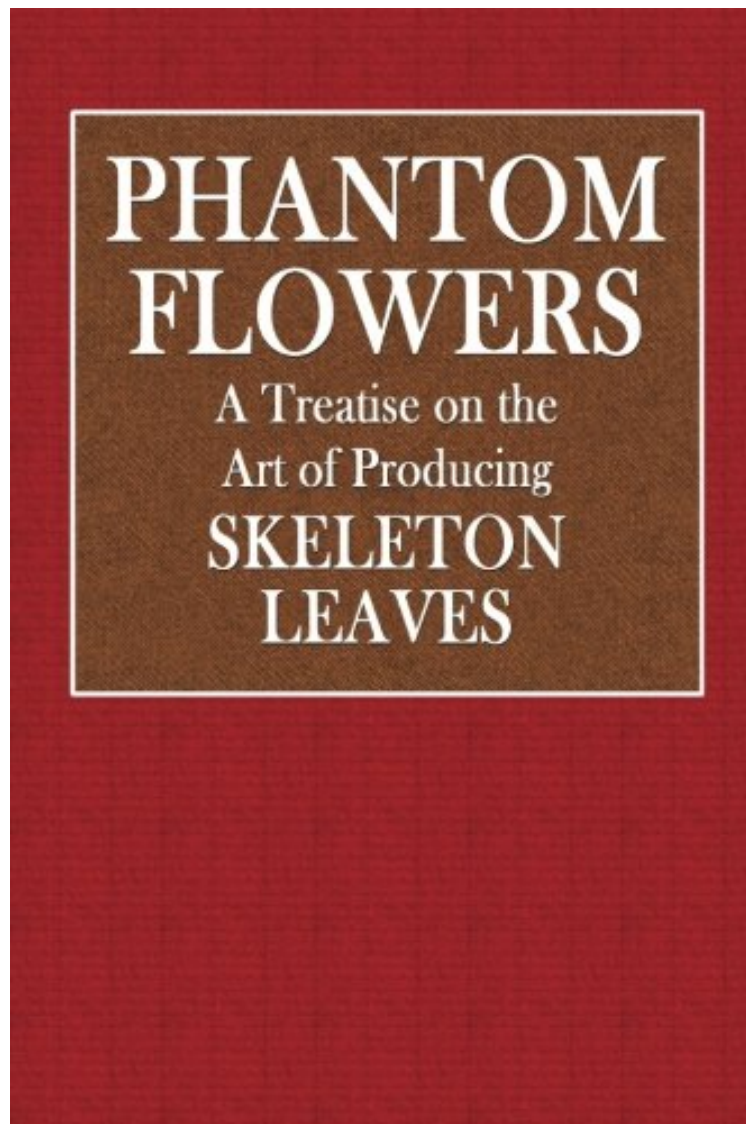


Phantom Flowers: A Treatise on the Art of Producing Skeleton Leaves

Anonymous

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Anonymous : Phantom Flowers: A Treatise on the Art of Producing Skeleton Leaves before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Phantom Flowers: A Treatise on the Art of Producing Skeleton Leaves:

From the Introduction. PHANTOM BOUQUETS, so universally admired by all who can appreciate the chaste and beautiful in art, although but recently introduced to the notice of the American public, are no new thing. The art of preparing the fibrous skeletons of plants was understood and practised by the Chinese many centuries ago, and there are still to be found in our fancy stores reasonably perfect specimens of these skeletonized leaves, generally painted and decorated with Oriental designs and mottoes, according to the taste of that remarkable people. Whether they have ever* advanced so far as the grouping or arranging of these delicate tissues into anything approaching a bouquet, we cannot say; as no evidences of their faculty for producing such combinations have reached this country; or whether, if they had progressed so far, their stiff and awkward ideas of artistic effect would agree with the cultivated taste of Americans, remains to be imagined. The works of Chinese art which reach us, whether on lacquered tables, work-boxes, waiters, c, show how widely their conceptions of beautiful curves and graceful postures differ from our own standards of beauty. But be this as it may, American tourists, within the last few years, have been struck with the great beauty of these Phantom Bouquets, as exhibited in the fancy bazaars of European cities. These were evidently the work of the few who, in other lands than theirs, had acquired a knowledge of the art. A number of these bouquets thus found their way to this country, where they fortunately came under the notice of skilful and cultivated minds, by whom the art of producing them has been so patiently and successfully pursued, that the specimens now produced in this country surpass, in richness, brilliancy, and faultless nicety of preparation and arrangement, all that have been prepared in foreign lands