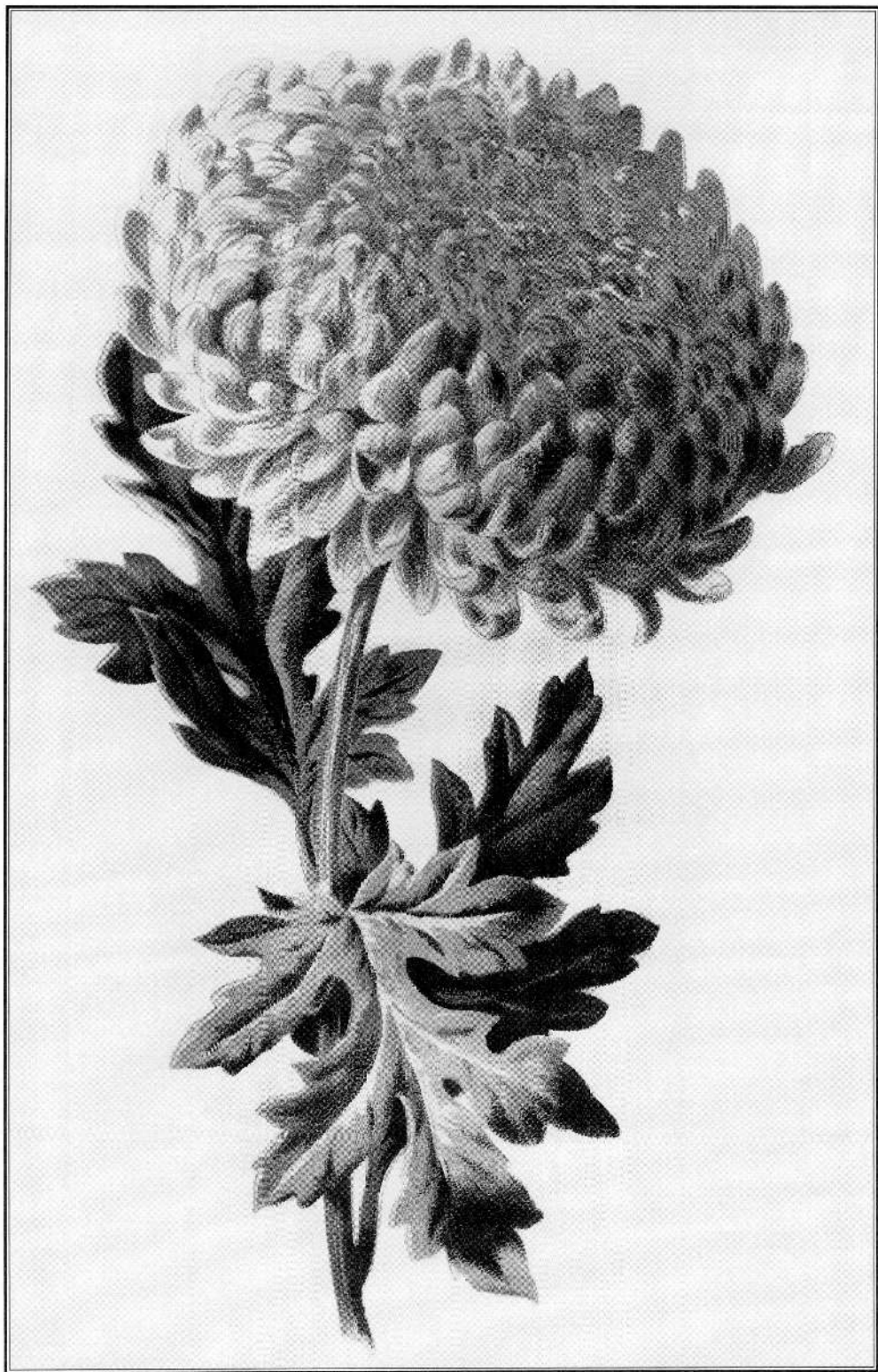




11. 'The Chrysanthemum' from Shirley Hibberd's *Familiar Garden Flowers* (c.1880).
(PRIVATE COLLECTION)

should go further and argue that regeneration means more than just economics: it means social regeneration, the re-establishing of a cohesive, coherent society, and conservation has a central role to play in achieving that goal.

BISMARCK in the STRAND

By Chris Sumner

Handel in the Strand we know about, and can even whistle after a fashion, but the King of Bohemia, the Winter Queen, and the Iron Chancellor in the Strand? Where can they be found together, and where in 1882 could Bismarck have been found in a marquee with Julie LaGravere and Mrs Dixon?

The answer to the second question is, at the *Temple Flower Show*, and to the first, in the Law Courts branch of *Lloyds Bank*, 222 Strand, WC2.

In 1883 the *Palsgrave Tavern*, named after the husband of Princess Elizabeth, daughter of James I, was replaced by the *Royal Courts of Justice Restaurant*, later *Lloyds Bank*, designed by Cuthbert and Wimble. The King and Queen of Bohemia are of interest to the garden historian because of their great formal garden at Heidelberg and because of the Winter Queen's protector, the Earl of Craven, creator of Hampstead Marshall, Ashdown, and Coombe Abbey. But it is not on their account that *The London Gardener* calls at the bank, nor is it on account of the bank's vestibule, a *tour-de-force* of glazed faience in sub-aqueous blues and greens, with two small wall fountains and of Persian opulence; it is to see *Bismarck* and *Mlle* (or is she *Mme*?) *LaGravere* and the no doubt very respectable *Mrs Dixon* - just three of dozens of named varieties of *Chrysanthemum* depicted on Doulton tiles around the walls and piers of the banking hall, the former restaurant dining room. Each panel of five painted and glazed tiles portrays, in natural colours against a bright blue background, a *Chrysanthemum* standing in a pot bearing the name.

The Chinese or Japanese *Chrysanthemum*, *C. indicum*, was in cultivation in Holland by the 1680s and known at the time as *Matricaria japonica maxima*. The first recorded plant in

England was, however, one with small yellow flowers grown at the Chelsea Physic Garden in 1764, which was subsequently preserved as a dried specimen by Philip Miller. A purple *Chrysanthemum*, acquired from a *M Blanchard*, a Marseilles merchant, was grown at Kew in 1790. The first public *Chrysanthemum Show* was held in Norwich in 1843, and in 1846 the *Stoke Newington Chrysanthemum Society* was founded, which in the words of Shirley Hibberd 'servedas the school of chrysanthemum culture for the whole world. During a run of about forty years the village that has become so identified with this flower was better known to the floral world than any other suburb of London.'¹ (fig. 11)

Hibberd, writing not long before his death in 1890, speaks of 'over two thousand varieties named and registered, and hundreds of societies' ...and the 1880s, the date of the *Royal Courts of Justice Restaurant* and the period of *Japonaiserie*, *Liberty's* and *Morris wallpapers*, was perhaps the decade of the *Chrysanthemum*, now, sadly, almost synonymous with floral tributes.

THE FOUNTAIN and GARDENS in NEW SQUARE, LINCOLN'S INN - A BRIEF HISTORY By Stephen Priestley

New Square, formerly known as *Serle's Court*, was laid out between 1682 and 1697. The building of the square was commenced by Henry Serle, a member of Lincoln's Inn, who entered into an agreement with the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn on 11 July 1682 to erect three ranges of buildings in Ficketts Fields (also known as Little Lincoln's Inn Fields) to be used as chambers solely for members of the Inn. The central 'waste ground' or 'open space' was to 'for ever lie open and unbuilt upon "for the prospect and recreation of the Society and members thereof"'.¹ Building work was delayed by a series of boundary disputes between Serle, the Society, and other neighbouring landowners,²

1. Shirley Hibberd, *Familiar Garden Flowers*, vol. v [u.d., c.1875], pp.105-6.

1. The agreement between Henry Serle and the Society is printed in *The Black Books of Lincoln's Inn*, vol. III, ed. W.F. Baildon (1899), pp.458-60.

2. Stone tablets commemorating the settlement of these boundaries are still affixed to several buildings in New Square.