



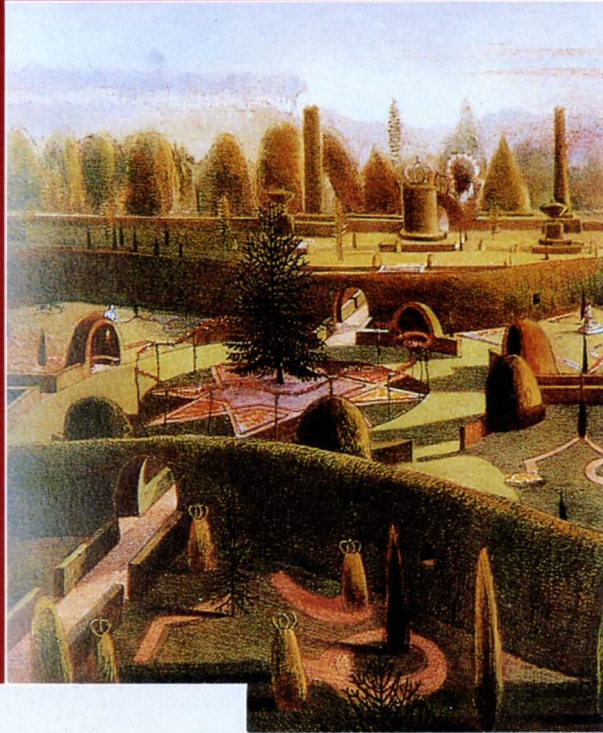
*'Among the many Regal Gardens of England,
few are more remarkable than those of
the Earl of Harrington at
Elvaston in Derbyshire.'*

Country Life Illustrated 14th January 1899.

At the south front of Elvaston Castle lay the bower garden which the 4th Earl of Harrington named the Garden of the Fair Star. The topiary reflected the Gothic themes within the castle, symbolizing the chivalrous pursuit of love.



Summer shelters.



The garden of 'Mon Plaisir' (view by E

A dark tunnel of arbor vitae curved around the inner part of the bower garden. At intervals windows were cut in this covered walk giving carefully chosen views towards the central star. Its focal point was a Chilean pine or monkey puzzle tree; at that time a costly tree that was difficult to obtain.



Mon Plaisir (or bower garden): north view.

Around the star, its eight points linked by poles and garlands of climbing roses, eight dark clipped yews formed bowers providing a sheltering seat.

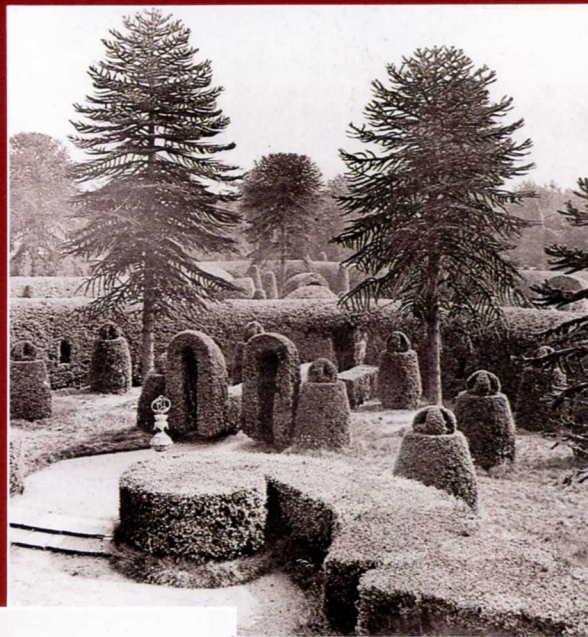
In the Alhambra garden were more architectural themes. The tall columns and low scroll-shaped



The topiary gardens.



Adveno Brooke, 1856).



Mon Plaisir (or bower garden): south view.

entablatures were fashioned in green and golden yew, clipped '*as perfect as if they were hewn out of stone or marble*'.

The formal gardens at Elvaston contained an immense number of individual trees. Topiary pyramids and columns were

The Alhambra garden.





The Bird Cottage.

The pavillion.

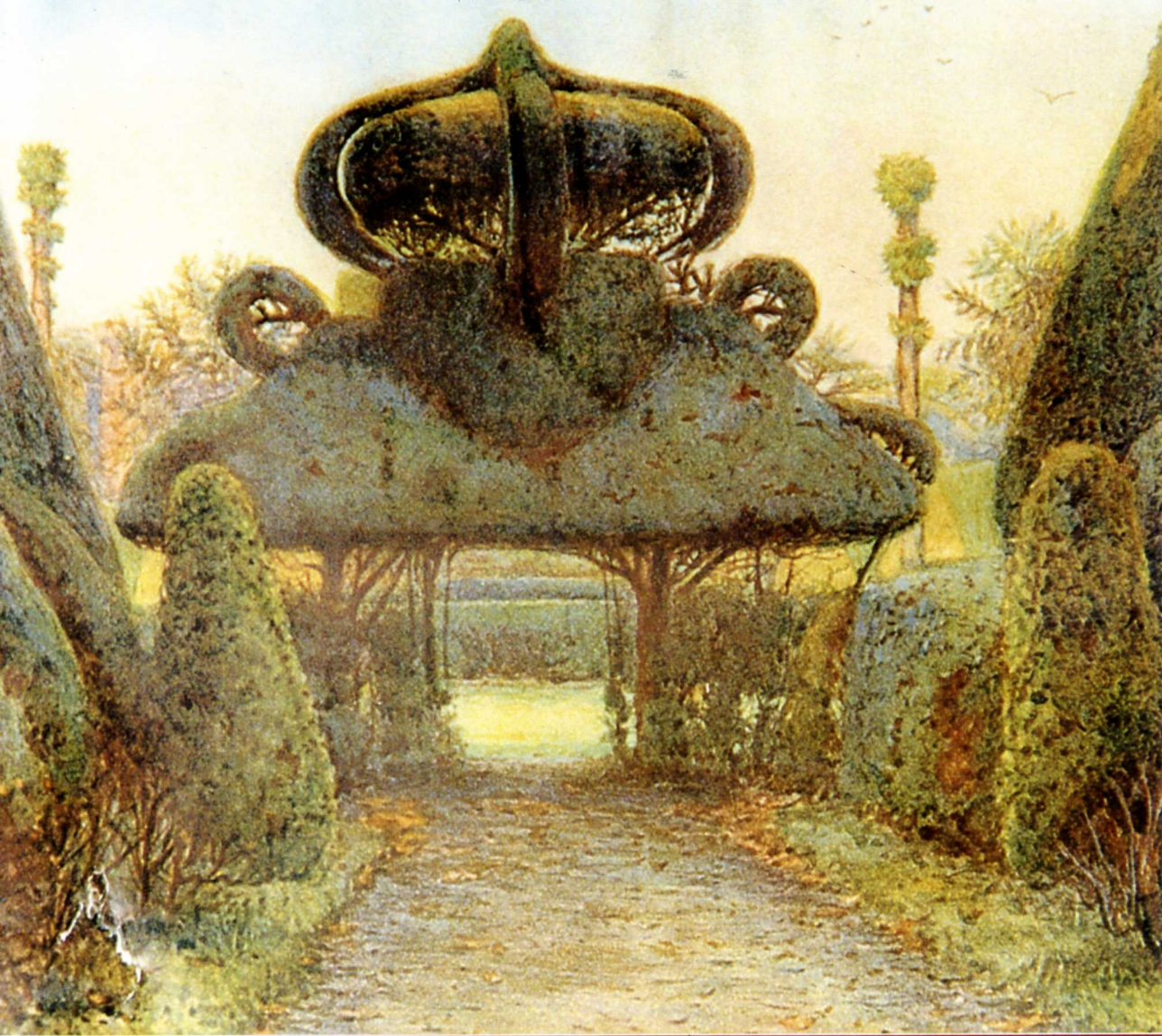
there in profusion. Many columns of golden yew were eight or nine feet tall. The dark green variety grew to twelve feet. There were few trees resembling birds or other creatures apart from Bird Cottage with its dark yew bower and topiary peacocks.

Central to the Moorish theme of the Alhambra garden was the Moorish temple. Inside it was lavishly decorated with symbols depicting the love of a crusading knight and his lady; in this case the 4th Earl and his wife, Maria.



The topiary gardens.





The Moors' Arch.



The golden yews.

In one part of the garden stood a collection of golden yews clipped into a variety of geometric shapes – walls, columns, spheres and pyramids. This golden yew was *Taxus baccata variegata* 'Elvastoni', which originated as a sport on a yew tree in the Alhambra garden and was developed and propagated by William Barron. Another yew, of the green, plum-fruited type, was propagated by Barron and given the name *Cephalotaxus harringtonia*.

The Moors' Arch remains to the present day. It was Barron who grafted golden yew above the green which made possible the two-coloured crown above this arch. The crown design was reflected in other parts of the garden, too, on topiary pillars both large and small.