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978-1-108-06545-0 - Kew Gardens: Or, a Popular Guide to the Royal Botanic  
Gardens of Kew  
William Jackson Hooker  
Frontmatter  
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### 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).

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WILLIAM JACKSON HOOKER



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University Printing House, Cambridge, CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

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Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108065450](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108065450)

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This edition first published 1858

This digitally printed version 2013

ISBN 978-1-108-06545-0 Paperback

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[More information](#)

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William Jackson Hooker

Frontmatter

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

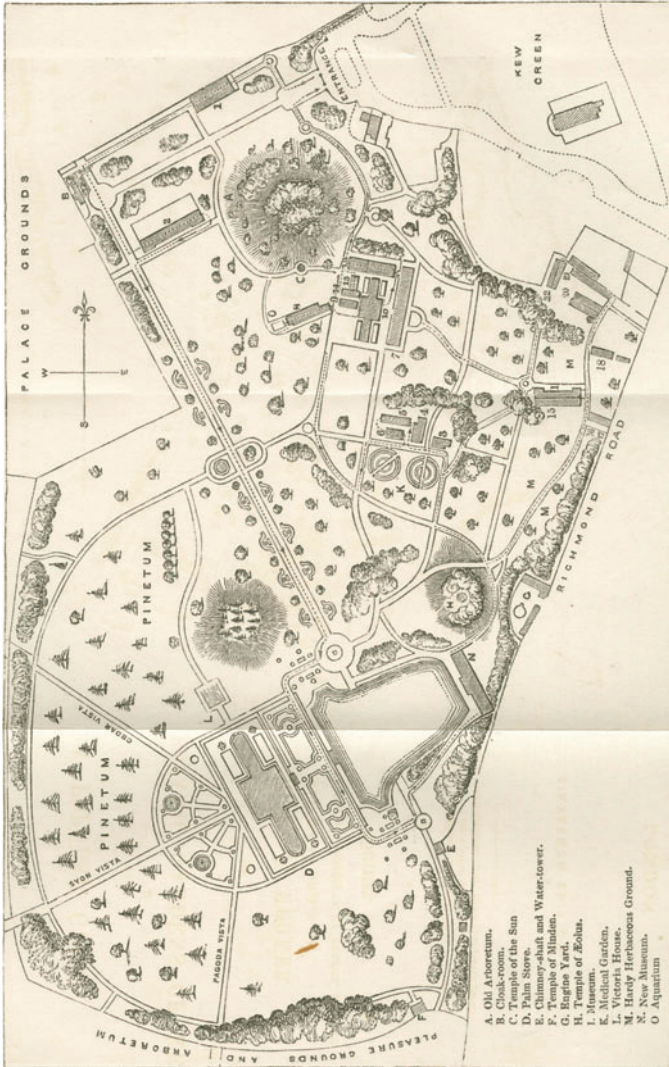
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A POPULAR GUIDE  
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ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS OF KEW.

BY  
SIR W. J. HOOKER  
K.H. D.C.L. F.R.A. & L.S.  
CORRESPONDENT OF THE INSTITUTE OF FRANCE, ETC. ETC.  
**Director.**

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“ Soft roll your incense, *Herbs* and *Fruits* and *Flowers*,  
In mingled clouds, to Him whose sun exalts,  
Whose breath perfumes you, and whose pencil paints.”

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SIXTEENTH EDITION.

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[More information](#)

- “ So sits, enthroned in vegetable pride,  
Imperial Kew, by Thames’s glittering side :  
Obedient sails 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.”

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## P R E F A C E.

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.

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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 respectably 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 walks be not made a kind of foot-way, 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.

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

## PREFACE.

5

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, “ LONDON.  
“ Royal Gardens, Kew.”

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

“ To Sir Wm. J. HOOKER,  
“ Royal Gardens, Kew,  
“ LONDON.”