



**(3) References**

*Please supply two recommendations from people who are familiar with your work and who are unrelated to you. Letters of recommendation must be sealed with a signature across the envelope seal. Please provide their contact information below.*

**(a)**

Ms./Mr./Dr./Prof.	Name	Title/Position		
Institution				
Address		City	State	Zip Code
Telephone		Email		

**(b)**

Ms./Mr./Dr./Prof.	Name	Title/Position		
Institution				
Address		City	State	Zip Code
Telephone		Email		

**(4) Checklist**

*This checklist will guide you in assembling your application. Please indicate your name on all materials and on the outside of the mailing envelope or carton.*

**Application Materials (5 copies required)**

- Completed, signed Application Form
- Essay
- Resumé or curriculum vitae
- Letters of reference from two individuals

**Other Material (1 copy required)**

- Self-addressed, stamped postcard acknowledgement for receipt of application
- Self-addressed, stamped envelope for the return of supporting materials
- Non-refundable \$25 application fee, payable to The Royal Oak Foundation
- An example of applicant’s work in his/her field of specialization or interest, such as a research paper or portfolio (maximum size 12” x 18”).

Please list:

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**(5) Declaration (to be signed by all applicants)**

I declare that I am a citizen or permanent resident of the United States. If awarded a fellowship, I shall pursue my work to the full term and I state that all funds given to me by The Royal Oak Foundation will be used solely for my own education and maintenance. I certify that all information provided in support of this application is true and correct.

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Signature

Date

**(6) Mail Application Materials To:**

The Royal Oak Foundation  
 26 Broadway, Suite 950  
 New York, NY 10004-1715  
 ATTN: Damaris Horan Prize: Landscape History Fellowship 2007

Note to all applicants: All material, original and reproduced, is submitted at the owner’s risk. The Royal Oak Foundation does not assume responsibility for any loss or damage while material is in its custody or in transit. Supporting material will be returned only if a self-addressed, stamped envelope is included in the application. Written materials will not be returned. (2/28/07)

**The Royal Oak Foundation  
The Damaris Horan Prize:  
Landscape History Fellowship with Britain's National Trust  
The Plant Conservation Programme at Knightshayes Court**

## **2007 Project Details**

### **Introduction to Knightshayes Court**

Knightshayes Court is a striking Victorian Gothic mansion near Tiverton, Devon, with a large, world-famous, Grade II listed garden, and interiors that combine medieval romanticism with lavish 19<sup>th</sup> century decoration. The property is managed by the National Trust, and includes 262 acres of parkland, woodlands, formal garden, nursery, and a walled kitchen garden

Like most gardens, Knightshayes has evolved over time and shows influences from a number of historical periods. The most important contribution was that of the Heathcoat-Amory family, particularly Sir John and Lady Heathcoat-Amory, who created much of what we see today, including the "Garden in the Wood," – a splendid collection of unusual plants from around the world, carefully planted under trees and in clearings in the woodland. In recent years the National Trust has restored the magnificent Victorian walled kitchen garden to working order.

### **The National Trust's Plant Conservation Programme**

Resident at Knightshayes, the Plant Conservation Programme (PCP) was established in 1982 to propagate and distribute historically or botanically important plants from original specimens in Trust gardens and parks across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Its value was particularly highlighted following the 1987 Great Storm, when many important plants, including fine and historic specimens, were destroyed in a single night. The PCP has since propagated approximately 10,000 plants, including new material from authorized wild sources abroad, and those that our Head Gardeners request and are unable to be acquired through the nursery trade.

The PCP is now the focus of a new thrust of initiatives, aimed at ensuring that the Trust's plant collections are appropriately managed into the future. A critical component of that work – and the focus of this Fellowship – is the need to tell the stories of how plants have contributed to British gardens and gardening traditions, in addition to highlighting the importance of the Trust's plant collection (perhaps the largest group of cultivated plants in Europe, if not the world).

### **The Fellowship's Plant Conservation Programme Project**

The goal of the project is for the Horan Fellow to undertake a first phase of research drawing on a wide variety of sources (i.e., oral, printed, electronic, archival) to develop material needed to publicize and interpret the work of PCP and the Trust in conserving historically and botanically important plants.

This project comes at an exciting time, when the Trust plans to raise greater awareness of its vast plant collections and of its place on the international plant conservation stage – in particular its contribution to the conservation of historically important plants and wild source plants from around the world.

#### **Plant Conservation Programme Goals:**

- I. To seek out stories from a wide variety of sources – oral, printed, electronic, archival – relating to individual plants, the history of plant collecting, and breeding and growing in National Trust gardens. These stories are needed to support interpretation initiatives, adding another dimension to the visitor experience.

- II. Develop printed materials – literature, posters, leaflets – from the information gathered, and contribute to the Trust’s Intranet and internet pages.
- III. Produce a written report setting out what was learned in gathering information, sources, references, etc., and suggestions on where to look for future information.

Expected Goals for the Fellow during the 10 weeks:

- Familiarization with Knightshayes Court;
- Introduction to the work of the National Trust;
- Introduction to the nursery, Plant Conservation Programme, and plant records and database;
- Knowledge of the PCP and the principles behind the curation of plants in the National Trust;
- Visits to other properties, including National Trust gardens and the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, to investigate good practice in garden interpretation;
- Develop editorial/text with images, for uploading on the PCP Intranet site and the Trust’s website, and for future leaflets, etc.;
- Visit gardens with interesting potential information and stories. Meet with property staff and amass relevant information for later use;
- Meet with the Trust’s Garden and Parks Advisors to learn more about the work of the Trust in garden and park conservation;
- Make a presentation on the project to National Trust staff.

Primary Skills Used in this Fellowship:

- An enthusiasm for – and preferably a reasonable knowledge of – plants;
- Interest in social history and local heritage; and in education and publicity;
- A keen nose for a great plant story – a plant story detective!
- Good, lively writing style, accessible to a wide audience (both Trust staff and the general public);
- Good, friendly interaction skills, to tease stories and information from people;
- Self-motivation, an inquisitive mind, and an ability to undertake research with limited supervision;
- Archival and broad-based research skills;
- Good IT skills (Microsoft Word; Image storage system);
- Sourcing, digitizing, digital storage, image collation;
- Photographic skills would be helpful.

**Presentation of Findings**

Written reports on individual plants will be created by the Fellow and available for view on the National Trust’s website. Additional information should be presented to Trust staff at the end of the Fellowship, in the form of electronic research text documents, files and images.

The Fellow will additionally be required to submit a report on their experience and their suggestions for sources for future research on plants. (This should be completed upon return to the U.S., and mailed to The Royal Oak Foundation.)

**Benefits to Recipient**

- Participation in and contributions towards a major conservation project with national, if not international, implications;

- Contribution to the work of the property team promoting the value of the National Trust's plant collections;
- Experience of working with a skilled National Trust property team;
- Development of research and survey skills;
- Familiarization with conservation practices in the UK;
- Opportunity to liaise with National Trust Gardens Advisors;
- Opportunity to develop insight into the history of plants in English gardens.

## **Support**

The recipient will be supervised and supported by John Lanyon, Head Gardener at Knightshayes, as well as by the Head of Gardens & Parks for the National Trust and the Plant Collections Curator, both based at Heelis, Swindon (National Trust headquarters).

An initial meeting with this team will outline the parameters of the project, its aims and initial areas of investigation, contacts, etc. Regular supervision will be provided, including direction on research leads and on editorial style, in order to ensure consistency with the Trust's institutional style prior to uploading on the internet.

The local Interpretation and Learning officer will provide additional assistance, and the wider National Trust staff will also be available for support and advice, particularly the Gardens Advisors based at Heelis. The Fellow will be a part of the Knightshayes team, and will be encouraged to participate in National Trust events and help in other departments as opportunities arise.

## **Location and Transportation**

Most of the Fellowship work will be based at Knightshayes Court. Limited office space and support will be given to the Fellow.

The Fellow will live for the full duration of the Fellowship at *The Home Farm*, a private home, located next to the Knightshayes estate. The accommodation will be "bed & breakfast" style, and Royal Oak is very grateful for the generous offer of the owners, a local couple who are active at Knightshayes, to share their home.

Approximately two weeks will be spent traveling to National Trust gardens to gather stories, interview staff, and photograph plants being researched. A rented car will be provided by the Trust for this two week period. (Applicants therefore must have a willingness to obtain an International Driver's License prior to the Fellowship, and be comfortable with periodically driving alone.) Approximately one week additionally will be spent traveling to local gardens using public transportation or by accompanying Trust staff.

## **Dates of Fellowship**

A mutually agreeable ten-week period between July 1 and September 30.