


[Download] The History of the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

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Ray Desmond

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#2846518 in Books 2007-12-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 10.50 x 1.40 x 8.251, 4.15 #File Name: 1842461680486 pages | File size: 33.Mb

Ray Desmond : The History of the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The History of the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew:

This is the definitive history of the world's greatest botanic garden. Comprehensively revised, this stunning, richly illustrated reference takes in every aspect of Kew's history over two centuries - from its origin, pivotal roles in collecting, classifying and identifying the world's plants, the commercial crops it gave to the British Empire, to being a world renowned institution at the cutting edge of plant science.

From Library Journal Ghilleen T. Prance, the director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, states in his foreword, "Nobody learns more about the institution where they work than the librarian." Desmond, formerly chief librarian and archivist at Kew, proves this point with his definitive history of Britain's most famous gardens. The early chapters offer a history of the buildings in the garden and of the royal involvement in the architecture and landscaping of their properties at Kew. Every fact about the early years seems to have been ferreted out, and extensive quotations are taken from archival material. The years when the gardens were the repository of Britain's plant-collecting expeditions take the story around the world, and Desmond explains in detail how those breadfruit trees on the Bounty were tended before the mutiny. We are brought to the present with information about the research activities supporting contemporary Kew's primary objective of increasing knowledge and understanding of the plant kingdom. Fifteen

appendixes cover topics ranging from boundary walls, trees, and the water supply to a detailed chronology and brief biographies of persons related to Kew's history. This detailed and engrossing history is recommended for research collections. Daniel Starr, Museum of Modern Art Lib., New York Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. About the Author Ray Desmond was Chief Librarian and Archivist at The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and subsequently a Deputy Keeper in the British Library. He is a Vice-President and former Chairman of the Garden History Society and former President of the Society for the History of Natural History which awarded him their Founders Medal. His books on the history of botany and horticulture include *Bibliography of British Gardens* (1984), *A Celebration of Flowers* (1987), *Dictionary of British and Irish Botanists and Horticulturalists* (1994) and *Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker* (1999).