

Appendix 1.1: Publication History: *The Loves of the Plants* and *The Botanic Garden*

There is no extant manuscript material for *LOTP*. The work comes to us solely in print editions.

From its first publication, the full title of *LOTP* was *The Botanic Garden, Part II. Containing The Loves of the Plants, a Poem. With Philosophical Notes. Volume the Second*. It was designated “Part II” and “Volume the Second” even though Part I was not yet published. The first edition of *The Botanic Garden, Part I: Containing The Economy of Vegetation. A Poem. With Philosophical Notes* is dated 1791 on its title page, but it did not appear until June 1792 (King-Hele, *Life* pp. 252–53). Numbering the editions is confusing since three editions of Part II (1789, 1790, 1791) were published before the first edition of Part I.

Starting with the first appearance of *The Economy of Vegetation*, the two parts of *The Botanic Garden* were published more or less in tandem with each other, the authoritative lifetime editions of *The Economy of Vegetation* being 1791 (2 editions, both dated 1791 but appearing in 1792), 1795, and 1799. Since the 1799 editions were the only ones printed in octavo, they go together more clearly, though they tended to be bound in separate volumes. The tandem editions in quarto were not always paired with each other, but often bound together rather randomly. For example, the 1790 *LOTP* presented in facsimile in this edition is bound with a 1791 *Economy of Vegetation*, with a collective title page dated 1791. Another copy of *The Botanic Garden*, also held at the McMaster University Mills Memorial Library, has a collective title page with the date 1791, the title page of *The Economy of Vegetation* 1791, and the title page of *LOTP* 1794. The 1789 copy of *LOTP* at the British Library is bound with a 1791 *Economy of Vegetation*.

Changes to the front matter as a result of Part I being published include a collective title page for *The Botanic Garden; A Poem, in Two Parts. Part I. Containing The Economy of Vegetation. Part II. The Loves of the Plants. With Philosophical Notes*; revision of the “Advertisement”; and inclusion of an “Apology.” Additionally, the commendatory verses on *The Botanic Garden*, first included in 1791, consistently appear before Part I.

Lifetime editions:

The authoritative editions of *LOTP* published within ED’s lifetime are as follows (with publication information from title pages):

1789. Quarto. “Lichfield: Printed by J. Jackson. Sold by J. Johnson, St. Paul’s Church Yard, London: M, DCC, LXXXIX.”

1790. Quarto. “The Second Edition. London: Printed by J. Nichols, for J. Johnson, St. Paul’s Church Yard. M, DCC, XC.”

1791. Quarto. “The Third Edition. London: Printed for J. Johnson, St. Paul’s Church-Yard. MDCCCXCI.”

1794. Quarto. "The Fourth Edition. London: Printed for J. Johnson, St. Paul's Church-Yard. MDCCXCIV."

1799. Octavo. "The Fourth Edition. [sic] London: Printed for J. Johnson, St. Paul's Church-Yard. 1799."

Other editions printed in ED's lifetime:

Dublin: Moore, 1796.

New York: Swords, 1798.

Editions after ED's lifetime:

The Poetical Works of Erasmus Darwin, M. D. F. R. S. Containing the Botanic Garden, in Two Parts, and The Temple of Nature. With Philosophical Notes and Plates. In Three Volumes. Vol. II. Containing The Loves of the Plants. London: J. Johnson, 1806.

The Botanic Garden. A Poem, in Two Parts. Part I. Containing The Economy of Vegetation. Part II. The Loves of the Plants. With Philosophical Notes. New York: Swords, 1807.

The Botanic Garden, A Poem, in Two Parts; Containing The Economy of Vegetation, and The Loves of the Plants, with Philosophical Notes; also The Temple of Nature, A Poem. By Erasmus Darwin, M.D. Jones's University Edition of the Modern Poets. London: Jones & Company, 1824.

Selections:

Beauties of the Botanic Garden. Written by Dr. Darwin. London: Cadell and Davies, 1805; New York: Longworth, 1805.

- Includes selections from the verse only.

The Essential Writings of Erasmus Darwin. Chosen and edited with a linking commentary by Desmond King-Hele. London: MacGibbon & Kee, 1968.

Translations:

Les amours des plantes. Translated by Joseph Philippe François Deleuze. Paris: Digeon, 1800.

Gli Amori delle Piante. Translated by Giovanni Gherardini. Milano: Pirota e Maspero, 1805; Napoli: Luca Marotta, 1817; Milano: Paolo Emilio Giusti, 1818.

Reprints:

The Botanic Garden, 1791. Introduction by Desmond King-Hele. Scholar Press, 1973.

- Reproduces *LOTP* 1789.

The Botanic Garden. Introduction by Donald H. Reiman. 2 vols. Garland, 1978.

- Reproduces *LOTP* 1790.

The Loves of the Plants. Introduction by Jonathan Wordsworth. Woodstock Books, 1991.

- Reproduces *LOTP* 1789.

Cosmologia: A Sequence of Epic Poems in Three Parts comprising Part One: The Economy of Vegetation (1791), Part Two: The Loves of the Plants (1789), Part Three: The Temple of Nature (1803). Edited by Stuart Harris. Published by the author, 2002.

- Includes verse only.

The Botanic Garden. A Poem in Two Parts (1791). Introduction by Martin Priestman. *The Collected Writings of Erasmus Darwin*, Vols. 1 and 2. Continuum, 2004.

Critical edition:

The Botanic Garden. Edited by Adam Komisaruk and Allison Dushane. Routledge, 2017.

- Clear reading text based on *LOTP* 1789, with collation of textual variants from 1790, 1791, 1794, and 1799 in Textual Notes, and of variant illustrations in Additional Illustrations and Description of the Illustrations.