



OTTAWA BOTANICAL GARDEN SOCIETY
La SOCIÉTÉ du JARDIN BOTANIQUE d'OTTAWA

For immediate release

Plant Hunters of the Himalayas

Alexander Reford, Director of Les Jardins de Métis/The Reford Gardens, historian and armchair explorer will recount the courageous and sometimes foolhardy adventures of the plant hunters of the Himalayas on March 12, 2008. His talk is the third in a series of four garden talks sponsored by the Ottawa Botanical Garden Society.

Many of the primula, gentians, rhododendron, lilies, and iris found in the gardens at Métis - and of course the Himalayan blue poppy - all had their origin in the Himalayas. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, plant explorers from England, Scotland, France, Germany and the United States traveled to the largely unknown and unmapped regions of the Himalayas in search of rare and exotic plants.

Mr. Reford will regale his audience with stories of the men, and a few adventurous women, who traversed dangerous mountain passes while fleeing wild tribes, enduring leeches and snakes and suffering the extremes of the wild alpine climate, all for the sake of finding unusual plants for themselves and their patrons.

Mr. Reford is the author of five books, *Treasures of the Reford Gardens*, *Elsie's Paradise*, *Guidebook to Reford Gardens*, *Au Rythme du Train 1859-1970* and *Des Jardins Oubliés 1860-1960*.

The talk, Plant Hunters of the Himalayas, has been made possible through a generous donation by Waste Management of Canada Corporation and is co-sponsored by The Ottawa Garden Club.

Plant Hunters of the Himalayas

When:	Wednesday, March 12th, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.		
Where:	Library and Archives Canada 395 Wellington St.		
Cost:	Individual members of the OBGS	\$7	
	Group members of the OBGS	\$12	
	General Public	\$15	

To order a ticket: e-mail info@ottawagarden.ca or phone 613-747-0600
For more information or to arrange an interview with Alexander Reford phone 418-775-2222 x 222

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