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POTOMAC BONSAI ASSOCIATION  
% U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM  
3501 NEW YORK AVE. NE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002

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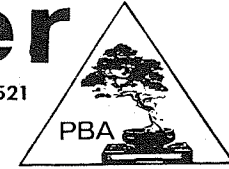
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POTOMAC  
**BONSAI**  
ASSOCIATION

VOL 15 NO 12 DECEMBER 1985

# Newsletter

ISSN 0160-9521



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

STOP ! ! READ PAGE 17 FIRST if you don't read anything else. GET AN IRS  
WRITE-OFF BEFORE END OF 1985.

7 December NORTHERN VIRGINIA (703)938-0683: Green Springs Horticultural Center  
Saturday at 10:30 a.m. Note changes in date and time from normal second  
Saturday. HOLIDAY PARTY with catered lunch. \$ 8.50 per pseson,  
you can bring guests. It will be a time for all to get better acquainted,  
exchange thoughts, views, etcetera.

8 December H A P P Y H A N N U K A H

15 December BALTIMORE (301)557-9399: Cyburn Nature Center at 2:00 p.m.  
Sunday COVERED DISH HOLIDAY PARTY. Tree of the Month - DECORATED TREE  
CONTEST. Bring a Holiday "Trimmed" Bonsai.

19 December BROOKSIDE (301)871-5768: Argyle Community Center at 7:30 p.m.  
Thursday This is the clubs annual Christmas/Holiday party. There will be  
refreshments including Molly and Jo's famous Egg Nog. Entertainment  
will be provided. Also plan now to bring a small gift for the bonsai grab bag,  
gift exchange.

25 December M E R R Y C H R I S T M A S

For information on the following club activities telephone the listed numbers:

ANNAPOLIS (301)263-3995

BOWIE (301)496-5195 work; 262-9633 home

KIYOMIZU (301)423-8230

WASHINGTON (202)232-6126 No meeting in December.

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17 President's Message

# THE ART OF NORMAN HADDRICK

The October 1985 issue of the PBA Newsletter included "An Introduction to Bonsai Styles" by Norman Haddrick.

Since this is the Holiday issue of the Newsletter, it's at the time of year when most bonsai (indoor excluded) are bedded down for a long Winter nap, and one can relax and let one's thoughts drift to Springtime and planning for the next big rush of Spring activities. Included in one's Winter solstice should be some serious thinking and visualization of what to do to style some newly acquired bonsai material or restyle some developing or already developed bonsai. Remember - bonsai like another other living thing is never finished growing and reassessments must be periodically made to see if the growth of the bonsai warrants a redesign in its style. Styling of a bonsai begins with the first radical surgery done on the starter material which sets the overall design or shape of the tree, - i.e. upright, slanting, cascade, etc. From there onward it's all downhill, - pruning and wiring to encourage growth in the amounts and directions desired to reach the finished bonsai. Sometimes grafting a branch or root is required.

Success in creating a bonsai undoubtedly results from selecting the right starter material. To do this one must develop an eye for what can be achieved with specific material. That requires not only a knowledge of the growth habits of the material in question, but also some understanding as to what has been done to style the material as bonsai. Apart from actually seeing the big trees in the wild or bonsai at an exhibition, the next best thing and certainly a more comfortable approach is to spend the Winter months looking at pictures of both bonsai and trees in nature. Pictures of bonsai have the added bonus that they help you marry tree to design of container or pot. Anyway, looking at pictures is to me as to many other people, a lot more fun than reading prose.

What's all the above leading up to? The bottom line is this, - not only should you look at as many pictures of trees and bonsai that you can, but you should also try to sketch what you expect your bonsai to eventually look like. Not all of us can draw as well as others. Practise does tend to improve one's skills. However, one's skill-level should not act as a deterrent for making even the crudest sketch. It's surprising how much more your eyes are opened to the features and possibilities of the material being readied for styling as a bonsai. No well meaning landscape architect or builder would think of starting without blueprints. Watch one of the bonsai masters give a demonstration and he invariably will draw a blueprint of what the tree is to eventually look like as a bonsai. Attend a John Yoshio Naka workshop and you will be rewarded with a Naka original sketch of what your newly created bonsai will be in its finished form. You may even get interested to the point that you will be able to draw bonsai like Norman Haddrick.

Norman Haddrick has been drawing, with pen and india-ink, bonsai since 1968. The drawing efforts really began in earnest when he became the editor of the Journal of the Toronto Bonsai Society around 1970. At that time, it grew out of necessity, - he needed something to fill up the empty spaces in the journal. It all stemmed back to Norman's days as a draftsman and the fact that he still had a set of ink pens idly laying about.

After marveling at Norman Haddrick's drawings in the past issues of the Journal of the Toronto Bonsai Society for a long time, it seemed appropriate that the drawings should be compiled into, so to say, an album of a one-man bonsai show. The drawings that follow should give you some insight as to how to style bonsai and you may even find one that will give you the blueprint for what to do with some piece of starter material in your collection.

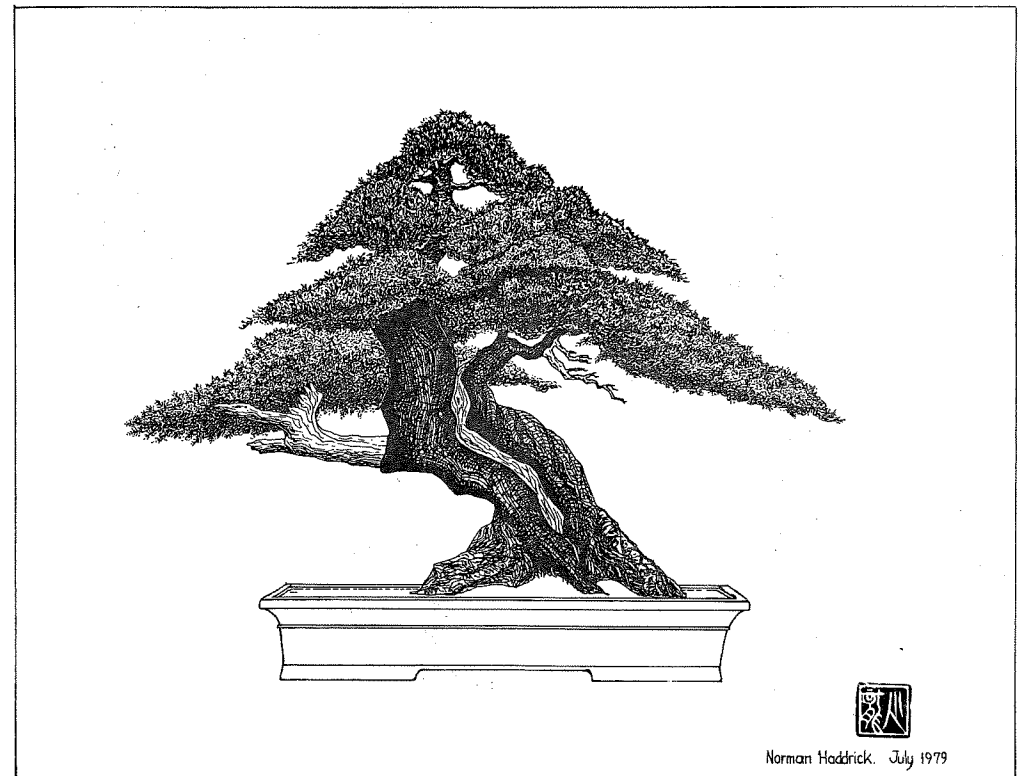
How does Norman get the ideas for his sketches of bonsai? He says that it is part imagination coupled with referencing pictures of bonsai in publications such as those of the Nippon Bonsai Association. In addition, some of the drawings are of peoples bonsai as they should look in 10 years after their initial styling.

Norman also indicated that he is available for providing anyone with a Haddrick original. Anyone needing a logo or letterhead for your club, or a drawing of your bonsai now or 10 years from now from a photograph can get in touch with:

Norman Haddrick  
12 Beardmoe Crescent  
Willowdale, Ontario M2K2P5  
Canada

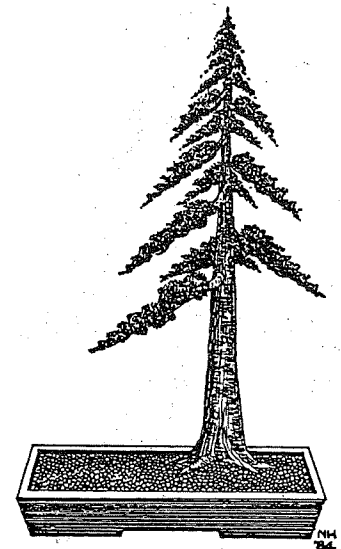
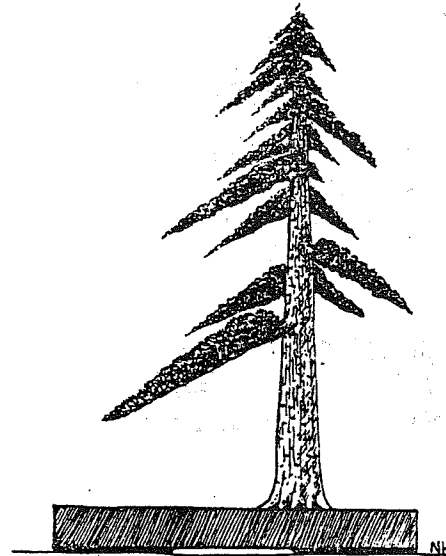
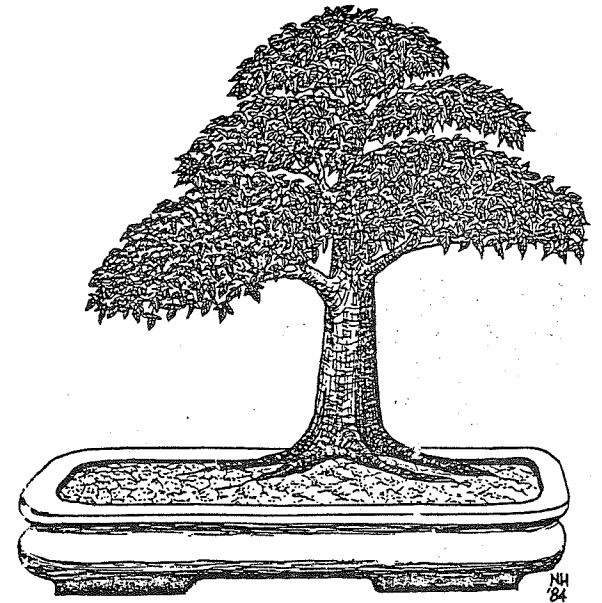
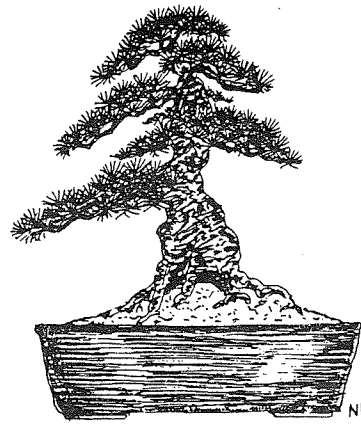
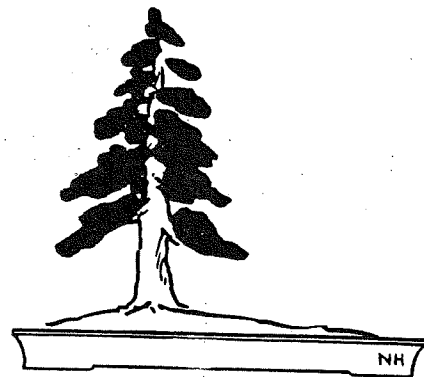
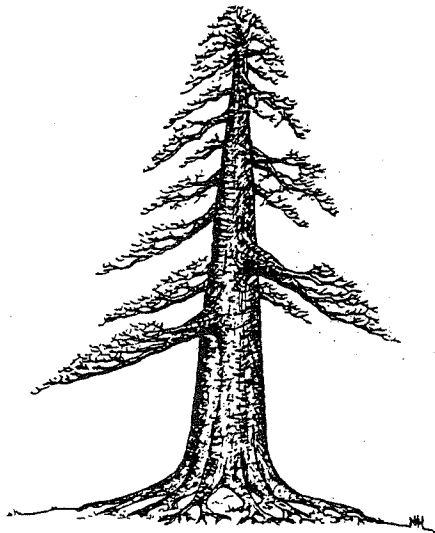
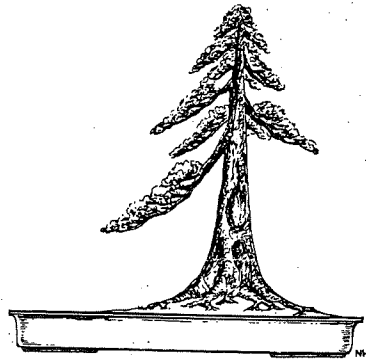
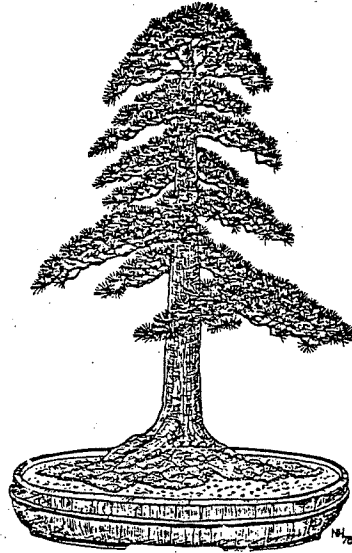
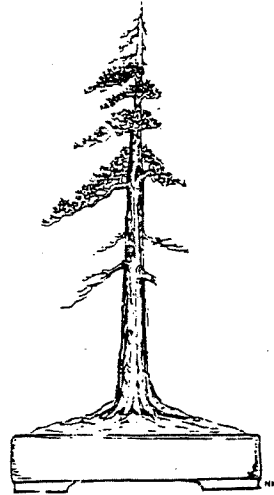
Tel (416)222-2715

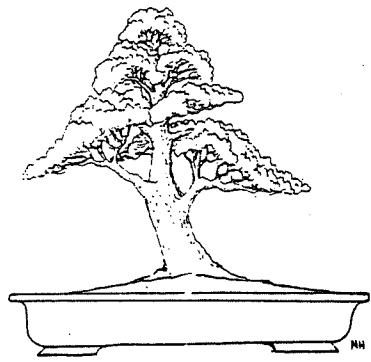
Note that the first drawing which follows is from a Haddrick original and shows the wealth of detail which could not be duplicated in the remaining drawings since they were taken from the reprints appearing in the Journal of the Toronto Bonsai Society. The first drawing appeared in the September 1979 issue of the PBA Newsletter.



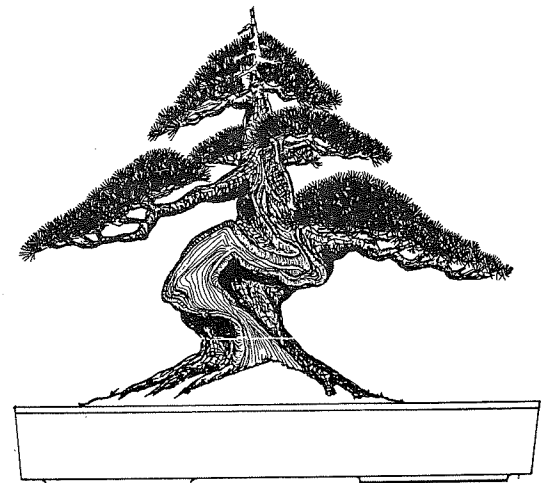
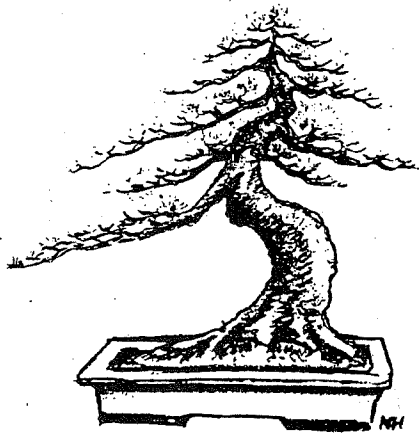
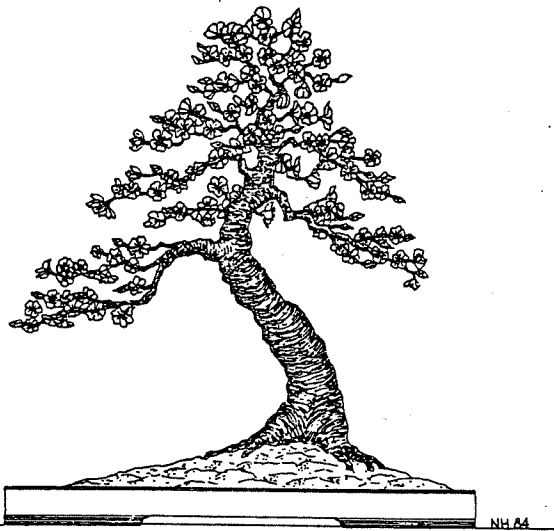
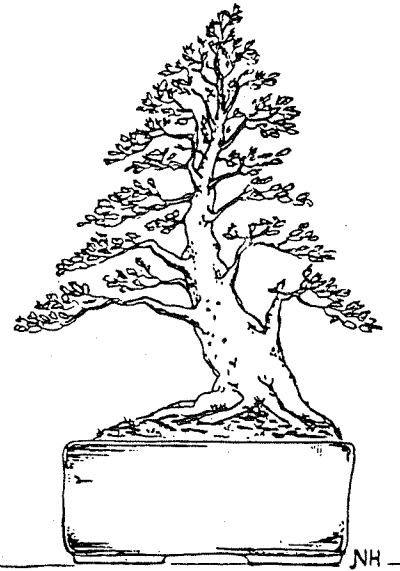
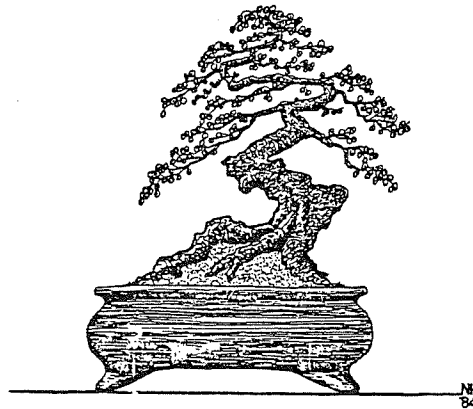
Norman Haddrick. July 1979

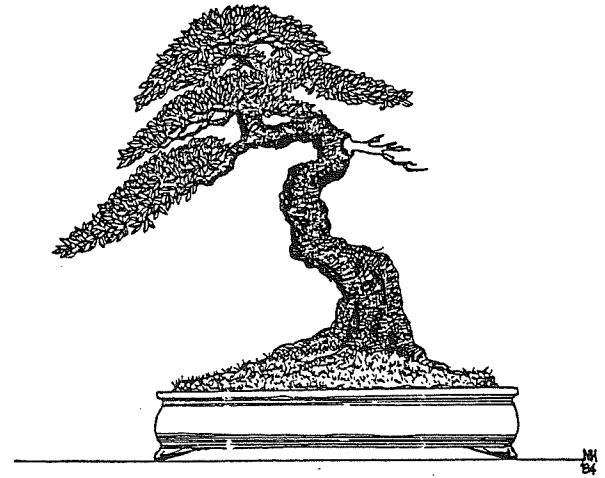
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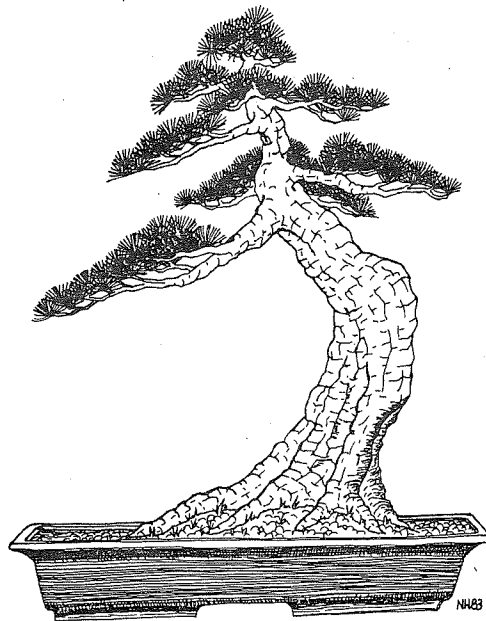


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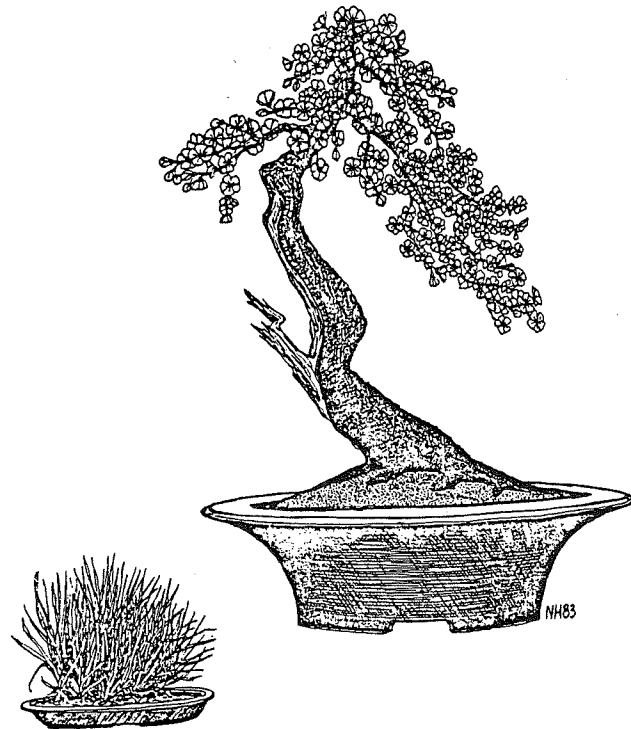




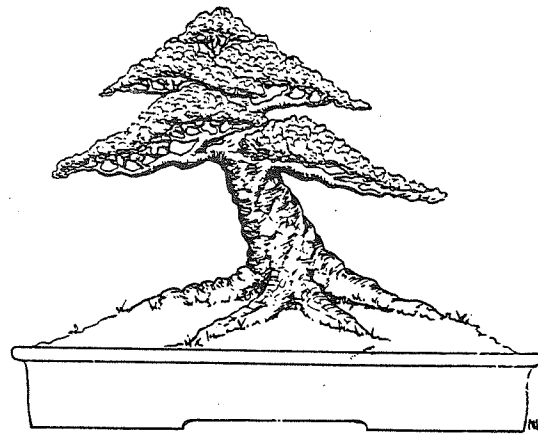
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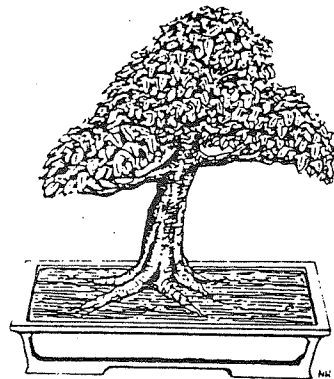
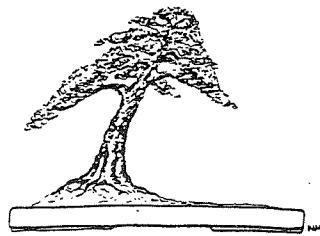
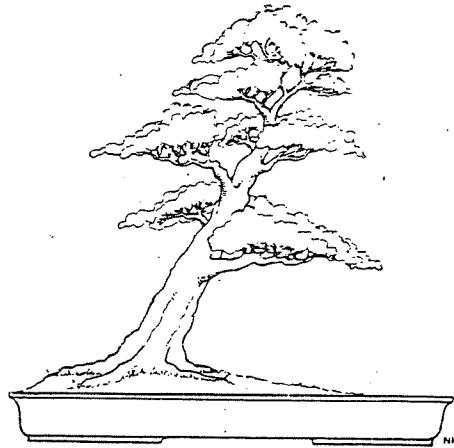
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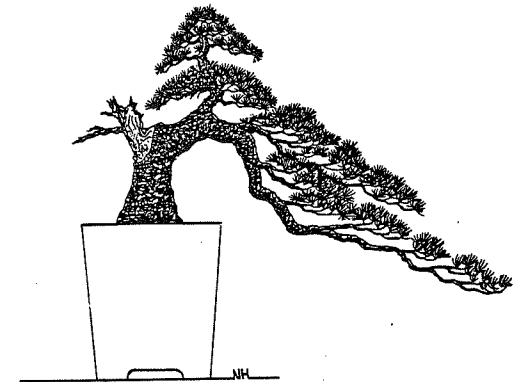
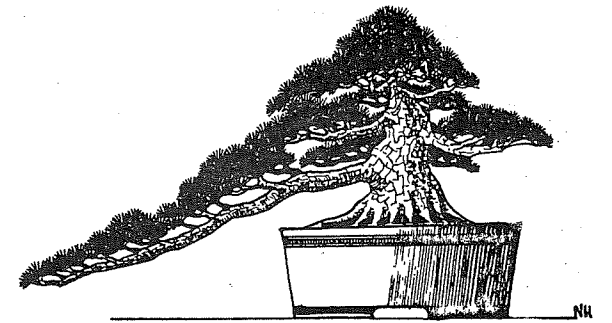
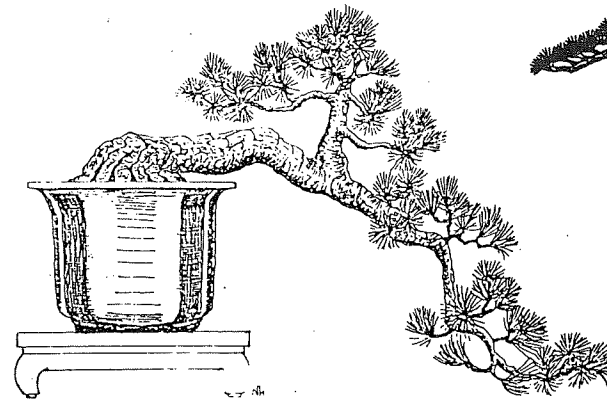
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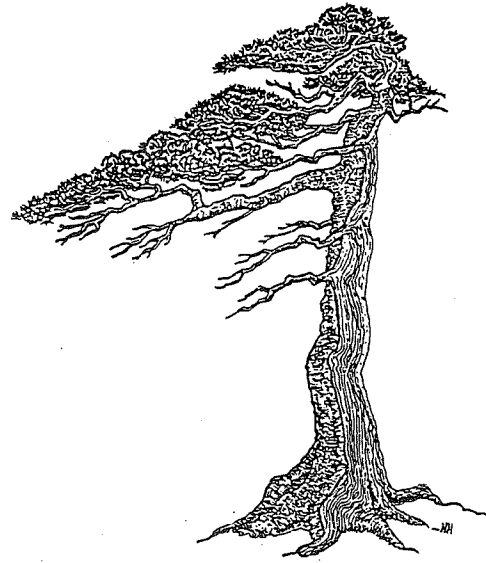


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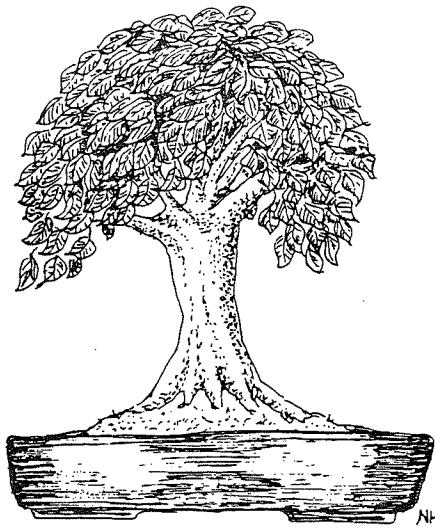
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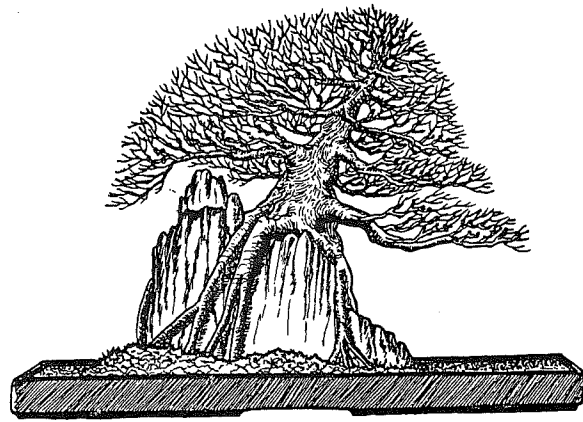


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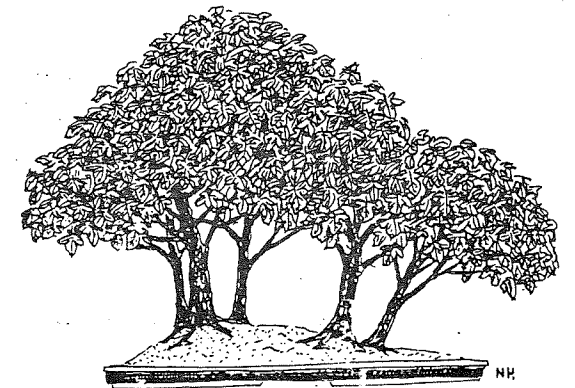
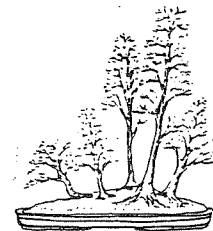
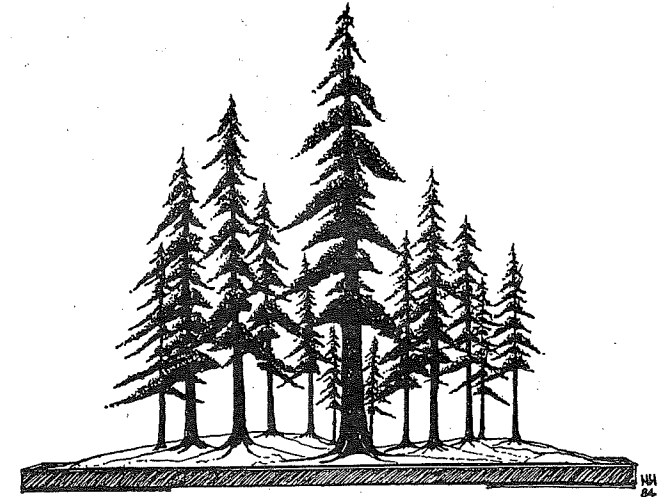
BROOM



ROOT  
OVER  
ROCK



FORESTS  
&  
GROVES



# CHRONOLOGY OF CONTAINER TREE DEVELOPMENT

BY DAN CHIPLIS

The U.S. National arboretum's monthly programs "Living Legends" on Sunday 3 November, 1985, covered four very interesting topics for those people interested in trees. Among the four topics including one on elm trees, another on herbal trees, and a third on flowering trees was a fourth which developed the chronology of container tree development by Dan Chiplis, Assistant Curator of the National Bonsai Collection. What follows is a reprint of the chronology as it appeared on the handout plus annotations based on Chip's interesting talk guiding the audience through over 100 centuries of events leading up to the present status of bonsai. However, see the following article on "World's Oldest Bonsai .. DISCOVERED IN ANCIENT TOMB!"

- 9000 B.C. Some communities at the threshold of ability to produce own food. During the next 3000 years agriculture had its beginnings.
- 6000 B.C. In the area of the fertile crescent, domestication of plants and animals begin. Slightly later, corresponding development occurs in Mexico and China. The selection of plants for food began.
- 4000 B.C. Egypt supports complex urban civilization with productive agriculture.
- 3000 B.C. Chinese growing pine, apricot, plum and bamboo as potted plants. The beginning of the growing of trees in pots is somewhat cloudy. The people of India claim to be the first to have started to pot trees and plants. It was all done for practical reasons, - to move plants used chiefly for medicinal purposes from their natural habitat to climates where they could be protected by moving them into protected areas or receive the proper amounts of sunlight and water.
- 2500 B.C. India develops Vaamanfanu Vrikshaadi Vidya, "the science of dwarfing trees" to enable Hindu physicians transportability of trees.
- 2000 B.C. Egyptians grow large trees in "containers" cut into rock. This was done to offset the arid conditions in that country and feed what historically is the largest civilization that survived for the longest period of times compared to any of the others that we know of.
- 1400 B.C. Egypt, Assyria, Greece and Rome practice pot culture to a high degree of sophistication. Dates, figs, rushes, and grasses were grown in pots because they were easy to maintain that way.
- 50 B.C. Mica panes used on structures by Romans to protect the prized potted citron and orange from cold injury. Those structures were in essence the first greenhouses.
- 25 A.D. Chinese legen exists describing Fei Jiang-feng, a "magician" who collected mountains, trees and living creatures in planters. In India legend has it that they started earlier.
- 265 A.D. Chinese artistic pot plants, called punsai, were well established in China.

- 600 A.D. Artistic pot plants believed to enter Japanese culture from Korea and China with Buddhism.
- 618 A.D. Chinese artistic pot plants called pun-wan.
- 1180 A.D. Ibn al-'Awwan of Muslim Spain writes horticultural treatise that includes information on container plant culture and soil mixes.
- 1195 A.D. Earliest Japanese documentation depicting artistic pot trees.
- 1280 A.D. Chinese now call artistic pot plants Shea tzu ching. This was during the Yuan dynasty.
- 1368 A.D. The modern Chinese term punjing first used for artistic pot plants. This was at the beginning of the Ming dynasty.
- 1400 A.D. Roman orangeries, called stanzone peri cedri, are artificially heated. At this time the Italians were very much into potting plants.
- 1500 A.D. In ancient Mexico City, the Aztec chinampas, the so-called "floating gardens", are highly developed. "Chapines", similar to modern peat pots are used to start seed. The Aztecs scooped sand from the shallow lake-bed that Mexico City is on, and used the sand to make retaining walls to hold in soil for cultivation.
- 1500 A.D. Cypress and orange trees grown in large containers by Italians become integral parts of French, English and Danish gardens as Italian Renaissance influence spreads.
- 1775 A.D. Oldest American flower pot company, A. H. Hews and Company, selling hand thrown clay pots.
- 1865 A.D. William Linton of Baltimore invents machinery to manufacture clay pots in molds.
- 1867 A.D. In Japan the term bonsai was popularized for plants in a pot. Heretofore it was called hashi eru.
- 1880 A.D. Elegant naturalistic style of Japanese was developed.
- 1900 A.D. Chinese develop linguang, or "clip and grow" method of training punjing. Literati style thus begins.
- 1910 A.D. Bonsai first exhibited in western country at the Japan - Britain Exposition.
- 1946 A.D. Saikei, "living landscapes" using stones and very young trees, developed in Japan. Bonsai popularized to all Japanese classes. Bonsai first goes to America via occupation forces.
- 1960 A.D. "Green Revolution" in nursery industry. Trees and shrubs produced in containers reduce shipping/handling costs and extend planting season to entire year.
- 1965 A.D. Interior Plantscape industry begins, creating an improved business and working environment such as inside shopping malls and in office spaces.

## SUGGESTED READING

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Chronica Botanica Co., Waltham, MA, 1942



# WORLD'S OLDEST LIVING BONSAI

## DISCOVERED IN ANCIENT TOMB

An astonishing discovery recently came to light when it was announced that the Tomb of the fourth Emperor of the Shang Dynasty, 1700 - 1066 B.C., had been successfully excavated at Xiwhangji in Central China. After several years of intense preparation the Tomb complex was finally entered and its entire content revealed. Because of the prevalent habit of 'booby-trapping' Imperial Tombs, great care had to be exercised, and a new technique of Ultra sonography together with Computerized Axial Tomography was employed to map out the full extent not only of the underground mausoleum but also to find the secret entrance. Once these details were known it was fairly straightforward matter to reach the underground Tomb and open it.

An extraordinary sight met the eyes of the eleven people when they first entered the main vault. Not only were the bodies of the Emperor and his Queen preserved in their entirety, but several hundred of their servants and guards were similarly preserved exactly as they were upon entombment. Gold objects were everywhere and collections of precious stones staggered the viewers. But probably the most unexpected sight and one that will interest botanists and horticulturists the world over, was the discovery of a live bonsai tree placed between the coffins of the Emperor and his Queen. It was in a solid gold container which itself stood on a solid gold pedestal some 75 cm (30 inches) high. The pot, 33 cm. (13 inches) wide, contained what is now thought to be a primitive species of pine, 41 cm. (16½ inches) high. But the most amazing feature was the incredible way in which the tree had been kept moist. Although the stone vault, 60 metres (200 feet) beneath the land surface, was some 28 metres (93 feet) high, a fine dripper arrangement had been ingeniously set into the stone roof directly over the position of the tree far below. Scientists in the party estimated that one drop of water fell directly on the tree every minute. A sample of the water had been sent for analysis and was found to be of subterranean origin, presumably normal ground water percolating through the topsoils. The tree itself, in absolute darkness for some 3600 years, was chalkwhite, having lost all of its chlorophyll. The bark was rather smooth and rubbery and the primitive needles (in bundles of seven) were very small (average 1/2 cm or 0.2 inch length).

The roots were as white as the foliage and quite dense, there being no soil left. It was noted that what appeared to be rough diamonds had been used as a drainage layer. There had been some attempt at actual growth but that was fine and wispy and had not developed any needles upon it. The air in the Tomb was dank but rather fresher than was usually found and this, plus the water supply was thought to be the main reason for the tree's survival. It was carefully taken to the Central Bureau of China Horticulture for examination. After several weeks there appeared a definite attempt at actual growth and several new needles were to be seen. They were however, almost as pale as the rest and it is not yet known whether the chlorophyll can be spontaneously regenerated or whether there will have to be some sort of transfusion in order that the tree survive the present conditions. There is a strong move to have the bonsai returned to the Tomb but it is felt that that would be a sure way of its no longer being able to be kept alive:

Those wishing to read and find out more of this astonishing discovery should get hold of: The China Archaeological and Antiquities Journal, April 1, 1984.

The above article appeared in Bonsai Clubs International, Volume XXIV No.6, November/December 1985. It was a reprint from "Bonsai Down Under", National Quarterly Magazine, New South Wales, Australia

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The following appeal was written by Dan Robinson to the Puget Sound Bonsai Association (PSBA) on behalf of the National Bonsai Foundation:

"As you all know there is a nation-wide effort being expended to raise funds for the National Bonsai Collection. For several years considerable monies have been donated towards this effort, but alas considerable is not enough, and much more must flow to achieve the goal. Small personal donations, however generous, may never fill the vast void between dreams and reality. As a result the importance of gaining corporate support or foundation support is our main hope.

Our most persuasive bargaining chip in the search for corporate backing is to demonstrate universal enthusiasm among this nation's bonsai enthusiasts. If every bonsai-person has contributed SOMETHING, (large or small) to the National Bonsai Foundation, then a very powerful message will get through to the corporate contributors. To date fewer than one thousand people have donated "something" to the Foundation and its goals.

The leadership of PSBA feels that our organization should strive to become the first 100% donor club. As probably the largest Bonsai Society in the United States, such total participation would set a great national precedent which would induce other organizations to follow our lead.

Opportunity for your own (Tax Deductible) donation will be easy. As you pay your dues to PSBA, check the space for your donation to the National Bonsai Foundation and include the amount in the check. Please join us in this effort. Let's set some standards for the rest to follow.

Dan Robinson "

Although your response to my plea of last Fall for National Bonsai Foundation donations was most generous, how delicious it would be for PBA to reach this 100% participation mark first!!!

Molly Hersh  
President of PBA



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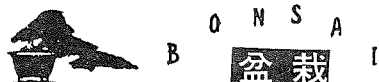
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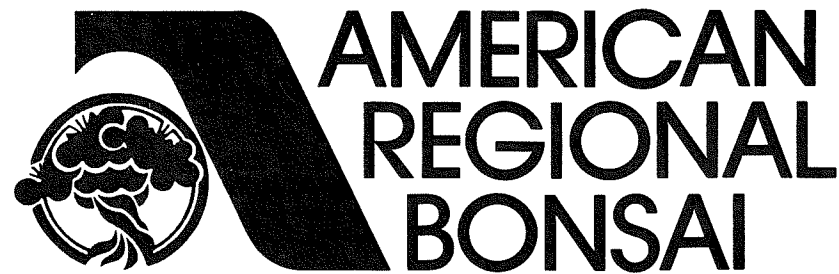
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**POTS**                        **LECTURES, DEMOS**  
**SOIL COMPONENTS**  
**ANNEALED COPPER WIRE**

BCI, ABS and PBA present



**IBC '86**

July 9-13, 1986

Shoreham Hotel-Washington, DC

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- Dedication of the American Bonsai Collection.

**HOST:**

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**IBC '86 SPEAKERS:**

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Dan Robinson	Chase Rosade	
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**WORKSHOP INSTRUCTORS:**

Dan Robinson	Mary Madison	Chase Rosade
Doris Froning	Vaughn Banting	Marion Gyllenswan

**For More Information, Contact:**

Molly Hersh or Josephine Finneyfrock  
102 Devon Court • Silver Spring, MD 20910  
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United Airlines has been selected as the official carrier for IBC '86. They will offer a 30% discount to all those attending the convention using their airline.  
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