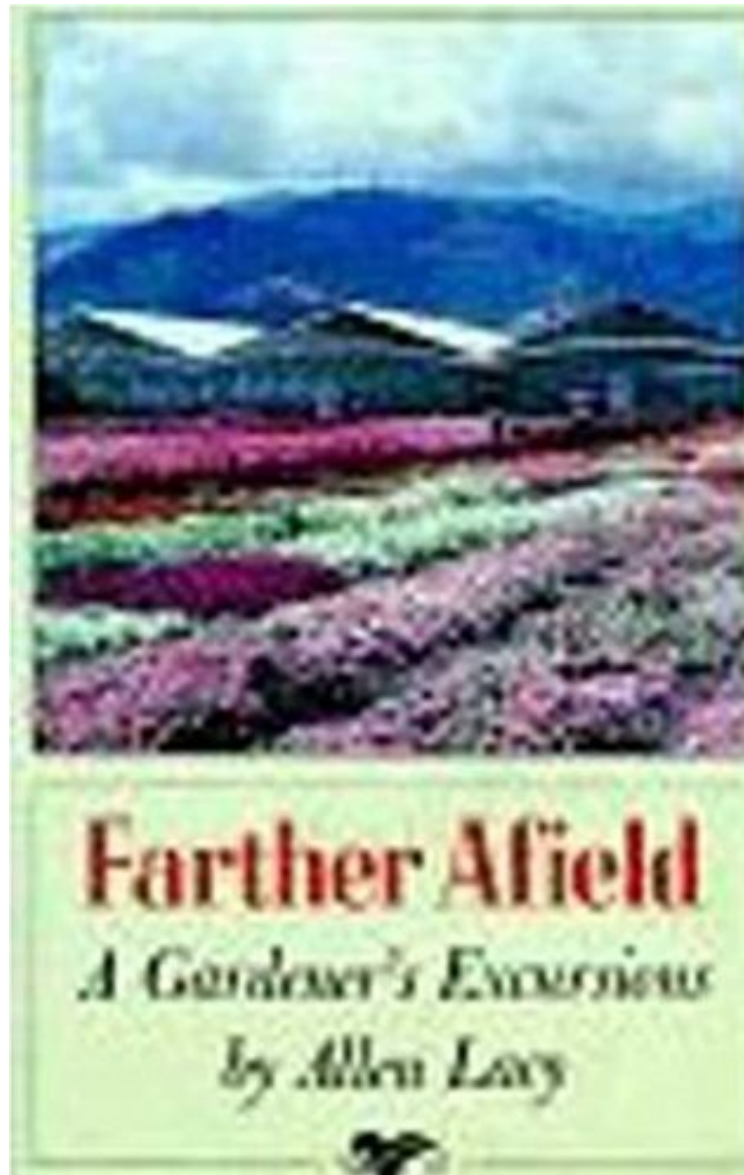


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## Farther Afield: A Gardener's Excursions

*Allen Lacy*

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**Allen Lacy : Farther Afield: A Gardener's Excursions** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Farther Afield: A Gardener's Excursions:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ExcellentBy MezzonoraAllen Lacy is one of the best garden writers ever. With humor and wisdom, he explores the human condition and our relationship to the garden. Lovely read.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great set of reflective essays on the gardener's life...By Dianne FosterOne

of the sad realities of growing older is that you realize what is being lost daily, and that unless we educate younger people they will not miss these things because they will not know they ever existed. For instance, says Allen Lacy in his book *FURTHER AFIELD*, the wild Cyclamens of Greece and Turkey are systematically dug up and shipped to unsuspecting buyers in the U.K. and the U.S. Lacy's friend Nancy Godwin of Montrose nursery in NC has worked hard over the past few decades to ensure that Cyclamens grown from seed will reach American consumers and hopefully undercut the trade in endangered bulbs. In addition to his Montrose visit, Lacy reports on gardening activities in Costa Rica, Monticello, and many other locations where the dedicated are working hard to preserve our botanical heritage. His travels take him far from New Jersey, but he also includes many essays on shorter excursions, some into his own yard where Hosta and Gloriosa Lilies, Ailanthus, Bouncing Bet, Sedum and Sempervivums bloom. He reports that the Tigridia or Mexican shell flower is photogenic and although the Fritillaries are numerous, he grows the native of Northern Europe known as snake's head lily or guinea-hen flower. Until his retirement, Lacy was a professor of philosophy who wrote a garden column as a sideline. He retired and kept on writing about the subject (and editing lots of good garden books). This book is a little older, but like the timeless tales of other great gardener writers who were also students of life relevant for our current lives. Reading Lacy is an uplifting experience for anyone with the winter blahs. Although he shares his concerns about things that should concern us, he also shares the victories he observes. His writing is reminiscent of Thoreau who made excursions abroad, usually to Waldon Pond, but sometimes further afield.

In this splendid collection of short essays, gardener, writer, and professor Allen Lacy takes readers on a series of garden excursions, beginning at home. Lacy writes of his experiences with a variety of plantsevinging primrose, prairie gentian, sumac, coreopsis, fuchsias, gloriosa lilies in his own garden in New Jersey. Then he charts his travels to other gardens, in the United States, Spain, Switzerland, the Netherlands. Final essays in *Farther Afield* include a discussion of garden writing, profiles of other horticulturists, and humorous pieces on cats and houseplants, and, of course, flamingoes.

From Publishers Weekly An author who can describe his own garden as a "living record of my successive enthusiasms" will immediately strike a responsive chord in other gardeners. Lacy, gardening columnist for the Wall Street Journal and author of *Home Ground*, is a source of delight to readers interested in plants. In these essays, he takes us to a flower-seed farm in Costa Rica, the oldest American botanical garden, the British headquarters of a major international seed company, allotment gardens in Zurich, ethnic gardens near Miami and a vineyard in southern New Jersey that has survived in suburbia. He takes us into his own garden, too, pointing out his mistakes and failures as well as some favorite plants. Lacy discourses on garden snobbery, petty plant larceny ("finger blight") and gardening books, and defends the place of annuals in the garden. For both active and armchair gardeners. First serial to *American Horticulturist*, *American Photographer*, *Connoisseur*, *Horticulture*, *Organic Gardening* and *Garden Design*. Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Library Journal* Many of these delightful essays first appeared in the Wall Street Journal and garden magazines. Lacy ( *Home Ground* ) is an accomplished writer, a professor of philosophy, whose excursions in gardening provide glimpses of European botanical treasures, a tranquil flower seed farm in Costa Rica, hectic days at Thompson and Morgan, a firm that offers more varieties of seeds of ornamental plants than any other in the world. Lacy writes of his likes and dislikes of specific plants, his admiration for dedicated plantsmen like Peter Raven, devoted to saving the world's tropical forests, and Elwood Fisher, whose passion is preserving heirloom apple varieties. Lacy is both witty and profound. All gardenerers will find intriguing information here. Other readers, not so devoted to the subject, are sure to enjoy the finely crafted writing. Evelyn G. Callaway, California Native Plant Society, Ridgecrest Copyright 1986 Reed Business Information, Inc. He has book learning and hands-on experience aplenty, but his most powerful teaching tool is infectious enthusiasm. Christopher Reed, *Horticulture* Lacy writes with a delightfully wicked sense of humor and an abiding sympathy for the green world and that strange beast, the gardener. Jane Pepper, Philadelphia Inquirer