

Archives Research Guide: Sources for the Research of Historical Individuals: Pre 19th Century, 19th and 20th Centuries

This Guide provides a detailed list of sources in the Archives relating to sources for tracing the history of individuals, pre 18th century as well as for the 19th and 20th Centuries. It guide does not include members of staff, which will be covered separately. There also exists a specific guide to papers relating to Plant Hunters.

Not all material has been catalogued; in this case, every effort has been made to give a general description of the collection, but only a closer perusal of the papers will reveal the extent of their usefulness for your research.

To keep this guide to a reasonable size, the full list of catalogued collections has not been included; however, these can be obtained either on line through The National Archives Catalogue at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/searchthearchives/catalogue.htm> or can be sent as a Word list by mail as an e-mail attachment upon request. We can of course send word processed lists in the post.

This guide is not comprehensive, as not all our collections have been catalogued; however, we will endeavour to update it as we progress with our cataloguing backlog.

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A/ Pre 18th and 18th Centuries

We have very few records for this period. We have a few individual items, as well as

Some relevant material in our Kew Collectors Collection, (KCL), especially in KCL/1 which contains papers and correspondence relating to various botanists (indexed by name) and plant Collectors for the period 1791-1865, although the 18th century ones are rather sparse. This collection has been catalogued and a full description is available.

1. Small individual collections (Uncatalogued):

James and Alexander Anderson: One volume of letters relating to the Botanical Gardens of St Helena and St Vincent, 1790.

Samuel Brewer: *Adverarium Hodaeporicum* - manuscript copy of a Journey from Yorkshire to London (1691) with related letters (early 18th C) - 1 vol.

Robert Brown: Two letters to William Withering, regarding Irish and Sussex flora 1797 – 1798. – 1 vol.

Rev. Samuel Goodenough: Letters addressed to him concerning British flora - 1788-1810.

Alexandre Guy Pingré: Copy of 'Voyage a Rodrigues 1761' (near Mauritius) with botanical observations.

Six miscellaneous manuscripts, including letters with **George III's** signature, relating to **Michael Milliken (Mellican):** and money sent for expenditure in the Gardens 1764-1789 - 1 folder.

2. Catalogued Collections

Sir Joseph Banks (1743-1820): We have a set of papers created by and relating to Joseph Banks, which has been catalogued (JBK) consisting of the following three series. The first series (JBK/1) contains Banks' correspondence with related catalogues and indexes. The second series (JBK/2) contains journals, both manuscript and published. The third series (JBK/3) contains other documents relating to Joseph Banks. *See the full catalogue for more details.*

Kew Collectors (1791-1898): The Kew Collectors Collection (KCL) contains papers and correspondence from a number of botanists who were sent on collecting expeditions on behalf of Kew Gardens. The first series relates to a Collection of papers by a variety of botanists, subsequent series relate to papers of individual named botanists. However, only the two volumes within the first series (KCL1/1) will contain papers relating to the 18th

Century, most are for the 19th Century. These consist of brief biographies of collectors as well as financial and administrative papers. See *the full catalogue for more details*.

3. Correspondence/Papers held in other collections

We have some correspondence and papers relating to individuals in this period which are held in other collections. One is the **Banks** papers which contain letters addressed to him from various individuals (see 2 above) the other is the **Record Book 1793-1809** which contains letters and various papers as well as lists of plants sent by various persons.

4. Historical individuals at Kew or linked with Kew:

We do not have any records of the **Royal Family's** connection with Kew, enquiries relating to this have to be related to the Royal Archives at Windsor Castle, or to the National Archives. We do however, have some documents from well known individuals connected with Kew such as John Smith and William Aiton (Curators). Please contact the Archives for more details.

B/ 19th Century.

We have numerous collections of private papers of historical individuals, some are famous through their connection with Kew, others because of their botanical background.

1. Director's Correspondence 1809-1928 - Indexed

Many well known individuals corresponded with the Directors and senior staff at Kew. These are contained within 218 volumes; the list would be too long to include in this guide, however if you contact the Archives we will be able to search our various finding aids as all the letters have been indexed by correspondent. However, we hold very few copies of outgoing correspondence; those we hold are held within individual collections of private papers.

2. Papers of Sir William Jackson Hooker (WJH) (1785-1865) Botanist and first official Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens (1841-1865), Kew. Catalogued.

This collection is divided in eight series, comprising the following: catalogues and inventories which are mainly of Sir William's Library and Herbarium; Hooker's correspondence, mainly to significant botanists such as William Henry Harvey and George Bentham, and friends; artwork, including sketches, etchings and botanical drawings; lecture notes on introductory level botany; memoranda: one in the form of a notebook on the natural history of Yarmouth and the other concerning his library and herbarium; a travel journal/diary; printed reports: a Director's report on the Gardens and a report on the publication of 'Colonial Floras' and finally diplomas awarded to Hooker. *See full catalogue for more details.*

3. Papers relating to Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker (JDH) (1817-1911), Director of Kew Gardens (1865-1885). Catalogued.

This collection comprises four series as follows:- papers and correspondence relating to expeditions that J.D. Hooker was involved in, either as a direct participant or in an advisory capacity; volumes of correspondence between J.D. Hooker and many other individuals on a variety of topics, both incoming and outgoing; papers relating to the published works of J.D. Hooker and other manuscript Flora; The fourth series comprises papers and correspondence relating to a wide variety of societies and subjects in which J.D. Hooker had an interest. *See full catalogue for more details.*

4. Papers of George Bentham (GEB) (1800-1884) Botanist. Catalogued.

This collection comprises four series as follows:- A collection of correspondence addressed to George Bentham, primarily from other botanists and botanical in subject, in addition to letters from Bentham addressed to Sir Joseph Hooker and several others; diaries written by Bentham, the earliest beginning in 1807 and the latest finishing in 1883, near the end of his life; various papers, manuscripts and documents relating to the life and death of Bentham, as well his autobiography covering the years of his life from 1800 to 1834; botanical works, papers and manuscripts written by Bentham, including his nine volume work on Leguminosae and the Bentham Herbarium plant list). *See full catalogue for more details.*

5. Papers relating to Richard Spruce (RSP) (1817-1893), Botanist. Catalogued.

Spruce collected plants in the Pyrenees from 1845-1846 and later in South America from 1849-1964.

This collection comprises three series as follows:- volumes relating to expeditions that Richard Spruce was involved in and the plants that he collected; volumes of correspondence to and from Spruce including a number of other botanical papers and published notes and articles relating to the production of cinchona and cotton. *See full catalogue for more details.*

6. Kew Collectors (KCL) 1791-1898. Catalogued.

The Kew Collectors Collection (KCL) contains papers and correspondence from a number of botanists who were sent on collecting expeditions on behalf of Kew Gardens. The first series (KCL/1) relates to a Collection of papers by a variety of botanists containing brief biographies of collectors as well as financial and administrative papers. Subsequent series (KCL/2-11) relate to papers of individual named botanists, such as George Barclay, James Bowie, Allan Cunningham, Carl Berthold Seeman and William Purdie amongst others. *See full catalogue for more details.*

7. Papers of John Elliot Howard (JEH) (1836 – 1951) Quinologist. Catalogued.

Howard spent most of his life on the extraction of the anti-malaria drug quinine from the bark of the *Cinchona* (*cinchonaceae*) genus of South American tree. The Collection comprises three series. The first contains handwritten correspondence and papers between 1836 and 1884; the second contains Press cuttings, Reports and other Publications from between 1856-1951; the third contains Illustrations, Photographs, Botanical bookplates and glass negatives from the 19th Century. See *the full catalogue for more details*.

The bulk of material is correspondence to JE Howard regarding Cinchona, mainly in the form of scientific discussion and research, collection and donation of specimens, and scientific and commercial exploration. It dates from the early to late 19th century. The correspondence is international. It includes some documents relating to the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain and its museum collections (For example, correspondence from Joseph Ince and Daniel Hanbury, and formal acknowledgements for specimens donated by Howard to the Society's Museum. – see list for details.) There is also printed material, ranging from newspaper cuttings, journal and periodical articles to East India Company reports and printed records.

This collection includes correspondence with Charles Ledger, Clements Markham, G M McIvor, John Broughton and others, letters to John Elliot Howard from the Directors of Kew Gardens: Thistleton Dyer and Joseph Hooker. It also contains important information about the international network of botanists and commercial explorers in the field. It comprises particularly strong information on the growing of Cinchona in India. . See *the full catalogue for more details*.

8. Papers of William Burchell (WJB) (1781 – 1863) Naturalist - Catalogued

Burchell brought to England some 63,000 specimens of plants, seeds, insects, fish and animal skins and skeletons, which he had collected on his travels in St Helena, the Sandwich Islands, Africa and South America. This collection comprises four series. The first contains notes which relate to Burchell's time on St. Helena and the Sandwich Islands; the second contains documents of the flora of Africa; the third contains notes from Burchell's expedition to Brazil via Portugal, Madeira and Tenerife; the fourth contains manuscripts, correspondence and notes which date from 1800 to 1859 and relate to different plant collecting expeditions. See *full catalogue for more details*.

9. Marianne North (MN) (1830-1890) Botanical Artist - Catalogued

Botanic artist who travelled the world and made over eight hundred paintings of plants and landscapes. Some of her paintings are displayed in the Marianne North Gallery in the Gardens and is open to the public. The others are kept by our Illustrations department and can be viewed by appointment. The archives possess some of her papers as follows:- The first series (MN/1) contains letters written by Marianne North to various friends and acquaintances both about her travel experiences and the creation of the North Gallery at Kew Gardens. The letters MN/1/3/1,

MN/1/3/4 and MN/1/3/10 also include sketches by Miss North. The second contains other documents relating to Marianne North namely to the creation of the Marianne North Gallery. There are also numerous letters from Miss North to the Director at Kew, Joseph Hooker, in volumes 97 and 151. See *full catalogue for more details*.

10. Papers of Frank Kingdon-Ward (1885-1958) (FKW) Naturalist and Explorer Catalogued.

He first started as a teacher in 1909 in Shanghai, and soon gave it up for a full time career as botanist and explorer. In 1910, he joined an American zoological expedition which was to travel six hundred miles in central and western China, up the Yangtze to Wuhan, and then to Tibet. Because of the financial backing provided by the Duke of Bedford, the expedition became known as the 'Bedford Expedition', with the aim to collect animal specimen. Although inexperienced, Kingdon-Ward made himself useful and collected a small collection of plants which he later presented to the Botany School at Cambridge. In 1911, having gained enough experience, he set off on his first solo expedition, the first of many, the mountains of Yunnan and in the wild Tibetan marshes. This expedition was funded by Arthur Bulley, a sea merchant. Most of the following of Kingdon-Ward's expeditions were funded in some way by private individuals and sometimes the equipment was provided free of charge from organisations such the Royal Geographical Society.

His papers consist of a variety of material. The first series consists of thirty diaries, covering the period 1924-1957, written during Kingdon-Ward's expeditions in South East Asia. As well as detailed notes of plants collected, they comprise other notes taken during expeditions. These include observations on the landscape, the weather and the wildlife; they also include notes about his contact with local inhabitants. The second series consists mainly of correspondence covering the period 1891- 1987 to and from Kingdon-Ward, some botanical, others of a more personal nature. It also includes various photographs of family and friends and a few of Kingdon-Ward himself. Some files also include press cuttings mostly of articles written by him.

11. Papers of other Kew Directors (19th and 20th Centuries)

The Archives hold the papers of other Kew Directors, but not all have been

catalogued. Furthermore, the collections vary in variety and quantity, some consist of small collections easily identifiable if not yet catalogued, other large collections may possess a box list, but some have no list of any kind, and will need some in depth research to obtain specific information.

1. Papers of Sir William Thiselton-Dyer (1885-1905) – Uncatalogued.
Papers consist of correspondence and scientific papers.

2. Papers of Sir David Prain (1905-1922) – Uncatalogued.
Papers consist of correspondence, manuscript biographical data collected by I.H. Burkill - 1 box (c. 1909 - 1955), list of the plants of the Darjeeling

district - 1 vol (c. late 19th - early 20th century); there is also an interview with him dated 1913.

3. Papers of Sir Arthur Hill - AWH (1922-1941) - Catalogued.

This collection is comprised of six series. The first consists of travel diaries and notebooks that contain observations on the flora and fauna of the places Hill visited in the Americas, Africa, India, Europe, the West Indies and Australia; the second series is made up of various correspondence and papers; the third is comprised of scientific notebooks and sketchbooks that include notes from Hill's time working at Cambridge University; the fourth consists of photographs and slides; the fifth series consists of lecture and speech notes and the sixth series consists of plant lists from Hill's travels.

4. Papers of Sir E J Salisbury (1943-1956) – Uncatalogued.

These consist mostly of Notes, sketches and field books, some lecture notes and 25 boxes of papers. However, box lists exist and some of the correspondence has been indexed.

5. Papers of Sir George Taylor) 1956-1971) - Uncatalogued

These comprise 8 uncatalogued boxes of papers, including 2 of personal correspondence up to 1970; box lists exist for these. The bulk of his papers have been deposited with the National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh, and the Archives possess a detailed list of these papers.

6. Papers of John Heslop-Harrison (1971-1976) - Uncatalogued.

These contain 16 boxes of papers and 2 folders. No lists exist.

7. Papers of John Patrick M Brenan (1976-1981) - Uncatalogued.

These consist of 23 boxes papers, 35 collecting notebooks, field collecting volumes (for Nigeria, Cameroon, Tanzania, Zambia compiled with others and 1 file on Correspondence and notes on Commelinaceae. Box lists exist for most of the papers.

8. Professor E A Bell (1981-1988) – Uncatalogued.

One folder of correspondence (1974-1991).

To see papers of later Directors, a request needs to be made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.