Fagus sylvatica	Planted in the Stoa by William Winfield 2004.
Fagus sylvatica	Donated by Ronnie Aye Mung (Burton Bank 1945-50) for the '45 *salvete* group, planted on Park by TJC 1996.
Fraxinus Americana	Planted on Top Terrace by TJC, 1991 in memory of Louise Simmonds, former Head of Catering.
Fraxinus excelsior	Donated by Robert Harley (OM), planted on Park by TJC 1996.
Liriodendron tulipifera	1 specimen donated by the Pollock Family (OM), planted by TJC on Top Field North Bank, 1989. 1 specimen planted in the Stoa by William Winfield 2004.
Pinus nigra	Donated and planted by TJC on Fishing Net bank 1996.
Populus balsamifera	Donated by Mrs. May Naylor, planted by TJC and Tony Caligari by Park Pavillion 1995.
Quercus ilex	planted by TJC on Top Terrace in memory of David Smith (OM and former Governor) 1992.
Quercus rubra	2 specimens planted by William Winfield either side of the Gate of Honour to mark the Millennium 2000.
Sequoiadendron giganteum	Planted by TJC on Top Terrace 1989 in memory of Julio Moya to whom he owes his love of trees.
Quercus cerris	Donated by Ronnie Aye Mung (Burton Bank 1945-50) for the '45 *salvete* group, planted on Park by TJC 1996.

Acknowledgement
I am indebted to Dr. Karen Bridgman of Paines Hill for her patient help in the preparation of this catalogue. Without her extensive horticultural knowledge and planting skill the Heritage garden would not have got beyond the dream stage.

Trevor Chilton
Biology teacher at Mill Hill School 1978-2009 and Housemaster of Collinson House, 1985-200. Other publications include: 1985 *A level Biology*, Philips and Chilton, Oxford University Press, 2000 *AS Biology*, Clegg and Chilton, Feltham Press, 2015 *Applied Plant Science*, Trevor Chilton, Highfield Press, 2016 *Hector and the Whale*, Trevor Chilton, Amazon, Kindle.

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