

ORANGERIES IN SWEDEN

SUMMARY

Orangeries have been built in Sweden since the middle of the 16th century. The complete history of orangeries in Sweden has yet to be written. This article is mainly based on the documentation of orangeries and other historic greenhouses made by the author in five regions. The regions are Stockholm, Södermanland, Uppsala, Västmanland and Östergötland and they are mainly situated around lake Mälaren. There are also a couple of examples from Västergötland, a region in the southwest of Sweden, and from Skåne (Scania) in the south.

The first orangery or, as it was called, a house with many stoves was built in Kungsträdgården (the king's garden) in Stockholm. This house was supposedly erected by the French gardener Jean Allard who had come to Stockholm in 1565 to work in King Erik XIV's garden. In this house "pomerans, muscatell" and other plants were kept.¹ There are no other known records of orangeries in Sweden from this century.

A few orangeries from the 17th century are known. They are called by different names: "örtahus" (herbhouse), "orange hus" (orange house) or "pomeranshus" (bitter orange house). The best known were built by Olof Rudbeck the elder in the botanical garden in Uppsala. The "pomeranshus" (bitter orange house) he built was dismantled. He also constructed orangeries for the manor houses Jacobsdal (now Ulriksdal), Karlberg, Mörby and Venngarn.² All of these orangeries are long gone. Cellars were also used for overwintering of plants. One such cellar is still preserved at the manor house of Sätuna (Figure 1).

Most of the orangeries in Sweden were built during the 18th century. Orangeries then became popular not only with the king, his closest men or with botanists as had been the case in the centuries before. Now other noblemen wanted to have orangeries of their own. A few orangeries from around 1700 and the first half of the 18th century are still preserved. At Runsa, Sturefors (Figure 2), Ulriksdal (Figure 3) and Lövsstabruk (Figure 4) there are orangeries that by and large date back to this time.

The well known botanist Carl von Linné introduced more advanced orangery cultivating methods. His orangery was built in Uppsala in 1742-43 (Figure 5). He divided his orangery into three different rooms. Each with a different climate: frigidarium (cold room), tepidarium (temperate room) and caldarium (warm room). This idea of different climate zones was not commonly in use in Sweden until the following century.

Examples of orangeries from the last half of the 18th century are still to be found at Lagmansö (Figure 6), Gimo (Figure 7), Stora Skuggan (Figure 8) and Säby. In the early 19th century orangeries were still being built in about the same

type of architecture. Towards the middle of the century they were used for both overwintering of plants and forcing. Some examples of the early type of orangeries can be found at Löberöd (Figure 10) and Haneberg (Figure 11).

Orangeries in Sweden were not always built in brick. In forest areas timber was used for building both orangeries and other types of forcing-houses like vineries and peach-houses. A few of them are still preserved. They mainly date from the late 18th and the early 19th centuries and can be found at the manor houses of Norsborg (Figure 12), Eka (Figure 13), Regnholm (Figure 14) and Stola (Figure 15).

Towards the end of the 18th century an orangery was built in the new botanical garden situated in the garden of Uppsala castle. This is the only orangery in Sweden still fully used for its original purpose (Figure 16).

By the end of the 18th century a few orangeries with 'swan necks' were built. The best preserved example can be found at Bernshammar (Figure 17). Also the forcinghouse (drivhus) at Stora Wäsby (Figure 18) has a swan-neck. This was probably erected earlier than Bernshammar.

Towards the middle of the 19th century the combination of overwintering and forcing became more common in the architecture of the orangery/glass-houses. The tall middle section was used as orangery or wintergarden and the glass-houses at the sides were used for forcing plants or growing vines and/or peaches. The first two examples from Finspång (Figure 19) and Örbyhus (Figure 20) were erected in the 1830s. The other examples can be found at the royal palace of Tullgarn (Figure 21), at Eriksberg (Figure 22) and the royal castle of Gripsholm (Figure 23). As late as at the beginning of the 20th century a beautiful orangery of this kind was erected at Adelsnäs (Figure 24).

This is a short introduction to the history of orangeries in Sweden. Hopefully there will be more research in the future to make the history of Swedish orangeries more complete both in regard to architecture and cultivation.

FOOTNOTES

- 1 Sten Karling, *Trädgårdskonstens historia i Sverige intill le Nötrestilens genombrott*, dissertation, Stockholm 1931, page 81.
- 2 Per Dahl, *Svensk ingenjörskonst under stormaktstiden*, dissertation, Uppsala 1995, pages 63-78.

LITERATURE

- INGELA ANDERSSON, *Historiska växthus i Västmanlands län, Västerås 2004.*
 INGELA ANDERSSON, *Historiska växthus i Uppsala län, Uppsala 2003.*
 STEN KARLING, *Trädgårdskonstens historia i Sverige intill le Nötrestilens genombrott*, dissertation, Stockholm 1931.

PER DAHL, *Svensk ingenjörskonst under stormaktstiden*, dissertation, Uppsala 1995.

UNPUBLISHED

INGELA ANDERSSON, *Historiska växthus i Stockholms län*.

INGELA ANDERSSON, *Historiska växthus i Södermanlands län*.

INGELA ANDERSSON, *Historiska växthus i Östergötlands län*.



Fig. 1 The right part of this 17th century cellar has been used for keeping plants during the winter. Sätuna, Uppland. Photo: Ingela Andersson, 2000



Fig. 2 Orangery at Sturefors, Östergötland, built in the early 18th century. The architect was probably Nicodemus Tessin the younger. Photo: Ingela Andersson, 2001



Fig. 3 Orangery at the royal palace Ulriksdal, Stockholm, erected around 1700, architect: Nicodemus Tessin the younger, today a museum for sculptures. Photo: Ingela Andersson, 2001



Fig. 4 Orangery at Lövestabruk, Uppland, first erected around 1700 but probably changed by the middle of the 18th century. This orangery is the best preserved in Sweden. Photo: Ingela Andersson, 2000



Fig. 5 Orangery in Carl von Linné's botanical garden, Uppsala, erected in 1742-43. Architect: Carl Hårleman. Photo: Ingela Andersson, 2000



Fig. 6 Orangery at Lagmansö, Södermanland, erected in 1777. Architect: Fredrik Wilhelm Hoppe. Photo: Ingela Andersson, 2000



Fig. 7 Orangery and forcing house at Gimo, Uppland, erected in the 1770s. Photo: Ingela Andersson, 2000



Fig. 8 Orangery at Stora Skuggan, Stockholm, used for palmtrees, built between 1796-99. Archibect: Jean Louis Desprez or Fredrik Magnus Piper. Photo: Ingela Andersson, 2001



Fig. 10 Orangery at Löberöd, Skåne (Scania), erected in 1811. Photo: Ingela Andersson, 2003



Fig. 11 Orangery at Haneberg, Södermanland, built in 1814. Photo: Ingela Andersson, 2000



Fig. 12 Orangery at Norsborg, Stockholm, containing an apartment for the gardener (the two blind windows to the right), erected in the 1790s. Photo: Ingela Andersson, 2001



Fig. 13 Orangery/greenhouse at Eka, Uppland, partly a half-timbered house and partly wooden, probably built in the early 19th century. Photo: Ingela Andersson, 2000



Fig. 14 Timber orangerie/forcinghouse at Rengabholm, Östergötland, originally with a lower glass roof, erected some time before 1828. Photo: Ingela Andersson, 2000



Fig. 15 Orangerie at Stola, Västergötland, with the typically Swedish wooden house colours red and white, probably built in the 19th century. Photo: Ingela Andersson, 2001



Fig. 16 Orangery in the botanical garden in Uppsala, built in the late 18th century but not officially opened until 1807, 100 years after the birth of Carl von Linné. The only orangery in Sweden still fully in use for its original purpose, containing among other plants some laurel trees from the time of Linné. Photo: Ingela Andersson, 2000



Fig. 17 "Swan-neck" orangery at Bernshammar, Västmanland, built between 1796-98. Photo: Ingela Andersson, 2004



Fig. 18 Forcing house at Stora Wäsby, Stockholm, probably built in the late 18th century. Photo: Ingela Andersson, 2001



Fig. 19 Orangery/greenhouse at Finspång, Östergötland, finished in 1832 replacing an older orangery. Architect: Lars Jacob von Röök. Photo: Ingela Andersson, 2000



Fig. 20 Orangery at Örbyhus, Uppland, erected between 1832-33, partly used as a winter garden. Architect: Carl Christoffer Gjörwell. Photo: Ingela Andersson, 2000



Fig. 21 Orangery at the royal palace Tullgarn, Stockholm, erected between 1853-56. Architect: probably George T. Chiewitz. Photo: Ingela Andersson, 2001



Fig. 22 Orangery at Ericsberg, Södermanland, erected in 1856. Photo: Ingela Andersson, 2000



Fig. 23 The recently (1996) reconstructed orangery/forcing house at the royal castle Gripsholm, Södermanland, built 1892-98. Architect: Fredrik Lilljekvist. Photo: Ingela Andersson, 2001



Fig. 24 Orangery at Adelnäs, Östergötland, erected in the 1860s as a forcinghouse, now used as an art gallery. The steel and glass cupola was kept when it was remodeled into an orangery in 1916. Architects: C. E. Ferngren (1860's) and Isak Gustaf Classon (1916). Photo: Ingela Andersson, 2000