



Mary McMurtrie's
**Country
Garden Flowers**



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ISBN	9781870673600
Publisher	ACC Art Books
Binding	Hardback
Territory	World
Size	279 mm x 216 mm
Pages	192 Pages
Illustrations	174 color, 7 b&w
Price	£25.00

- Mary McMurtrie (1902 - 2003) was born in Aberdeenshire. Her flower paintings have been published in *Growing Old Fashioned Flowers* and *Wild Flowers of Scotland* and have been widely exhibited in Scotland, England and Europe
- The publication of this book symbolises the tradition that she and her small circle maintained for many years as the only keepers of garden plants until the foundation of the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens

This book, using the paintings that Mary McMurtrie left to illustrate an unpublished book on cottage garden flowers, records how she created the garden at Balbithan and used her nursery to distribute the double primroses and cottage garden plants which her husband, John McMurtrie, bequeathed to her. Mary McMurtrie belonged to the small band of enthusiasts, which included Margery Fish and Gladys Emerson, who grew double primroses during the period after the Second World War. At a time when every fifth day a house of some architectural importance was being demolished, these enthusiasts, along with fellow gardeners, preserved many of the plants from our gardening heritage of the previous centuries. Gently proud of her Scots ancestry, Mary would have been delighted to know that one of her paintings was chosen as a gift for Prince Charles during a visit to The Gordon Highlander Regiment in 2006.