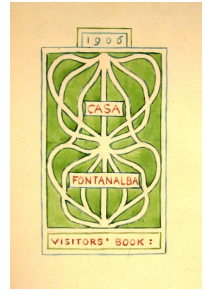


## The Casa Fontanalba Visitors' Book illustrated by Clarence Bicknell

Printed art reproduction proposed by the Clarence Bicknell Association and the Bicknell family, published by New Media Foundry Ltd and Matador. 260mm x 340mm (portrait) 104pp plus 4pp Cover with 2x 4pp end-papers. 3 pages of explanatory notes and credits added at the end, available in French and Italy as an insert.

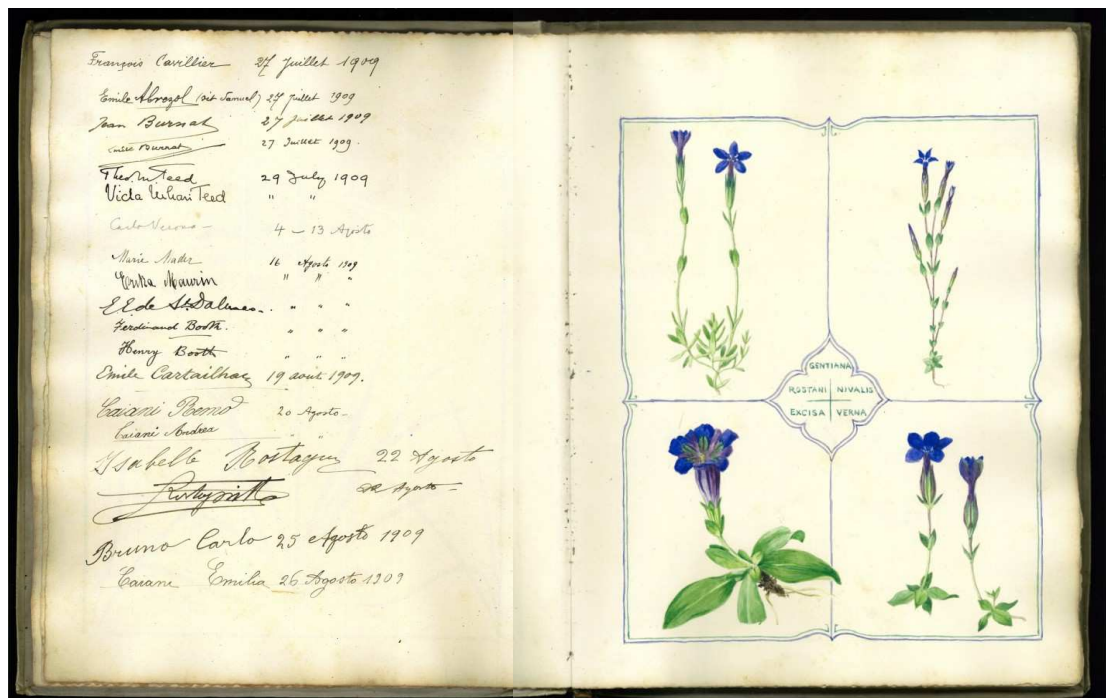


Front cover: Art reproducing the leather and vellum stitch work, printed and debossed, i.e. raised from the surface of the paper. Clarence's logo from the inside cover of the original (image, right) printed on the cover.

Spine: no lettering, but the image of the leather binding detail wraps round the spine and is also shown on the rear cover with bar code and publishers' logo.

Image below: a sample two-page spread. On the left are signatures by Emile

Cartailhac, one of Europe's greatest archaeologists, and Emile Burnet, botanist and writer of Geneva with whom Bicknell exchanged hundreds of letters and flower samples. The right hand page has four Gentian types, painted by Bicknell.



Inside rear cover, Left:

## **Casa Fontanalba Visitors' Book**

Clarence Bicknell (1842-1918) built in 1905 and 1906 the Casa Fontanalba, his summer home at Casterino in the mountains above Bordighera. The original Visitors' Book, for which he completed the illustrations before its first use in 1906, has 60 cartridge paper pages and is bound in vellum with leather decorative stitch work. Every opening of the Visitors Book is illustrated by Clarence Bicknell with watercolours of flora of the region on the right page. The pages on the left were left empty so that guests who visited the Casa Fontanalba could sign their name and the date. He created this little masterpiece, with its watercolour flowers framed with features of the flower's petals, leaves and colours, early in 1906 so that it was ready for the signatures of the first visitors to the new house in June.

Clarence died in 1918 when the book was only half full with about 320 visitors' signatures. Although the terms of Clarence's use of the land under the Casa Fontanalba returned the house to the landowners, the family of the Count Guido d'Alberti de la Briga, Clarence's nephew Edward Berry and his wife Margaret were able to continue using the house, and having guests sign the book, until the early 1930s. The last Berry friends signed in 1931, while those in 1936 are the Count d'Alberti himself and some of his friends. The Visitors' Book was given by Margaret Berry along with other Clarence books, pictures and memorabilia, to Peter Bicknell, Clarence's grand-nephew.

In 2005 Marcus Bicknell, Clarence's great-grand-nephew, to whom Peter gave the collection in 1995, transcribed the names in the Casa Fontanalba Visitors' Book into a spreadsheet and it is available on [www.clarencebicknell.com](http://www.clarencebicknell.com). This list of visitors, including famous archaeologists, botanists, writers, Esperantists, soldiers and politicians, shows the wide range of Clarence's interests and the company he kept.

This facsimile reproduction was printed as part of the 2018 programme of commemoration of the centenary of the death of Clarence Bicknell.

This vellum-bound album is one of 12 done by Clarence and identified today in various collections including 7 given by Peter Bicknell to the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge University. The family collection also includes a smaller album bound in vellum, the Book of Guests at the Casa Fontanalba (which contains notes by Clarence on selected individuals in Esperanto, with illuminated initials in the style of the flower on the opposite page) and "Wild Plant growing in the rock garden of Casa Fontanalba" (which he calls "A Children's Picture Book" despite the dense botanical data).

Inside rear cover, Right:

## **Casa Fontanalba Visitors' Book**

The original created in one copy only, in 1906, by Clarence Bicknell

Limited edition art reproduction for the 2018 centenary of Clarence Bicknell's death  
on behalf of the Clarence Bicknell Estate

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/clarencebicknell>

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[www.clarencebicknell.com](http://www.clarencebicknell.com) >association >shop**

## **Le Livre d'Or de La Casa Fontanalba, illustré par Clarence Bicknell.**

Clarence Bicknell (1842.1918) construit sa maison d'été à Casterino, dans les montagnes au-dessus de Bordighera, pendant l'été 1905. L'original du livre d'or de la Casa Fontanalba contient 60 pages de papier cartouche et un reliure en vélin avec un travail de coutures en cuir décoratives. Chaque page de droite est illustrée par Clarence Bicknell avec des aquarelles de la flore sauvage de la région, encadrée par des motifs de pétales de fleurs, de feuilles et des couleurs. Les pages de gauches sont laissées vierges afin de permettre aux visiteurs d'y apposer leurs signatures et la date de leur passage. Il termine ce petit chef d'œuvre en juin 1906, juste à temps pour les premiers visiteurs de la nouvelle maison.

Clarence meurt en 1918, alors que le livre d'or n'est encore qu'à moitié rempli avec environ 320 signatures. Bien que, selon les termes du contrat de jouissance du terrain sur lequel est construite la Casa Fontanalba, la maison revienne alors à la famille du Comte Guido d'Alberti de la Briga, propriétaire du terrain, le neveu de Clarence, Edward Berry et sa femme Margaret peuvent encore séjourner dans la maison et y recevoir des hôtes qui signent le livre jusqu'en 1930. Parmi les derniers amis des Berry figurent le Comte d'Alberti lui-même et quelques-uns de ses amis. Le Livre d'Or ainsi que d'autres livres, photos et souvenirs de Clarence furent offerts par Margaret Berry à Peter Bicknell, petit neveu de Clarence.

En 2005, Marcus Bicknell, l'arrière petit neveu de Clarence Bicknell, à qui a été donnée la collection par Peter Bicknell en 1995, répertorie les noms des visiteurs de la Casa Fontanalba (ceux-ci se trouvent sur le site [www.clarencebicknell.com](http://www.clarencebicknell.com)). Parmi eux figurent de célèbres archéologues, botanistes, écrivains, Esperantistes, soldats et politiciens qui témoignent de l'étendue des centres d'intérêt de Clarence Bicknell et des gens dont il aimait s'entourer. Cette reproduction à taille réelle du livre d'or a été imprimée à l'occasion de la commémoration en 2018 du centenaire de la mort de Clarence Bicknell.

Cet album en vélin est l'un des douze répertoriés à ce jour dans différentes collections dont sept furent donnés par Peter Bicknell au Musée Fitzwilliam de l'Université de Cambridge. Dans la collection familiale se trouve également deux autres albums reliés en vélin ; *Le Livre des Invités en Espéranto* qui contient des mini biographies écrites en Esperanto par Clarence sur certains visiteurs avec leurs initiales enluminées dans le style des fleurs ; et *Le Livre de Plantes Sauvages pour Enfants* ainsi appelé par Clarence en dépit des détails approfondis de botanique qui s'y trouvent.

Le Livre d'Or de La Casa Fontanalba (The Casa Fontanalba Visitors' Book)  
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[www.troubador.co.uk/matador](http://www.troubador.co.uk/matador), Twitter: @matadorbooks, Email: books@troubador.co.uk

## **Il Libro dei visitatori di Casa Fontanalba**

Clarence Bicknell (1842-1918) ha costruito Casa Fontanalba a Casterino, nelle montagne sopra Bordighera, tra il 1905 e il 1906, come casa per l'estate. La copia originale del Libro dei visitatori, del quale ha completato l'illustrazione prima di cominciare a usarlo nel 1906, è decorata su 60 pagine ed è rilegata in cartapeccora, con cuciture ornamentali in cuoio. Clarence Bicknell ha decorato ogni pagina destra del libro con degli acquarelli della flora regionale, lasciando la sinistra bianca per accogliere le firme dei visitatori. Ha lavorato a questo piccolo capolavoro nella prima parte del 1906, perché fosse pronto all'inaugurazione di Casa Fontanalba in giugno.

Quando Clarence è morto nel 1918 il libro era stato riempito solo a metà con circa 320 firme di visitatori. Nonostante i termini del contratto per il terreno dove era stata costruita prevedessero che, alla morte di Clarence, Casa Fontanalba sarebbe tornata al proprietario Conte Guido Alberti della Briga, Edward Berry e sua moglie, nipoti di Clarence, poterono continuare a soggiornarvi fino agli anni 30. Il libro contiene anche le firme dei loro ospiti fino al 1931. Dal 1936 sono invece gli ospiti del Conte Guido Alberti della Briga a firmare il libro. Il Libro di visitatori fu consegnato da Margaret Berry, insieme ad altri libri e oggetti al bis-nipote di Clarence, Peter Bicknell.

Dal 2005, i nomi degli ospiti di casa Fontanalba sono disponibili a tutti grazie alla trascrizione del tris nipote di Clarence, Marcus, su [www.clarencebicknell.com](http://www.clarencebicknell.com). Questa lista, che include, tra gli altri, famosi archeologi, botanici, esperantisti, militari e politici prova la varietà degli interessi di Clarence e l'ampiezza della sua rete di conoscenze.

La riproduzione che avete tra le mani è stata realizzata nell'ambito del programma per la commemorazione del centenario della morte di Clarence Bicknell nel 2018.

Un altro album, più piccolo, il Libro degli Ospiti di Casa Fontanalba, contiene le notizie su una selezione di ospiti di Clarence. Per ognuno, Clarence ha realizzato una piccola nota in Esperanto, e ne miniato le iniziali nello stile e colore del fiore acquarellato nella pagina di fronte. Speriamo di poter riprodurre anche questo, in futuro.