Until the nineteenth century, the investigation of natural phenomena, plants and animals was considered either the preserve of elite scholars or a pastime for the leisured upper classes. As increasing academic rigour and systematisation was brought to the study of 'natural history', its subdisciplines were adopted into university curricula, and learned societies (such as the Royal Horticultural Society, founded in 1804) were established to support research in these areas. A related development was strong enthusiasm for exotic garden plants, which resulted in plant collecting expeditions to every corner of the globe, sometimes with tragic consequences. This series includes accounts of some of those expeditions, detailed reference works on the flora of different regions, and practical advice for amateur and professional gardeners.

Kew Gardens

The eminent British botanist Sir William Jackson Hooker (1785–1865) expanded and developed the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew into a world-leading centre of research and conservation. Appointed its first full-time director in 1841, Hooker came to Kew following a highly successful period in the chair of botany at Glasgow University. He quickly began to extend the gardens, arranging for the building of the now famous Palm House and establishing the Museum of Economic Botany. This volume reissues Hooker’s popular guides to the gardens (sixteenth edition) and to the museum (third edition), both published in 1858. Illustrated throughout, these documents reveal the areas and specimens accessible to a receptive Victorian public. Hooker’s ten volumes of Icones Plantarum (1837–54) have also been reissued in this series, along with many works by his son and equally accomplished successor, Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker (1817–1911).
Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library and other partner libraries, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection brings back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.
Kew Gardens

Or, A Popular Guide to the
Royal Botanic Gardens of Kew

William Jackson Hooker
Selected books of related interest, also reissued in the
CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

Amherst, Alicia: *A History of Gardening in England* (1895) [ISBN 9781108062084]


Blaikie, Thomas: *Diary of a Scotch Gardener at the French Court at the End of the Eighteenth Century* (1931) [ISBN 9781108055611]

Candolle, Alphonse de: *The Origin of Cultivated Plants* (1886) [ISBN 9781108038904]

Drewitt, Frederic Dawtrey: *The Romance of the Apothecaries' Garden at Chelsea* (1928) [ISBN 9781108015875]

Evelyn, John: *Sylva, Or, a Discourse of Forest Trees* (2 vols., fourth edition, 1908) [ISBN 9781108055284]

Farrer, Reginald John: *In a Yorkshire Garden* (1909) [ISBN 9781108037228]


Forsyth, William: *A Treatise on the Culture and Management of Fruit-Trees* (1802) [ISBN 9781108037471]

Haggard, H. Rider: *A Gardener's Year* (1905) [ISBN 9781108044455]

Hibberd, Shirley: *Rustic Adornments for Homes of Taste* (1856) [ISBN 9781108037174]

Hibberd, Shirley: *The Amateur's Flower Garden* (1871) [ISBN 9781108055345]

Hibberd, Shirley: *The Fern Garden* (1869) [ISBN 9781108037181]

Hibberd, Shirley: *The Rose Book* (1864) [ISBN 9781108045384]

Hogg, Robert: *The British Pomology* (1851) [ISBN 9781108039444]


Hooker, Joseph Dalton: *Kew Gardens* (1858) [ISBN 9781108065450]

Jackson, Benjamin Daydon: *Catalogue of Plants Cultivated in the Garden of John Gerard, in the Years 1596–1599* (1876) [ISBN 9781108037150]

Jekyll, Gertrude: *Home and Garden* (1900) [ISBN 9781108037204]
Jekyll, Gertrude: *Wood and Garden* (1899) [ISBN 9781108037198]


Knight, Thomas Andrew: *A Selection from the Physiological and Horticultural Papers Published in the Transactions of the Royal and Horticultural Societies* (1841) [ISBN 9781108037297]


Loudon, Jane: *Instructions in Gardening for Ladies* (1840) [ISBN 9781108055659]


Repton, Humphry and Loudon, John Claudius: *The Landscape Gardening and Landscape Architecture of the Late Humphry Repton, Esq.* (1840) [ISBN 9781108066174]

Robinson, William: *The English Flower Garden* (1883) [ISBN 9781108037129]


Sedding, John D.: *Garden-Craft Old and New* (1891) [ISBN 9781108037143]

Veitch, James Herbert: *Hortus Veitchii* (1906) [ISBN 9781108037365]


For a complete list of titles in the Cambridge Library Collection please visit: http://www.cambridge.org/features/CambridgeLibraryCollection/books.htm
The material originally positioned here is too large for reproduction in this reissue. A PDF can be downloaded from the web address given on page iv of this book, by clicking on 'Resources Available'.
KEW GARDENS

OR

A POPULAR GUIDE

TO THE

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS OF KEW.

BY

SIR W. J. HOOKER

K.H. D.C.L. F.R.A. & L.S.

CORRESPONDENT OF THE INSTITUTE OF FRANCE, ETC. ETC.

Director.

" Soft roll your incense, Herbs and Fruits and Flowers,
In mingled clouds, to Him whose sun exalts,
Whose breast perfumes you, and whose pencil paints."

SIXTEENTH EDITION.

LONDON

LONGMAN, BROWN, GREEN, LONDON, AND ROBERTS,
1853
"So sits, enthroned in vegetable pride,
Imperial Kew, by Thames's glittering side:
Obedient sires from realms unfurrow'd bring
For her the unnamed progeny of Spring.

"Delighted Thames through tropic umbrage glides,
And, flowers antarctic bending o'er his tides,
Drinks the new tints, the sweets unknown inhales,
And calls the sons of science to his vales.
In one bright point admiring Nature eyes
The fruits and foliage of discordant skies,
Twines the gay flow'ret with the fragrant bough,
And binds the wreath round George's regal brow.

"Sometimes, retiring from the public weal,
One tranquil hour the Royal Partners steal,
Through glades exotic pass, with step sublime,
Or mark the growth of Britain's happier clime."
PREFACE.

A Guide, which should indicate to strangers the more remarkable features in the Royal Botanic Gardens of Kew, and point out some of the many interesting plants cultivated there, has long been a desideratum. Of late, this want has been peculiarly felt, because of the great extent of ground, the number of plant-houses, and the amazing increase of the collection. The very fact, however, of the continued additions to the plants, combined with their rapid growth under good cultivation, renders any approach to a perfect Guide or Handbook a very difficult, if not an impossible, task; for, though it is true that only a reference to the more remarkable objects can be desired, yet the frequent arrival of novelties must, of necessity, cause such a book to become, in a measure, imperfect soon after its publication. This circumstance, along with the constantly increasing bulk, entails the incessant removal of plants from one house to another; thus the individuals that are recorded as occupying one particular greenhouse or stove may require shifting the very next day. It is eminently needful to warn our readers of this circumstance, because they will thus comprehend how it happens that a plant stated to exist in Plant-house No. 1., for instance, may not at the time of their visit be found there. To a certain extent, and owing to the causes just mentioned, individual specimens cannot be stationary for a great space of time; still we endeavour to retain them in the places indicated as long as possible; and, if a large plant of peculiar interest be necessarily removed, we shall, as often as we can, replace it with a smaller individual of the same kind. When this is impracticable, and any particular plant is not seen where the Guide-Book states it to be, the Index will probably refer to the page where it is noticed.

The beauty of these grounds and of the plants which they contain, combined with the liberal admission granted by Government, attracts, as may be supposed, great crowds of visitors; and a few needful regulations, over and above those expressly posted in the grounds, may be here appropriately given.
PREFACE.

1. Smoking, or eating and drinking, or the carrying of provisions of any kind into the Gardens, are strictly forbidden. No dogs can be admitted.

2. No packages or parcels, bags or baskets, are allowed to be carried within the grounds. All such articles must be deposited at the gate of entrance while the owners make the tour of the Gardens.

3. No person attired otherwise than respectfully can enter, nor children too young to take care of themselves, unless a parent or suitable guardian be with them: the police have strict orders to remove such, as also persons guilty of any kind of impropriety. Nor can large schools have admission, except in accordance with the printed regulations to be seen at the gate.

4. It is by no means forbidden to walk upon the lawns; still it is requested that preference be given to the gravel-paths, and especially that the lawn-edges parallel to the walk be not made a kind of footway, for nothing renders them more unsightly. It might scarcely be thought needful to say, that all play, leaping over the beds, and running, particularly on the mounds and slopes, are prohibited; yet the latter has been practised, and so heedlessly, that very serious injuries have resulted from falls, and grievously scarred faces have been the memento of such folly. The Gardens are intended for agreeable recreation and instruction, not for idle sports.

5. It is requested that visitors will abstain from touching the plants and flowers: a contrary practice can only lead to the suspicion, perhaps unfounded, that their object is to abstract a flower or a cutting which, when detected, must be followed by disgraceful expulsion.

6. It is particularly requested that visitors will enter the Plant-houses by the doors indicated for the purpose; if they do otherwise, and come in by opposite ones indiscriminately, they will meet and pass each other, which the narrowness of the walks renders difficult; and this must occasion inconvenience to all parties, and often injury to the plants.

The accompanying Plan of the Gardens and Plant-houses will, it is expected, prove useful; and a stranger to the ground and the collection may do well to follow the route indicated by dotted lines, as the most convenient for giving a tolerably complete survey of the whole.

7. No children's chaises are admitted; but grown-up invalids can have permission to visit the Gardens in wheel-chairs, on a written application to the Director, giving name and residence.

More might be said on these heads; but the Director, while bearing willing testimony to the excellent conduct of the many thousands who frequent the Gardens, prefers to rely on the good sense and honourable feelings of the visitors, and the value they must attach to the privileges here afforded, rather than multiply restrictions which may not be absolutely required.
PREFACE.

The Botanic Gardens are open every week-day from one till sunset: and no person can be admitted at other hours except on business. On Sundays they are open from two to seven, or sunset, in winter.

N.B. The Royal Pleasure-Grounds or Arboretum, sometimes by strangers confounded with the Botanic Gardens, constitute a separate though adjoining portion of ornamental ground, accessible daily from May to Michaelmas, by three gates,—two in the road leading from Kew to Richmond, called the Lion or Pagoda Gate and the Unicorn Gate, and one by the river-side, nearly opposite Brentford Ferry, called the Brentford Gate,—besides the gates of communication to and from the Botanic Gardens.

To strangers desirous of presenting Plants or Museum objects from abroad to Kew, we here take leave to mention, that, in despatching packages and parcels, the quickest mode of transit is always the best. When sent by the Queen’s ships or the Royal Mail, or the Peninsular and Oriental Company’s steamers, the address should be: —

```
"To the Secretary of the Admiralty,
"For Sir Wm. J. Hooker,
"Royal Gardens, Kew,"
```

```
"LONDON.
```

If by merchant or other vessels, the direction is simply,

```
"To Sir Wm. J. Hooker,
"Royal Gardens, Kew,
"LONDON."
```