

Åbo Botanic Garden 1640-1954

1640 The foundation of the so-called botanic garden at the Royal Åbo Academy. It was called "herb garden", "cabbage garden" or "hortus" (the first academic *hortus* in Sweden).

1670 Elias Tillands, professor of medicine (1640-1693) became the director of the garden and began to grow medicinal plants. Tillands' Hortus Medicus fell into disrepair after his death.

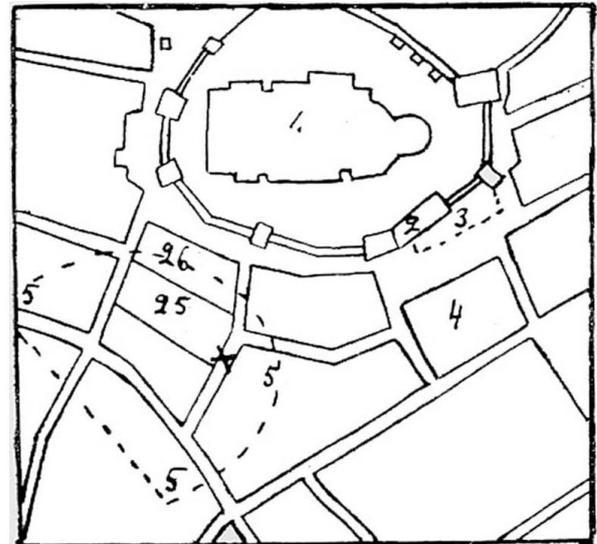
1700-21 The development of the garden was halted during the Great Northern War.

1732 On his way back from Lapland Carl Linnaeus visited Å and Åbo Academy. He was granted nobility in 1757 and became known as *von Linné*.

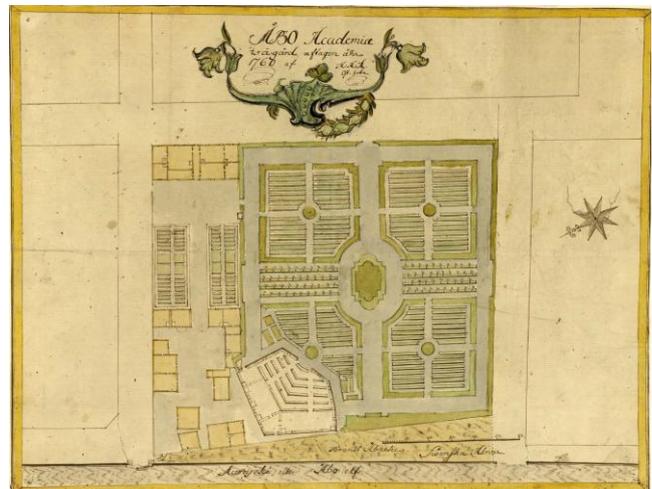
1738 The time of Linnaeans and utilitarians at Åbo Academy: Bishop and professor of physics (including botany) Johan Browallius (1707-1755) introduced the ideas of Linné in Finland, a colleague and friend of his. Browallius proposed in 1750 that the Academy's botanic garden should be laid out on the Bishops Field, an empty area at the river normally used as pasture by the bishop's wife.

1757 Åbo Academy's botanic garden was founded on the plots of land at the church numbered 48 and 49 (now Bishop Street 17 and 15). Carl Frederik Mennander (1712-1786), professor of medicine and also a friend and student of Linné's, was the garden's prefect following Browallius.

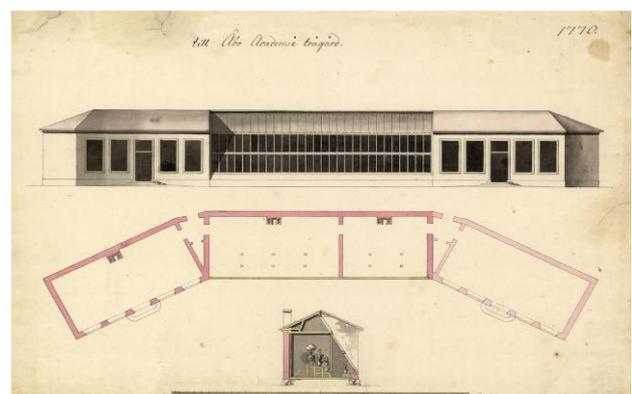
1760 Pehr Kalm (1716-1779), professor of economics, founded a Hortus Oeconomicus in collaboration with professor of medicine Peter Leche (1701-1764). Kalm was a student of Linné, Browallius and Mennander. He specialised in studying the ability to acclimatise among foreign cultivars which he had brought back from his travels to Russia in 1744 and America 1747-51.



1. Domkyrkan / Tuomiokirkko
2. Akademin på 1600-talet / Turun Akatemia 1600-luvulla
3. Akademiska trädgården / Akateeminen puutarha
4. Akademihuset / Akatemiatalon tontti
5. Nuvarande Braheskvären (x Per Brahe stoden)
Tillands' gård och ev. trädgård var belägna på tomterna 25-26
Brahen puisto. Tillandsin talo ja todennäk. puutarha sijaittivat tonteilla 25-26
(Enligt C.G. Bremers kartskiss 1919 / C.G. Bremerin karttaluonnoksen mukaan 1919)



Outline of beds at the Botanic Garden 1760



Drawing of Orangery building for the Botanic Garden 1770

1769-70 The Orangery was established, although in a less grand version than the one designed by *överintendent* C.F.Adelkrantz (royal chief architect). It was destroyed in the fire of 1827.

1779 Linnée's disciple Carl Niclas Hellenius (von Hellens) (1745-1820), professor of economics and natural history, became the prefect of the botanic garden.



Åbo Academy Botanic Garden at Bishop Street 17; anon. photograph, 1950

1818-27 Professor of natural history and economics Carl Reinhold Sahlberg (1779-1860) was the last director of the Academy's garden. The garden was destroyed during the Åbo fire of 1827. Sahlberg moved with the university to the new capital Helsinki, even brought along any left-over plants. What had been a botanic garden now became building plots.

1918 Åbo Academy (Rediviva) was founded.



View of remnants of the Botanic Garden, 1947

1930-54 Arboriculturist Justus Montell (1689-1954) became the director of the biological collections at Åbo Academy and revived a part of the former botanic garden by laying out an alpine garden. The initiative originated from Professor Otto Andersson and agricultural adviser Erik Dahlström. The garden was abolished in 1954.

1966-68 The Sibelius museum took up a large part of the former garden.



View from the river: Director Justus Montell's alpine garden and Pehr Kalm's oak, 1947



Consul E. Grönholm and wife in the Garden in the 1930s



Close-up of Montell's alpine garden with Kalm's oak

- 1993 Rose grower Toni Lowisa Grönqvist founded Åbo Academy's *Rosarium* at Bishop Street 13-17 as a gift on the occasion of the university's 75th anniversary.
- 2005 Of the original academy garden only Pehr Kalm's oak close to the river and some stray bird-in-the-bush and Viper's Bugloss in the neighbourhood – the heritage of the Linnaeans.

ÅBO AKADEMIS ROSARIUM GRUNDADES 1993 AV
ROSENDAMEN TOINI LOWISA GRÖNQVIST
RUUSUROUVA TOINI LOWISA GRÖNQVIST PERUSTI RUUSUTARHAN 1993

Åbo Academy Rosarium was founded in 1993 by the lady rose grower Toini Lowisa Grönqvist



Photo: Catherine av Hallström



Photo: Toini Grönqvist



Photos by Toini Grönqvist



Work of art to commemorate the Botanic Garden



In 2011 Åbo Akademi University has initiated a collection to install a work of art in the area between the Sibelius Museum and Pehr Kalm's oak, the last part of the former botanic garden still left over. The idea behind the work of art is to re-install part of the former garden on an area measuring 30x20 meter. It will consist of ornaments and rails of various metals and will include flowers, bushes and paths covered in sand. There will also be plants dating back to the exploratory travels of Pehr Kalm in the 18th century and roses to celebrate the recipients of honorary degrees from Åbo Akademi.

On the botanic garden after the move to Helsinki: <http://www.luomus.fi/svenska/botanik/historia.htm>