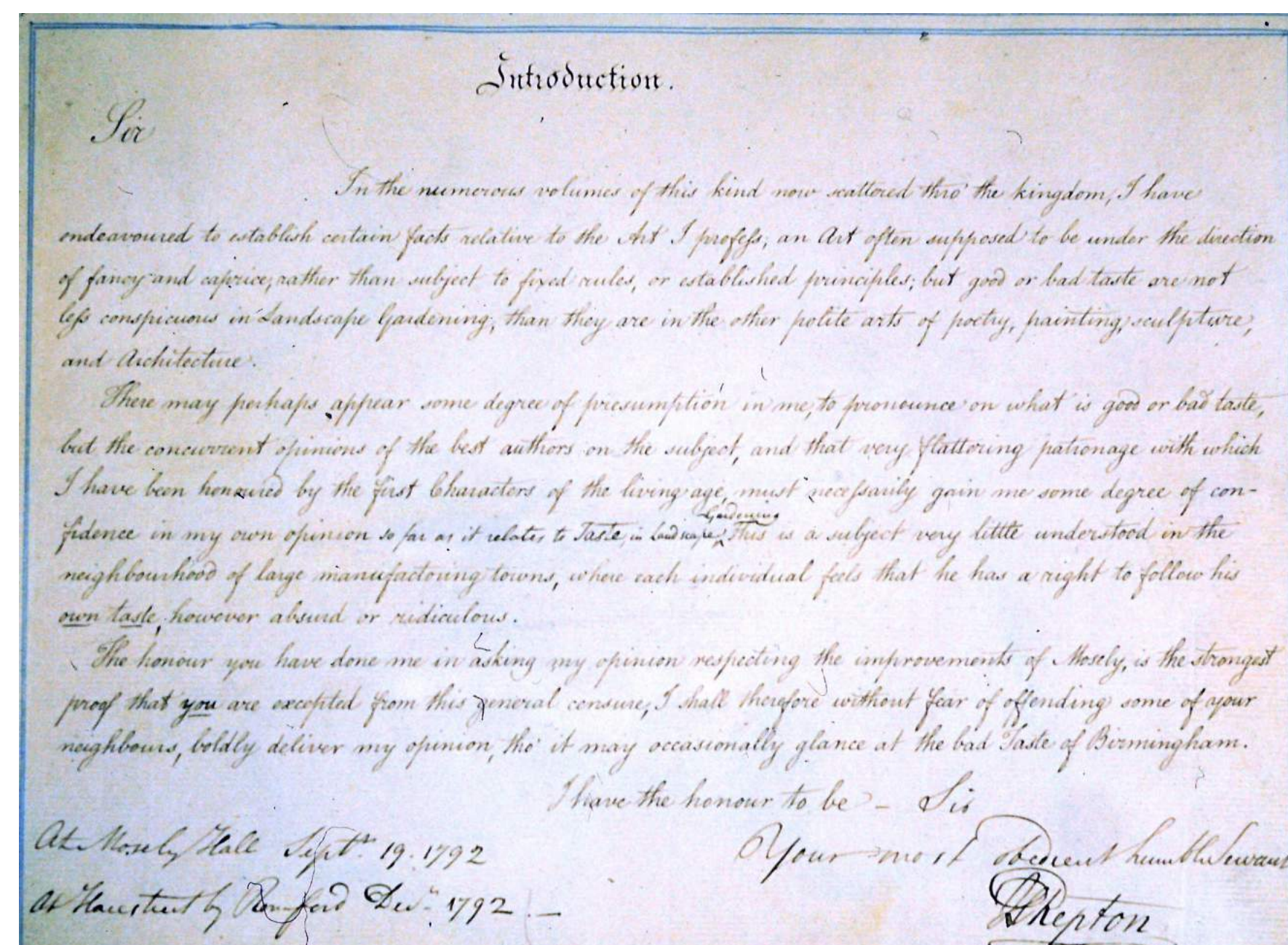


Textual Pages of Red Book



Title page of Red Book
(note incorrect spelling of Moseley)



An example of one of the pages of the Red Book. The copperplate writing is elegant but difficult to read in reproduction from the slide collection made available. A facsimile in a clearer typeface is adjacent.

The Red Book contains a title page, the trade card, eleven pages of text and five pages of watercolours.



Map of the Moseley estate by Repton including his ideas about enlargement of the lake and re-alignment of the approach drive. His suggestion about re-locating the kitchen garden is shown by retraction of the overlying flap (lower right). Also note the lower lake (the Great Pool) which was later drained.

Titles of Pages of Text

- Introduction
- Character and Situation
- The Inclosure
- Kitchen Garden
- Water
- The Approach
- The Approach (continued)
- Conveniences
- Beyond the Wall
- The Fishery
- Walks

Introduction

Sir
In the numerous volumes of this kind now scattered thro' the kingdom I have endeavoured to establish certain facts relative to the Art I profess, an art often supposed to be under the direction of fancy and inferior rather than subject to fixed rules, or established principles, but good or bad taste are not less conspicuous in Landscape Gardening, than they are in other polite arts of poetry painting sculpture and architecture.

There may perhaps appear some degree of presumption in me to pronounce on what is good or bad taste but the concurrent opinions of the best authors on the subject, and that their flattering patronage with which I have been honoured by the first characters of the living age must necessarily gain me some degree of confidence in my own opinion so far as it relates to taste in landscape gardening. This is a subject very little understood in the neighbourhood of large manufacturing towns, where each individual feels that he has a right to follow his own taste, however absurd or ridiculous.

The honour you have done me in asking my opinion respecting the improvements of Moseley is the strongest proof that you are excepted from this general censure. I shall therefore without fear of offending some of your neighbours, boldly deliver my opinion, that it may occasionally glance at the bad taste of Birmingham.

I have the honour to be . Sir
Your most obedient humble servant

At Moseley Hall September the 19th 1792

H Repton

At Hamstead by Romford December 1792