

## Singer receives award

Mary Callaghan-Lynch of Birmingham recently received the MacAllister Award for opera singers at the professional level, qualifying her for the national finals. The International contest, funded by Indianapolis Industrialist P.E. MacAllister, includes more than \$40,000 in prizes. The finals will be in Indianapolis the last weekend in August. She has appeared with Michigan Opera Theater and has a role in "The Merry Widow".



## gardener's book nook

### Marty Figley

I have just finished reading a release of a delightful book, "An Island Garden," by Celia Thaxter Houghton Milfin, \$19.95, hardcover. First published in 1984, illustrated by Clilde Hassam, an important American Impressionist, this edition again includes the illustrations.

Thriller, a popular poet, was encouraged to write a book about her garden, which is off the coast of New Hampshire on Appledore Island, where her parents built a resort bo-

tel during the 19th century.

She writes with complete honesty, of her successes and failures, with a poet's descriptive phrasing. Her account of introducing loads in the garden, and the way she deals with weeds and pests, makes pleasant reading, but her knowledge of plant life and the wonder of it is awe inspiring.

Gardening tips, such as planting seeds in an eggshell and the information about the many plants grown (mostly from seeds) are entertaining as well as informative. I was tempted to list the plants and make a record of their needs as I read the book.

"Gertrude Jekyll: A Vision of Garden and Wood," J.B. Tankard, Michael R. Van Valkenburgh, Harry N. Abrams, Inc., \$35 hardcover, is a lesson in landscaping and design. Time is needed to study the script as well as the photographs to fully appreciate Jekyll's genius. She took the photographs at Munstead Wood, her

home in Surry, England, where she tried new ideas and developed her unique style.

The book gives insight into why and how the gardens were designed. A landscape drawing of the estate includes numbers which correspond to the photographs, so the reader can more fully envision the setting. Although generally our gardens aren't as extensive as many in England, one can still use the concepts of this fascinating and forward thinking woman.

"Garden Style," Penelope Hobhouse, Little, Brown, \$40 hardcover, gives ideas for any style of garden. The author explains how to relate the garden to the whole landscape, large or small. Every detail of planting a garden, formal or otherwise, even a single planting, is explained in an easy-to-read and understand style. Hobhouse has designed many gardens and is also a lecturer and writer.

The photographs clearly show the

various gardens and the plants, with accompanying descriptions, including mazes. By the end of the 17th century, mazes of stone, rock or turf were replaced by plants grown above head height to deliberately confuse as well as amuse.

I especially like the section which features inner gardens, garden rooms, and informal garden areas. This book would make a lovely gift for a gardener who likes the challenge of designing.

"Trees for Small Gardens," Brian Davis (Rodale Press, \$7.95, paper), is part of a new series of illustrated guides to aid in choosing specific plants for special areas. A list of 500 varieties of trees, alphabetically by Latin and common names, illustrated in color, will make tree shopping easier. Types of soil, amount of sun, planting, pruning and general hardiness requirements are included. The second book in this series is "Flowering Trees and Shrubs."

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