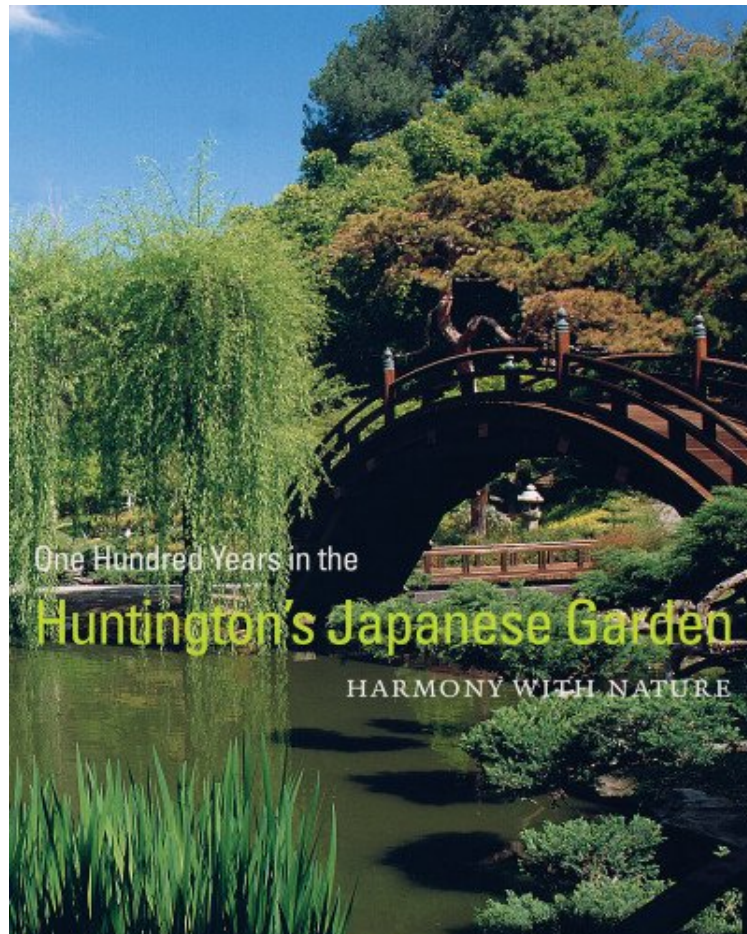


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One Hundred Years in the Huntington's Japanese Garden: Harmony with Nature

T. June Li

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#1936978 in Books 2013-08-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 12.25 x 9.25 x 1.001, 3.35 #File Name: 0873282566192 pages | File size: 63.Mb

T. June Li : One Hundred Years in the Huntington's Japanese Garden: Harmony with Nature before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised One Hundred Years in the Huntington's Japanese Garden: Harmony with Nature:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Elegant reference for any garden library By K.T. Cannon-Eger This is my second copy of One Hundred Years in the Huntington's Japanese Garden. I gave my first copy to a Japanese garden specialist in England. I realized the minute I sent it away that I would want my own copy back on my bookshelves. It is an elegant reference. 6 of 8 people found the following review helpful. I Must Disagree By Everyone's A Critic This book seems to have been created primarily as a money-maker, to capitalize on the popularity of the Huntington Japanese Garden. But the pictures aren't good enough, varied enough, or presented well enough for it to be a coffee table book -- a lot of the images are small or placed across the gutter, making them difficult to see;

four photos are used twice; I noticed four close-ups of the same spot, taken from only slightly different angles (surely there must be other attractive details to photograph there?); one historic photo of the house has obviously been flipped; and some images don't even illustrate the text. (A discussion of Japanese Gardens presented at World's Fairs is paired with a view of the Sunken Garden at the 1904 St. Louis Exposition, not the Japanese Garden.) The odd collection of essays offer no new insights and are full of carefully circumscribed supposition -- the authors don't seem to have anything of substance to say, but appear to have been asked to fill up space. The peculiar viewpoint that periodically seeps through -- Japanese gardens as seen through Chinese eyes -- is just one more discordant note that detracts from the book's usefulness. It is disappointing and not worth even the discounted price.

For more than one hundred years, the Japanese Garden at the Huntington has served as a bellwether for the West's engagement with Asian culture. With its distinctive moon bridge, wisteria arbors, koi-filled ponds, bonsai courts, bamboo forest, and historical Japanese House, this nine-acre garden has captivated visitors so much that it has become one of the most photographed spots in Southern California. This lavishly illustrated volume explores the garden's history, from its development for the Huntington estate as a display of fashionable, cultivated taste, to its quiet deterioration and neglect during World War II, to its resurgence in the 1950s as a showcase for Japanese culture and garden arts. Just before its centennial, the garden and its Japanese House underwent a comprehensive renovation. The highlight of its new features is a ceremonial teahouse, Seifu-an (Arbor of Pure Breeze), set within a traditionally landscaped tea garden. Contributors: Kendall H. Brown, James Folsom, Naomi Hirahara, Robert Hori, Kelly Sutherlin McLeod, FAIA

About the Author T. June Li is Curator of the Huntington's Chinese Garden.