

THE BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION AND PROJECTS OF THE OUTSTANDING LVIV CITY GARDENER A. RÖHRING

*Lviv Centre of Institute for Space Research of Ukraine,
National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and National Space Agency of Ukraine, seleonov@gmail.com*

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Abstract. The article deals with the biographical information and the projects of the outstanding Lviv City Gardener Arnold Röhring, an inspector of urban green spaces. He developed projects of all the green spaces in parks, as well as on the main boulevards and squares of the city, supervising their state. He also supplemented them with small architectural forms. Furthermore, he published a textbook for teachers entitled “Sadownictwo” “Gardening” (1881). We can speak of the existence of the Röhring School in Lviv of that time.

Key words: Arnold Röhring, Head Gardener of Lviv, gardens and parks.

1. Introduction

With the inclusion of Lviv in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the significance of public spaces increased. Namely, parks and gardens gained a priority place in the city infrastructure. It was in the period of the second half of the 19th century, that most of the prominent Lviv parks, considered to be “the green lungs” of Lviv and representing an architectural and artistic value and delight of Lviv residents till our days, have been laid out. Nevertheless, the names of Lviv park creators, i.e., the Head Gardeners Karol Bauer and Arnold Röhring, remain unknown to the general public, and have not been properly highlighted in research till the present time.

The author of the article has investigated more than 80 sources concerned with A. Röhring, out of which only two contain biographical information about him in form of small articles [1, 2]. Most of the sources mention A. Röhring’s participation in the projects and their description, as well as some facts from his biography, scattered in numerous sources.

2. Basic Theoretical Section

2.1. Biographical information

Arnold Karol Röhring (*Arnold Röhring*; 1840–1913, Lviv) was the Inspector of urban green spaces of Lviv (Supervisor of urban gardens, Head Gardener of Lviv). He developed projects of all the green spaces in parks, as well as on the main boulevards and squares of the city, supervising their state. He also supplemented them with small architectural forms [3].

“More than 200 gardens and parks embellished different areas in Halytchyna (Galicia), in the Polish Kingdom, Russia, Prussian Silesia, and Hungary, arranged according to the plans and under the supervision of Röhring. Together with Karol Bauer (1818–1894; the Director of the Botanical Garden in Lviv) he developed plans for Kahlenberg landscapes in Vienna. At the contest those plans were awarded the First Prize and were implemented. Mr. Röhring was invited to participate in almost all the juries in the field of horticulture” [1].

Since his early years, A. Röhring devoted himself to gardening, the profession he loved with all his heart. He was one of the best students of K. Bauer [4]. In 1863 (the first mention about Röhring in Lviv) he got married (Fig. 1) and settled in the mansion in 36 Snopkivska Str. (now 20, Stusa Str.); on the basis of Bauer’s sketches he further developed the “old” Stryiskyi cemetery design, preserved until today. According to that project, the cemetery was divided into seven fields and had two entrances: the first one from Stryiska Str., the second one from the modern Parkova Str. On the side of the entrance from Stryiska Str., the cemetery alley led

to a small rondo. In the cemetery project, the main alleys and green spaces were shown [5]. In 1866, (the first mention in the media) the newspaper “Gazeta Narodowa” placed the advertisement of the project with a price, providing contacts with the gardener Röhring, Head of the municipal arboretum [6]. In 1871, Röhring published a critical article in the “Gazeta Narodowa” about a low level of gardening in Galicia as compared with that in France, Germany, the Czech Republic, Moravia [7]. From 1875, he worked as a horticulture teacher in the charitable Institute for Orphans and the Poor of count Stanislaw Skarbek in Drohovyzh. In the same year his son Adolf was born [8] and in 1881 he wrote his book “Sadownictwo” (Fig. 2). It was possible to buy it in 1881–1885 even in Warsaw bookstores [9] (the Russian Empire). E. Yankovskyy’s review of the book appeared in the Warsaw journal “Ogrodnik Polski” (“The Polish Gardener”) No. 15–17 by 1881 [10].

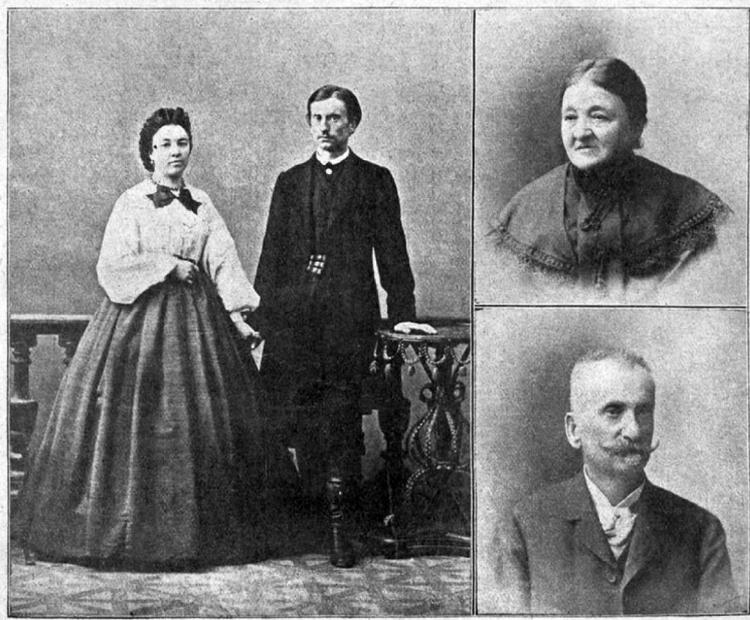


Fig. 1. The golden years: heroes of the day – A. Röhring with his wife Suzanna (1913, 1863), [1]

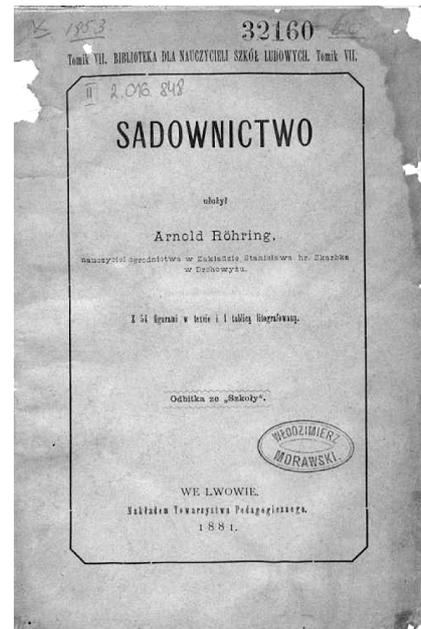


Fig. 2. The cover page “Sadownictwo” [11]



Fig. 3. The Röhring Tomb in Lychakiv Cemetery (field 52). Arnold (1840–1913), wife Suzanna (1840–1923), 2 sons: Adolf (1875–1919), Arnold (1878–1909), 2 granddaughters: Sofia (1901–1919), Maryla (1903–1920) – children of Antonina Blachowska and grandson Boleslaw (1905–1921) – Adolf’s son. Preliminary – and 17 grandchildren of A. Röhring (data need to be verified in the archives)

In 1883, A. Röhring was distinguished with a letter of praise as a Lviv gardener at the gardening exhibition in Lviv [12]. In 1888, he travelled to Paris at the expense of Lviv city budget of [13]. In 1889, there was discussion about the feasibility to delegate and finance Röhring’s next trip to the exhibition in Paris [14]. In 1893–1894 he was a member of the “Society Development and Improvement of the City” [15]. “The Golden Cross of Merit” with a crown (of Franz Joseph) was awarded to A. Röhring for his successful work at the Regional Exhibition of 1894 in Lviv” [16]. Staying in Sanok in 1896, he made several proposals: about a triangular location of the school, construction of a building for the “Sokil” Society and of a restaurant at the entrance to the City Park (now Harcerski Square) [17]. In 1897, he returned from a research trip during which he visited an horticultural exhibition in Hamburg and gardens and parks of Wroclaw, Berlin, Hanover, Bremen, Halle, Leipzig and Dresden [18]. In 1900, he became a vice-Chairman of the Society of Professional Gardeners [19]. In 1901 A. Röhring participated in the exhibition (in the jury)

in Vienna, where a 12-meter plan of Lviv gardens and parks was presented [20]. In 1906, he donated six books for public libraries of the Polish Society for Science [21]. In 1907, he became a member of that Society [22].

In 1913, A. Röhring died and was buried in the Lychakiv Cemetery (Fig. 3). There were such words in his obituary (in the “Gazeta Lwowska”): “Lviv will remember forever the achievements of the deceased Arnold Röhring” [23]. In 1936, the street near the Stryiskiyi park in Lviv was named after A. Röhring and the name of the street remained until 1947. From 1993 it was renamed Dzyndry Str. [24].

2.2. Realized projects

- **Kilinskyi Park** (1877–1894; now Stryiskiyi Park, with an area of 47.61 hectares). In 1877, A. Röhring fulfilled the project of the park planning, taking into account the natural characteristics of the landscape of this part of the city, and thereby, creating one of the most beautiful parks in Europe at that time. He used the motifs of neoclassical compositions of the British architect H. Repton with the introduction of regular compositional elements on the upper terrace [25]. Since 1887, an active work at the project began: rare species of shrubs and trees were planted on the hills, alleys were laid out, parterre lawns were developed. According to the Röhring plan, 40 000 trees were planted in the park area. According to M. Kovalchuk, in the mid-1890-s “red and sycamore maples, chestnuts, alders, birches, weeping beeches, oaks, chestnut trees, acacia, lime-trees, pine-trees of different species, spruce, juniper, yews, larch, American pine and various bushes” grew on the park territory [26]. He designed a picturesque pond near the main entrance, a hot-house and a gardener’s house. In addition to the park, he laid out the surrounding villas’ gardens, which were clearly visible from the cableway. The opening of the park was held in conjunction with the opening of the Regional Exhibition in 1894. In 1892 A. Röhring and Yu. Hoxhberher made out the first situational plan with amendmends by Yu. Zahariievych [27]. A. Röhring transformed the exhibition territory into a wonderful flower garden. In addition, he worked closely with the electric engineers F. Krzhyzhyk and F. Yandurek during the installation of the lighting on the exhibition territory and construction of an electric lift [2]. In Stryiskyj Park near the wellspring, one can see the plaque “Pamięci A. Röhringa. Twórcy ogrodów lwowskich” in honour of A. Röhring, which was recently made by the Department of Restoration of Architectural Heritage of Lviv Polytechnic (Ph. D., assoc. prof. O. Rybchynskyy) (To the memory of A. Röhring, the Designer of Gardens of Lviv). The Polish researcher Ya. Levytskyj compared the project “Kastelivka” with the Stryiskyj park and with the territory of the Regional Exhibition in 1894 and saw many similarities [28].

- **Park in Krynica** (1880, Tomaszewski district, 110 km from the city) A. Röhring transformed it into a landscaped park, now it is abandoned [29].

- **Arboretum of Regional Forest School** (1880-s, the former Milashevsky’s mansion, now the Arboretum of Forestry University, 1 Kobylanska Str.). A. Röhring laid out the school grounds (0,8 hectares), where an orchard grew. The paths were left as they were already laid at that time. Decorative and exotic trees gradually replaced the orchard. According to prof. V. Tynetskyj, only a quarter from the available 130 taxa in 1896 have been preserved till our days [30].

- **Resort Park in Briukhovychi** (about 1887; about 168 hectares). A network of trails and paths and places for public amusement were designed. Small lawns covered with moss, lit with diffused sunlight, making them cheerful and fabulous, were particularly impressive [31, 32].

- When the Poltva was finally put into an underground collector in 1888–1890, Hetman Vally Avenues (now Svobody Avenue) were redesigned under the supervision of A. Röhring. They were expanded, decorated with flowerbeds, and planted with trees. The avenue fragment near St Mary's Square was planted with the lilac, therefore, it was called the “flower salon” [33]. The first results of the **work undertaken to return from oblivion the creative heritage of Arnold Röhring** – an outstanding Gardener of Lviv – are seen on the main avenue – a flowerbed has been restored according to the project of 1903. The flowerbed reconstruction project was designed by the Department of Urban Development of the Institute of Architecture of Lviv Polytechnic National University.

- **Garden Square in Halytska Square** (1890–1893), near the Valova Str. was located in the former Market Square, around which new buildings began to spring up. In 1909–1910 Alfred Zachariewicz together with Arnold Röhring worked out a new composition of the garden square in Halytska Square (the old tall trees were cut down, new trees were planted and a flowerbed was laid out) [3].

- **Park in Buzhany** (1890; 100 hectares, now a village in Volyn region, 120 km from Lviv) was founded by A. Röhring together with the famous parks planner Walerian Kronenberg (1859–1934) [34].

- **Lychakiv Park** (1892; 8.4 hectares) was arranged in a regular style in the northeastern hilly part of Lviv beyond the Lychakiv tollgate. It covered sand and clay quarries. Pathways, running around the perimeter of the park (near Lychakivska and Pasichna Streets) and coiling on the slopes of ravines, were designed. The predominance of black pine-trees is a special feature of the forest stand of the park. Here and there, there are also maple-trees, linden-trees, chestnut-trees, as well as several species of bushes [35].

- **Vilshyna Park** (1894–1898, now Shevchenko Park) in Stryi. On May 6, 1894, A. Röhring took part at the City Council meeting dedicated to the development of the given park. As a result of the commission on the City Park development under the supervision of Alexander Stoyalovsky was created. On July 3, A. Röhring proposed his project to the Mayor L. Hetinher. Subsequently, a sanitary cutting of trees, the marking of the designed roads and trails, and a cleaning-up of the park were carried out [36].

- **Visnovsky Park** (1895, 2.8 hectares) is situated around the “Mountain of Punishment” [36].

- **Lower Terrace of the City Park** (Ivan Franko park) – In the late 19th century it was redesigned and decorated according to the A. Röhring’s project with an intricate flower-bed arranged symmetrically near the axis of the main entrance to the Seim (the Local Parliament of that time, today’s Ivan Franko University) [33].

- **Garden Square in St. Jura Square** (1897) [38]. A great mastery of A. Röhring is evidenced in creating beautiful lawns with trees of first magnitude (30–40 m): larches, pines, European black spruce, maples, linden-trees, *Tilia cordata* broadleaves, and others. A giant oak-tree still stands in the middle of the park. These species create a structure of the forest stand of the park. During an inventory of the greenery in the territory of the garden square in St. George Square 49 species and a variety of trees and shrubs of 32 classes and 16 families were identified [39].

- A. Röhring arranged the **Garden Square around Kornel Ujejski Monument** (1902, not extant now) near the main entrance to the City casinos on Academichna Str. (Shevchenko Av.) [40].

- After the opening of A. Miktsevych’s monument in 1904, the **landscape composition of Mariacka Sq.** (today’s Mitskevych Sq.) was designed by A. Röhring and the architects T. Talovskyi and Z. Hendel [3].

- **Park Zalizna Voda** (Iron Water) (1905). A. Röhring worked at the plan of the park from 1881 until the last days of his life. The park design was original and unique because of the by-pass walking alley, which united the thematic change of the forest groups, e.g. the black pines curtain at the entrance, followed by a larch grove, further by a birch and famous beech grove on the northern slopes [3]. There was a waterfall in the park, which disappeared after World War II, and two Röhring’s wellsprings (on the park’s hill) together with Yankowsky’s wellspring provided with water of the Kaminsky’s pond (now the Dynamo pool).

- **Jordan Park** for the school youth in Stryi (1905). The preliminary drainage and levelling of the territory, the digging of the ditch and the fencing with hedges (according to Röhring’s plan). 5 613 m³ of gravel, 3.800 m³ of soil were used for its installation. Several hundred trees and shrubs were planted. All the necessary buildings, ten play-grounds, a 42-meter pavilion with a veranda, an office, an apartment for the park superintendent, a bowling alley, and some stables were erected [36].

- In 1886, the Poltva was put into the underground collector and A. Röhring laid out a peculiar **nonlinear Boulevard in Academichna Str.** (Shevchenko Av.), which consisted of some trapezoid “islands” with rounded corners. In 1906, A. Zakharevych with A. Röhring modernized the structure of the Boulevard. The axis of the present-day Dudayev Str. was extended with an alley, running along the newly created central oval flowerbed to the main entrance of the future dominant of the street, i.e., the House of the Chamber of Commerce. Only old photographs showing the ancient structure of the Boulevard remain nowadays. The proposal to close down the avenue for cars and to restore the alley’s structure of the late 19th century, laid out by A. Röhring, was not supported by the City Council [3].

- **Park of Dlugosh Palace in Siary** (1908–14 and 1916–25; Röhring’s project, 250 km from Lviv). The famous Lviv sculptor P.Voytovych is the author of 60 allegorical and mythological figures for the park and for the palace of the oil capitalist and Minister for Galicia (Halychyna) Wladyslaw Dlugosh [41].

- **Park reconstruction in Koropets** (in the time of the Galician governor S. Badeni, Ternopil region, 180 km from Lviv). The park was extended to 200 hectares. Great lawns with separate groups of trees were the characteristic feature of the park. The rivers of Koropchik and Mlynivka flowed through the park. White

bridges joined their banks. There was also a pond, and above it – a greenhouse and a hothouse. Chestnuts, maples, silver poplars, oaks, lindens, ash trees, weeping willows, two large tulip trees grew in the park [42].

2.3. Projects, which were not realized or were attributed

- A. Röhring planned to create a functional resort **Jordan Park** (in New Lviv district). Similar “Jordan” parks were created in different cities: Krakow (1889), Stryi (1905, A. Röhring), Warsaw, Ternopil, etc.
- One of the projects was to combine the parks and squares of the city with each other through a network of green streets and alleys and, thus, create a **Corso**, i.e., a green promenade in the middle of the existing outer green circle with the centre in the High Castle area, located directly within the urban net. A. Röhring worked this idea out in the second half of the 19th century. Partially that project was implemented in 1896 within the interval of the Lychakiv park to the Pohulianka area including Kochanowski Str. (now K. Levytskyi Str.) [43].
- The composition of the parterre gardens near the gardener’s house with an exquisite pattern of ovals (similar to the ovals in front of the monument to J. Kilinski in the Stryiskyi park) and the soft irregular contours of each garden element (according to the archive plans) suggest that A. Röhring and K. Bauer (before him) took a direct part in their planning during the reconstruction of the **High Castle park** (1889–1894), as well as in the construction of the gardener’s house and a small greenhouse (1892) [3].
- **Garden in front of Hrushevskij’s House** was decorative, planted with forest trees: beeches and pines. There was a luxurious flowerbed. A. Röhring’s hand is recognized in the creating of this garden [32].

2.4. A. Röhring School

In 1894–1904 a vegetable and horticultural school [44, 45] was located in the building in 38, Snopkivska Str. (now 22 Stusa Str.; construction No. 536 [46]). The building at that address was pulled down in 2015. A. Röhring lived in the neighboring house No. 36 (construction No. 929 [46]). Therefore, it can be possibly assumed that it was Röhring’s school. Stanisław Piątkowski (1870–1934) was one of Röhring’s students, he studied abroad [47]. In 1913–1934, he was an inspector of urban green spaces in Lviv and a member of Polish dendrological Society in Lviv. In 1925, he proposed to create an arboretum in Lviv [48].

3. Conclusions

In the given study 20 projects of A. Röhring (among more than 200) were examined and some of his biographical data were reconstructed. However, we lack information concerning some years of his life. Thus, a further research work is needed. Recently, a memory plaque in Stryiskij Park and a flowerbed in Svobody Ave. (according to the design of 1903) were restored; it is possible that A. Röhring Str. will return (or another street will be named after him). We expect that one will find information about A. Röhring in the parks and gardens of his authorship. On September 24–25, 2016, European Heritage Days were held in Lviv (dedicated to the subject of gardens and parks) where A. Röhring’s name was repeatedly mentioned, including by the author of this article. In 2017 at the Forestry University, a conference is planned, where the report of prof. V. Kucheriavij about A. Röhring’s creative method is to be presented.

Lviv will long remember the achievements of A. Röhring. And the purpose of this article is to contribute to the long-lasting memory of him.

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Сергій Леонов

БІОГРАФІЧНІ ДАНІ ТА ПРОЕКТИ ВИДАТНОГО САДІВНИКА ЛЬВОВА А. РЕРІНГА

Анотація. У статті розглянуто біографічні дані та проекти видатного садівника Львова Арнольда Рерінга – інспектора міських плантацій, який опрацював проекти всіх зелених насаджень у парках, на центральних бульварах та площах і наглядав за їхнім станом, доповнював малими архітектурними формами. Крім того, він видав підручник для вчителів “Sadownictwo” (1881). Зроблено припущення про існування Школи Рерінга у Львові.

Ключові слова. Арнольд Рерінг; головний садівник Львова; сади і парки.