

RHS Libraries



Gardens and parks: finding out about the places where garden history is made



Royal
Horticultural
Society

Sharing the best in Gardening

RHS Libraries

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Wisley Library 01483 212428 library.wisley@rhs.org.uk

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Gardens and parks

Books and Journals

Parks and gardens: a researcher's guide to sources for designed landscapes / David Lambert, Peter Goodchild and Judith Roberts (2006)

An introduction and overview of printed and documentary sources for researching the history of parks, cemeteries, gardens and other designed landscapes in Britain.

Bibliography of British gardens / Ray Desmond (1984)

Copies are held on Quick Reference shelves. Entries will lead you to book or journal articles. **Desmond's Bibliography** missed many entries from the mid-nineteenth century due to the inadequacy of the indexes in the magazines. The Library maintains its own list of additional entries. Please ask staff to check the additions file for gardens you are interested in.

Horticultural Directory

An annual publication, started by the **Journal of Horticulture** in 1861 and continued by the **Gardeners' Chronicle** until the 1920s. It lists gardens, arranged by counties, listing for each garden its owner, head gardener, and post town (for sending requests to visit). Only a few issues are held, but working files containing photocopies covering 1870, 1890, 1905, and 1924 are held in the Libraries research rooms – one for gardens and one for nurseries.

Historic Gardens of England

Series by Tim Mowl and others documenting the country's historic gardens by county. Volume 1 was published in 2002 and volumes have covered fourteen counties so far.

Gardens of Britain & Ireland / Patrick Taylor (2003)

A survey of the major gardens open to the public. Organised by region, the descriptions put the garden into its historical context. Illustrated by Patrick Taylor's own photographs, now part of the Lindley Library's collections.

Annual garden guides

Many compilations are now web-based, and fully searchable. The Lindley Library retains earlier print copies of annual guides, such as the **Good Gardens Guide** and the **Yellow Book**, to help when needing to review earlier entries.

Garden monographs

Our libraries include many garden histories and descriptions, arranged by country and region. Search the library catalogue using the Subject field for books about individual gardens, or to find surveys of gardens by region/country. For accounts of the joys and disasters of making gardens browse our catalogue or bookshelves for classification no. 824.

Periodicals

19th and 20th century periodicals are good sources for garden descriptions and illustrations of the period – **Journal of the RHS**, **Gardeners Chronicle**, and **The Garden** are accessible in the Research Room at RHS Lindley Library, and at Wisley and Harlow Carr. RHS Libraries hold many other heritage periodicals, including **Gardener's Magazine**, **Gardening Illustrated**, **Journal of Horticulture** and **Country Life**. See our list of 19th century gardening periodicals.

We also hold **Garden History** and **Studies in the History of Gardens and Designed Landscapes** – key secondary sources.

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Wisley Library RHS Garden Wisley, Woking, GU23 6QB. T: 01483 212428 E: library.wisley@rhs.org.uk

Harlow Carr Library RHS Garden Harlow Carr, HG3 1QB. T: 01423 724686 E: library.harlowcarr@rhs.org.uk

Conservation Management Reports

A selection of reports, mainly for gardens in and around London. See the Gardens Trust's listing of Conservation Management Plans relating to Designed Landscapes at www.parksandgardens.org/

Archives

Named gardens are represented mostly in collected archives relating to the history of horticulture. The archives of **William Robinson** and **E.A. Bowles** include correspondence with both prominent horticulturists and with less well-known individuals writing from and about the gardens they developed. The account book of **Capability Brown** records his work on English gardens at the peak of his career.

The Library's collections include papers of garden designers such as **Gertrude Jekyll**, **Percy Cane**, **Russell Page** and **Lanning Roper**, commissioned to work on specific gardens in the UK and abroad, as well as diaries and papers of amateur gardeners developing their own gardens. The papers of 19th to 21st century plant hunters provide a unique insight into uncharted territories around the globe.

Collections are in the process of being catalogued, with searchable catalogues available on-line via the Archives Hub <https://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/> Catalogues specify the site at which the archive is held and conditions of access. Please make an appointment and request archive material in advance as some collections are held in offsite storage.

Art and Images

Appointments with our curators will be needed to view original works, but digital images can be viewed in the Libraries research rooms. Please ask staff to log you on.

A wide range of plants from across the world feature in the art collections. In many instances the locale was recorded by artist or collector. Species found and cultivated in Britain sit alongside native plants from more distant regions such as China, India, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. Examples include a comprehensive collection of **Lilian Snelling's** drawings, from her early 20th century sketches of hedgerow flowers; her career as commissioned artist for **Curtis's Botanical Magazine** and contributions to the **Genus Paeonia**.

Compendiums of drawings of plants created from a particular garden or geographic area are known as Florilegiums. The library holds original works compiled for wealthy patrons, such as **A.W. Sievert's 'Hortus Florum Imaginum'** c.1720s, as well as a collector's own art work such as **E.A. Bowles' Galanthus** drawings. Also more recent published drawings from the **Highgrove Florilegium** sponsored by Prince Charles and re-prints of **Sir Joseph Banks's Florilegium**.

Drawings of plants from overseas have often been assembled by plant collectors and travellers, and may be viewed as part of a larger archive. **Reginald Farrer's** photographs of plants from his plant hunting trip in China and Tibet c.1914 capture diverse subjects such as images of people and places. These are complemented by Farrer's watercolours of plants painted in their natural habitat.

Gardens and parks

Postcards of municipal parks

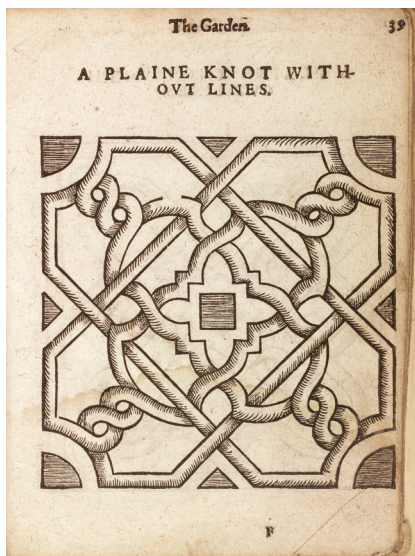
More than 5,000 original postcards showing parks and municipal planting, dating from 19th and 20th century. Arranged alphabetically by park name or location.

Patrick Taylor Photographic Archive

Digitised colour photographs taken 1990s to 2000 of British and European gardens, both major and smaller well known gardens, showing general garden views and planting details.

Perkins lantern slides

Digital images of nearly 300 hand coloured glass lantern slides of British gardens in the 1920's and 1930's. Excellent resource for study on garden design and for restoration projects. Gardens include: Compton Acres, Levens Hall, Cliveden, Bowood, Abbotswood.



Electronic resources

Parks and Gardens UK

www.parksandgardens.org/. Extensive database browsable by name, area, period, heritage organisation, etc. Includes former parks and gardens which have now been lost.

Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest.

www.historicengland.org.uk/. The National Heritage List for England is the only official and up to date database of all nationally protected historic buildings and sites in England. Search by place, post code or listing number, or use the advanced search for more options.

Biodiversity Heritage Library

www.biodiversitylibrary.org Digitised copies of books, journals and papers from a consortium of natural history libraries. Search by author, title or date of publication.

JSTOR (Walk-in Access Resource)

Full text journal articles from over 500 titles from JSTOR's Ecology and Botany, and Arts and Sciences III collections.

Walk-in access resources are digital resources subscribed to by the Library. Library visitors can use them free of charge – please ask library staff to log you on.

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