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Brought up among the extensive grounds of her family home at Didlington Hall in Norfolk, Alicia Amherst (1865–1941) was a keen gardener from an early age. Especially interested in socially beneficial gardening, she sat on the board of the Chelsea Physic Garden from 1900, encouraged the growing of smoke-resistant flowers in poor urban areas, and promoted the greater use of allotments and school gardens during the First World War. Long regarded as a significant work for its thorough yet accessible approach, this well-researched historical and horticultural survey first appeared in 1907 under her married name of the Honourable Mrs Evelyn Cecil. Beautifully illustrated throughout, it covers London's royal and other parks as well as less obvious green spaces such as squares, burial grounds, and Inns of Court. A map and plant lists are also included. Amherst's *History of Gardening in England* (1895) is also reissued in this series.

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# London Parks and Gardens

ALICIA AMHERST



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

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Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108075992](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108075992)

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This edition first published 1907  
This digitally printed version 2015

ISBN 978-1-108-07599-2 Paperback

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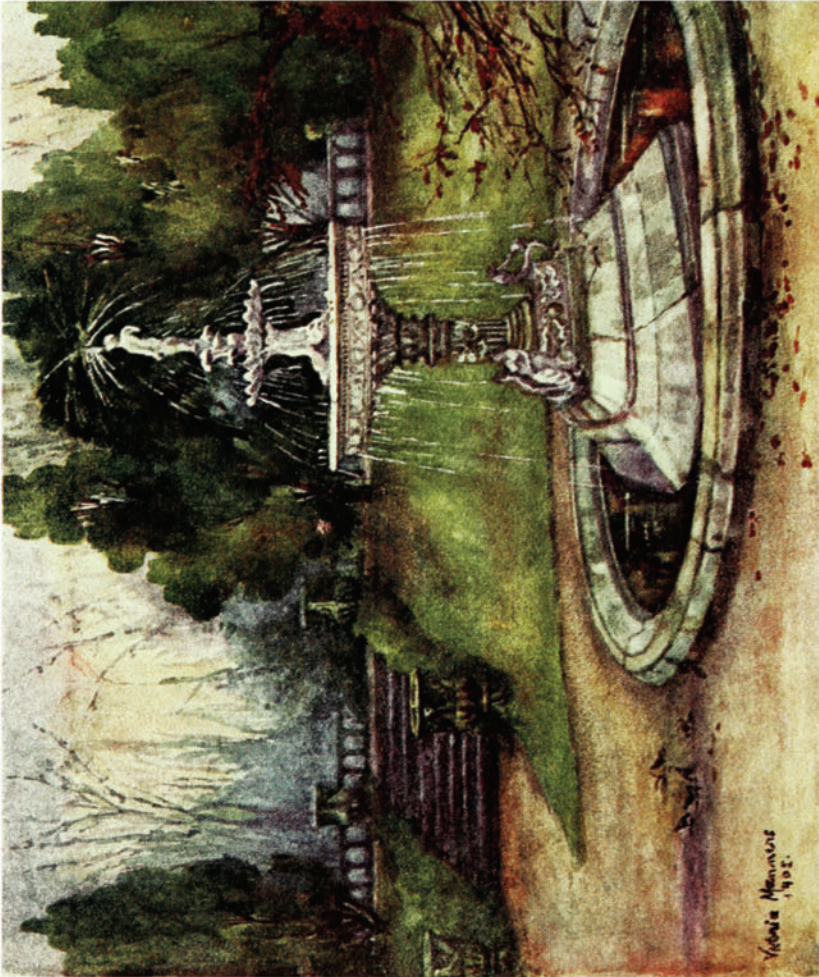
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# LONDON PARKS AND GARDENS



ST. KATHARINE'S LODGE, REGENT'S PARK

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# LONDON PARKS AND GARDENS

BY

THE HON<sup>BLE</sup> MRS. EVELYN CECIL

(ALICIA AMHERST)

CITIZEN AND GARDENER OF LONDON

AUTHOR OF "A HISTORY OF GARDENING IN ENGLAND"  
"CHILDREN'S GARDENS," ETC.

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY

LADY VICTORIA MANNERS

*"Reade the whole and then judge"*

JOHN CHRISTOPHERSON,  
Bishop of Chichester, 1554

LONDON  
ARCHIBALD CONSTABLE & CO. LTD.  
1907

Cambridge University Press  
978-1-108-07599-2 - London Parks and Gardens  
Alicia Amherst  
Frontmatter  
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Printed by BALLANTYNE, HANSON & CO.  
At the Ballantyne Press, Edinburgh



## PREFACE

IN spite of the abundance of books on London, not one exists which tells the story of the Parks and Gardens as a whole. Some of the Royal Parks have been dealt with, and most of the Municipal Parks, but in separate works. When Squares are touched on, in guide-books, or in volumes to themselves, the Gardens are for the most part left alone, and gossip of the inhabitants forms the centre of the narrative. This is the case also with public buildings and private houses which have gardens attached to them. To give a sketch of the history of the more important Parks and Gardens, and to point out any features of horticultural interest, is the object of the following pages. London is such a wide word, and means such a different area at various periods, that it has been necessary to make some hard and fast rule to define the scope of this work. I have, therefore, decided to keep strictly to the limits of the County of London within the official boundaries of the London County Council at the present time.

I would express my thanks to the authorities of the

## PREFACE

Parks, both Royal and Municipal, for their courtesy in affording me information, and to many friends who have facilitated my search in historical and private gardens. I am also extremely grateful to my friend, Miss Margaret MacArthur, who has assisted me in the tedious task of correcting proofs. The lists of trees and shrubs, and of plants in the beds in Hyde Park, were kindly drawn up for me by the Park Superintendent, the late Mr. Jordan, with the consent of H.M. Office of Works.

ALICIA M. CECIL.

10 EATON PLACE,  
*August 1907.*

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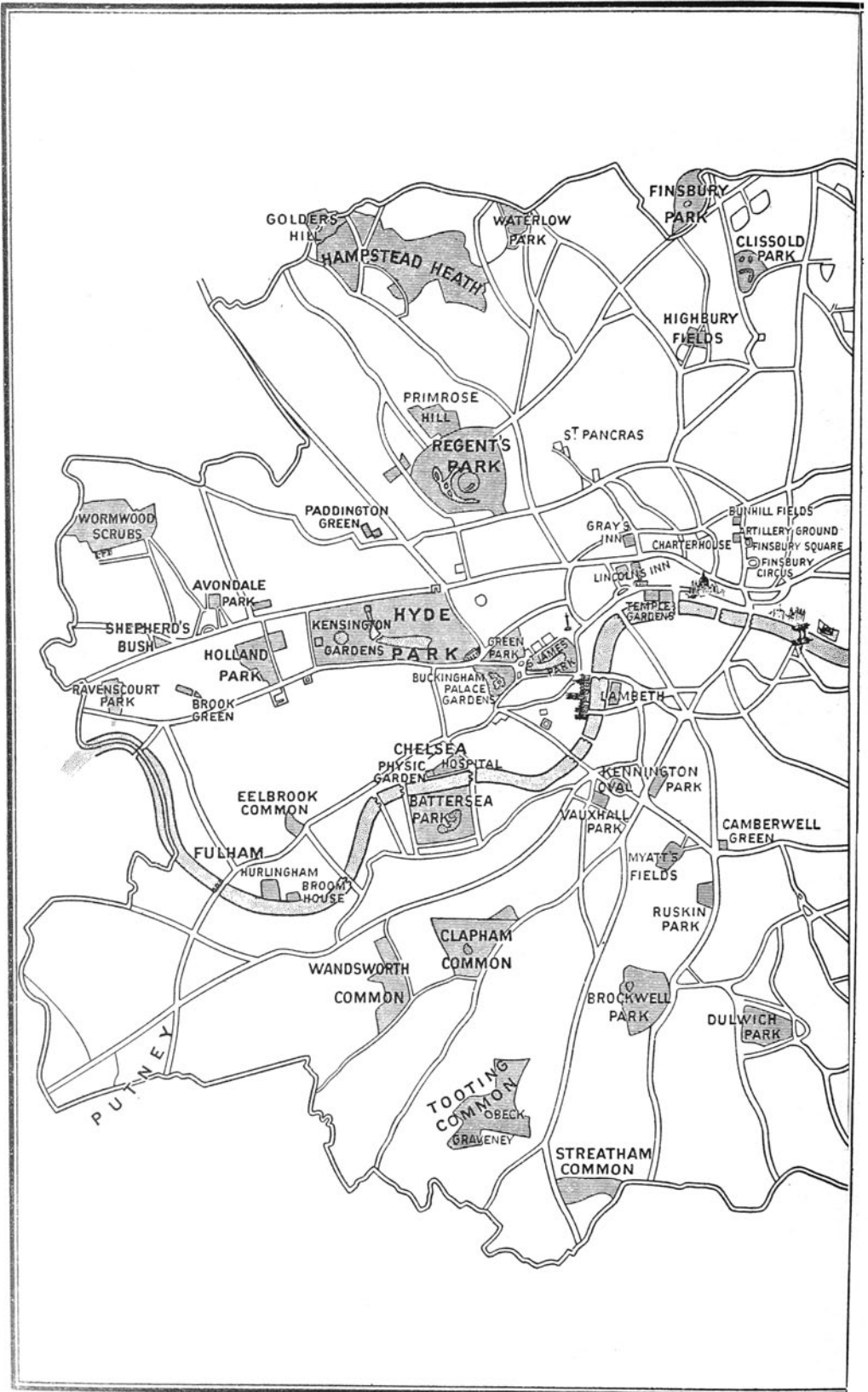
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