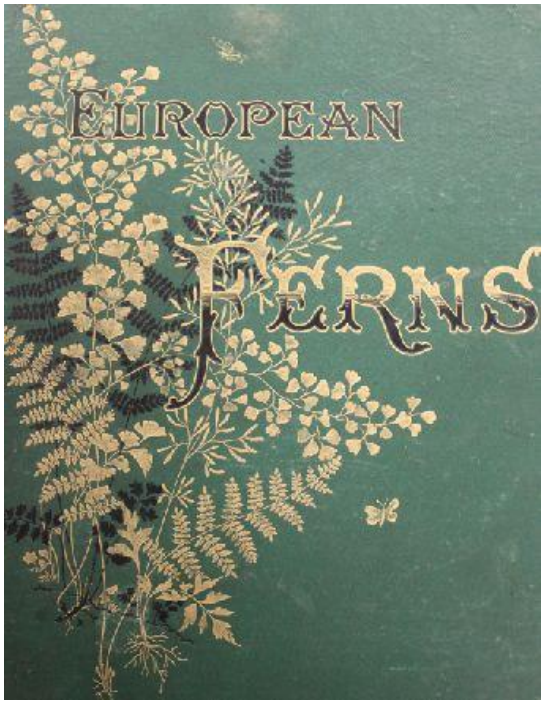
Adopt a Book

Britten, James, 1846-1924
European ferns / by James Britten; with coloured illustrations from nature by D. Blair
London: Cassell, Petter, Galpin & Co., 1879-1881
196p., 30 leaves of plates; 28 cm.

Rare Books & Special Collections
Rare Books Room 587 B86



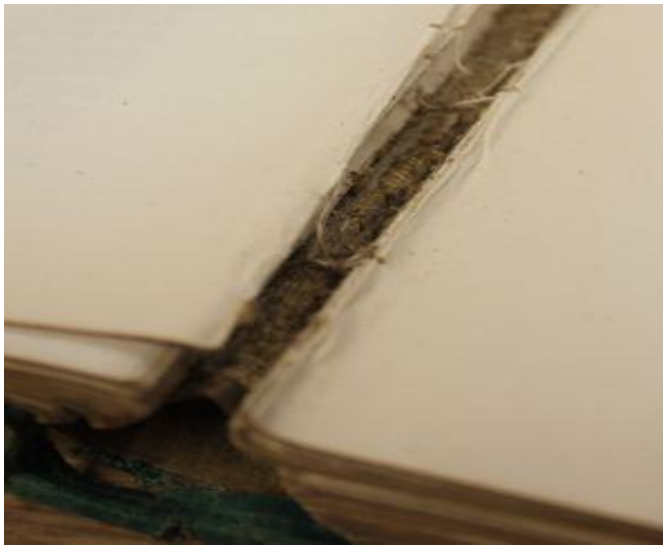
About

Botanist, James Britten, was born in Chelsea, London in 1846. He moved to High Wycombe in 1865 to begin a medical career but became increasingly interested in botany, publishing his first article in the *Journal of Botany*. He was appointed assistant at the Herbarium at the Kew Royal Botanic Gardens, before joining the Department of Botany at the British Museum. By 1879, Britten had succeeded Henry Trimen as editor of the *Journal of Botany*, a position he would hold for approximately 45 years.

Rare Books & Special Collections holds two copies of Britten's *European Ferns*. They are beautifully illustrated with coloured plates of fern species, including the Maidenhair Fern, Beech Fern and the Hare's Foot Fern.

Condition

Green cloth binding with black and gilt decoration to front board and blind blocking to rear board. All edges gilt.

Copy 1 – Front board detaching from spine, rear board completely detached. Cloth crushed at head and tail of spine and all corners bumped. Texblock splitting in multiple sections.

Copy 2 – Front board detaching from spine, rear board completely detached. Cloth missing from head of spine and crushed at tail. All corners bumped. Texblock splitting in numerous sections, with some illustrated pages loose with torn edges.