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GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

FILE NO.

STATE HERBARIUM,

LAB. NO.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

PERTH, W.A. 1925

Captain W. M. L. Bedford,
Royal Naval Gunnery School,
CHATHAM. ENGLAND.

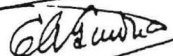
Dear Sir,

The paintings made by Lady Bedford whilst in Western Australia arrived here during the week and have been safely received at this office.

I wish to thank you for having so kindly donated these studies to the state and assure you that they will be much appreciated.

At the present time, owing to the adverse period we are going through and the fact that our accommodation is very limited, it will not be possible to display these immediately for public inspections, but I hope before very long that a suitable space for their display will be made available.

Yours faithfully,



(C. A. Gardner)
GOVERNMENT BOTANIST.



The Ballroom, decorated for a reception.

Connolly, Hanna, Fred, E.B.



Freda, Gordon,
Margaret River Caves, Lunch.
April 1907

Wallcliffe

WILD FLOWERS.

PAINTINGS FOR THE STATE.

Late Lady Bedford's Collection.

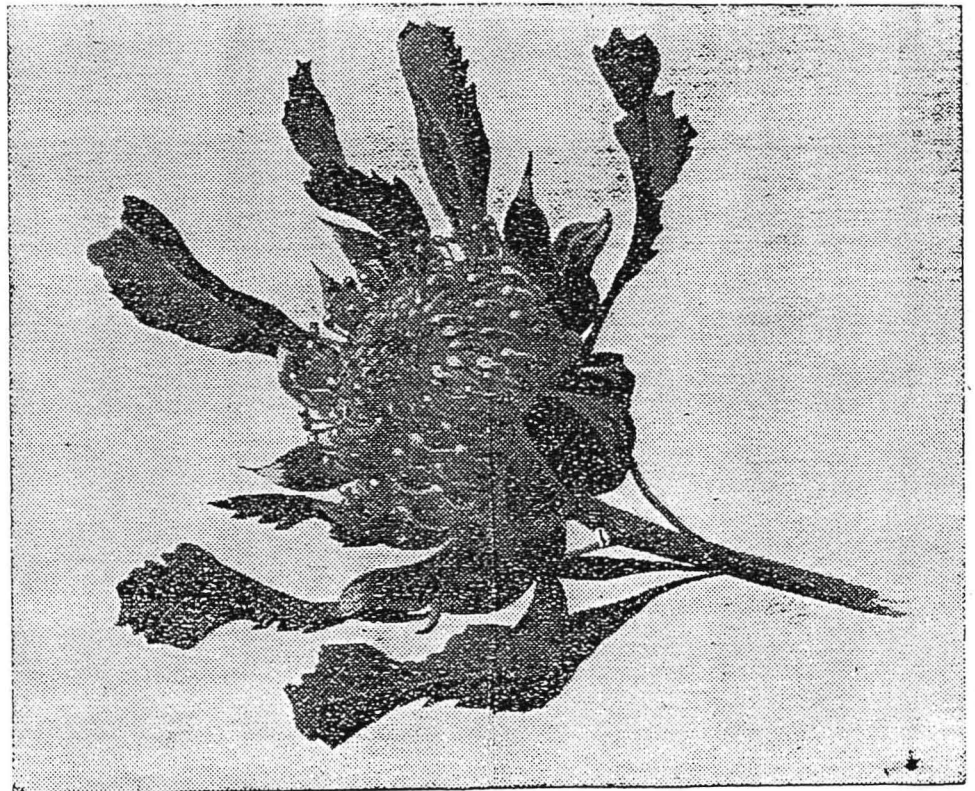
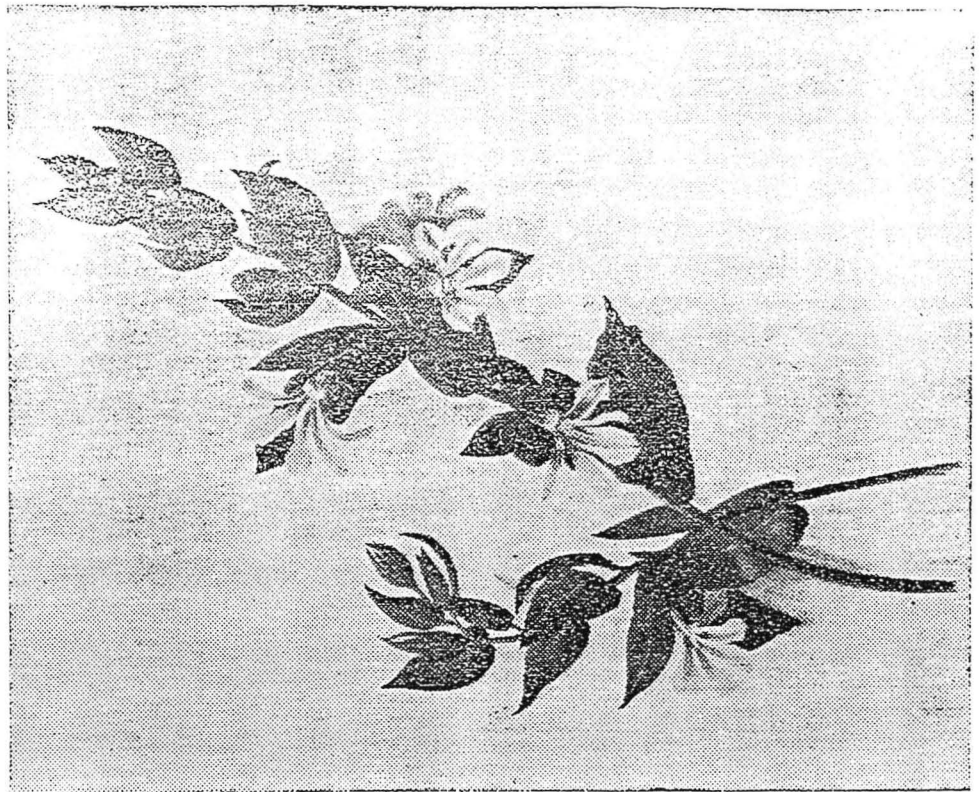
A collection of about seventy-five large water colours of wild flowers, made by the late Lady Bedford, wife of the late Admiral Sir Frederick G. D. Bedford, who was Governor of Western Australia from 1903 to 1909, has been presented to the State Herbarium by her three sons and daughter.

About sixty of these paintings were received on loan from Lady Bedford in 1929 on the occasion of the State Centenary celebrations, when they were exhibited in Perth, and attracted some attention. Miss Constance Miller, of Cottesloe, a friend of Lady Bedford, who was responsible for the introduction of the pictures at that time, arranged subsequently with Captain Denham M. T. Bedford, of the Royal Naval Gunnery School, Chatham, in accordance with Lady Bedford's wish that the pictures be donated to some botanical institution, to have these studies presented to the State Herbarium.

Last week the Government Botanist (Mr. C. A. Gardner) received two parcels of water colours from Captain Bedford, with the following note:—"Will you please accept these paintings for the State as a gift from Admiral A. E. F. Bedford, F. F. H. Bedford, Esq., Mrs. C. Pearse, and Captain D. M. T. Bedford, R.N., sons and daughter of the late Sir F. and Lady Bedford."

The pictures are excellent representations of the flowers of South-Western Australia, and include about seventy species. They exhibit wonderful accuracy of form and colour, and are amongst the best work of this kind yet executed. One of them is from the brush of Admiral Sir Frederick Bedford, examples of whose work are found in the Perth Art Gallery, and depicts the red-flowered banksia of Albany. It is remarkable for its bold outline and colour, imparting a characteristic vigour which is usually lacking in such representations. Lady Bedford's work includes a study of the "Southern Cross flower," also from Albany, and some vivid representations of several other plants, notably the Qualup Bell, the Red Leschenaltia, Kangaroo Paws and many orchids. The collection will be housed in the State Herbarium, and when accommodation becomes available it is proposed to have the studies suitably framed. The curator (Mr. Gardner) stated yesterday that the collection, which was gratefully accepted, was of much value from a botanical point of view, and would be of interest to botanists generally. The greater part of the collection had already been seen when previously received in 1929, and the lucidity of the treatment made it possible to name practically all of the species. From the artistic standpoint, the best study is the painting of the Waratah, which is particularly lifelike in form and colour. This is the only subject in the collection which represents a plant native to the State.

WILD FLOWER PAINTINGS FOR THE STATE.



152 Adelaide Terrace
Perth - W. Australia
July 31st 1933.

Dear Captain Bedford.

You will have received
an official letter from our G. F. S. Office
thanking you on behalf of the Society for your
kindness in presenting us with two of Lady Bedford's
beautiful water-flower paintings. Full I feel
I should like to add my personal thanks
for a gift which we so much appreciate.
Your Mother was very dear to many of us
out here & though I feel we shall never
forget her, these pictures are a tangible
memorial of her time with us, & will also
serve to remind the younger generation
of a gentle loving lady who was once
their Patroness. I cannot tell you how glad
we are to have them & how grateful to her family
for allowing us to have them -
I trust you are all very well? Will you
remember me to W. Pearce? I wish thanks

Some prospect of seeing you both again,
but I fear your interest in Australia
will have lost much of ^{its} hold now.

Our family affairs are all very well -
but it is a problem to know what to
do with our big grandsons - there is so
little prospect for boys these days -
With kindest regards from W. Burd &
myself.

Believe me

Yours very sincerely
G. Herbert Burd

(Dr. Alfred Burd)



Mother painting wild flowers in the Bush.



Group photograph of the family and friends in front of the house.

Pimelea physodes } watercolor
E. maurocompa }