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LANDSCAPE GARDENING IN DELAWARE – Beautiful Japanese Garden at the Country Seat of Dr. Horace Howard Furness at Wallingford

In a dispatch from Wallingford, this county, the Philadelphia Record says:

Only a few years ago a single innovation was considered sufficient for the ornamentation of a suburban country seat. When the ambitious landscape gardener had introduced a wild garden or a bog garden or had aspired to the heights of introducing either a Japanese or an Italian type, on one of our Eastern Pennsylvania estates otherwise restricted to the unusual display of lawn and shrubbery, the “specialty” called for admiration from all the surrounding countryside.

Now it is not unusual to find a Japanese garden “built” by a native of the Orient, a splendid garden of Italian marbles, stately terraces and mystic fountains, seemingly imported bodily from sunny Italy, and besides these there will probably appear on the same estate an old-fashioned maze-garden, with its bewildering paths winding in and out, seemingly without end.

There will also be introduced novel ponds and lakes for the growth of rare aquatics, and all so cleverly carried out on different sections of the country seat that there is no conflict of types, and no incongruity, although the landscape resulting might well be designated as combination gardening.

Along the Main Line there are many famous country seats in which two or more experts have been required to layout the miniature landscape affects beautifying the different parts of the grounds. No matter how expert the American gardener has become in other branches, only a native Japanese craftsman is now trusted to lay out and superintend the construction of an Oriental garden. Authorities on Italian marbles and the desirable gardening features of Florence and Rome can be expected to complete the most desirable features of Italian gardens in America, and yet three or more garden experts, working on the same estate, seldom interfere with each other.

Among the many beauties of the country seat of Dr. Horace Howard Furness here in Wallingford, perhaps the most interesting is the Japanese garden, although all through the place nature and the art of the landscape gardener have combined to produce unusually harmonious effects.

A little further down the lawn is a box-hedged enclosure, upon entering which the eye is fairly dazzled by the brilliancy of color, from the time of spring bulbs to the late blooming salvias. The center is occupied by a low, circular fountain, in which great yellow and white water lilies, with their flat, glossy leaves are abloom.

To the immediate right of the house, within close view of the broad porches, is the daintiest little gem of landscape gardening of which the place boasts, it is a genuine Japanese garden, laid out and watched over until in perfect order by a son of the Mikado’s realm. A comparatively small area is thus laid out, but there is not a pebble, a blade of grass, or a lily leaf that has not its particular place in the general effect. A shallow waterway, containing several small islands connected by stone bridges, is given the proper Japanese air by being the sunny abiding place of innumerable goldfish.