Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker: personal papers held by the archive of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

**Date Range:** 1820s - 1920s

**Scope/Content:** This collection comprises 4 series. The first series (JDH/1) is comprised of papers and correspondence relating to expeditions that J.D. Hooker was involved in, either as a direct participant or in an advisory capacity. The second (JDH/2) is a series of volumes of correspondence between J.D. Hooker and many other individuals on a variety of topics. The third series (JDH/3) contains papers relating to the published works of J.D. Hooker and other manuscript Flora. The fourth series (JDH/4) is comprised of papers and correspondence relating to a wide variety of societies and subjects in which J.D. Hooker had an interest. For a full list of volumes within each series see below.

For more information about any of the listed volumes please refer to the RBG Kew archive [online catalogue](#).

Any enquiries should be directed to: archives@kew.org

OR

The Archives
Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew
Richmond, Surrey TW9 3AE, UK
Tel: +44 (0)20 8332 5417
Fax: +44 (0)20 8332 5430

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**Series 1: Expeditions**

**JDH/1:** Expeditions

**JDH/1/1:** Antarctic Journal 18 May 1839 - 28 Mar 1843
**JDH/1/2:** Correspondence from Antarctic Expedition 1839 - 1843
**JDH/1/3:** Letters & Journal 1839-1843
**JDH/1/4:** Antarctic Manuscript c.1839-1843
**JDH/1/5:** Antarctic Botany - Notes and Drawings c.1839-1840s
**JDH/1/6:** H.M.S. Erebus - St. Auckland's and Campbell's Islands - Botanic Manuscript c.1840
**JDH/1/7:** Antarctic Expeditions 1842-1903
**JDH/1/8:** Notebooks 1840-1908
**JDH/1/8/1:** Notebooks - The Erebus Expedition 1840-1843
**JDH/1/9:** Indian, Moroccan and Syrian Journals etc. c.1842-1911
**JDH/1/10:** Indian Letters 1847-1851
**JDH/1/11:** Indian Journal c.1848 - 1852
**JDH/1/12:** Indian Journals c.Oct 1848 - Nov 1849
**JDH/1/13:** Hooker & Thomson - Itinerary - Catalogue of Plants c.1850-1851
**JDH/1/14:** Voyage of HMS Challenger Letters c.1872-1876
**JDH/1/15:** Voyages of HMSs Alert and Discovery c.1872-1878
**JDH/1/16:** Transit of Venus Expedition 1874-1875
**JDH/1/17:** Journey to America: c.1877
Series 2: Correspondence

JDH/2: Correspondence
JDH/2/1: Letters to J.D. Hooker c. 1840s-1900s
JDH/2/2: Letters to Lady J. D. Hooker c. 1840s-1900s
JDH/2/3: Letters from J.D. Hooker c. 1830s-1900s
JDH/2/4: Letters from J.D. Hooker c. 1833-1910
JDH/2/5: Letters from J.D. Hooker c. 1839-1889
JDH/2/6: Business and Family Letters c. 1940s-1910s
JDH/2/7: The "Lion Letters" c. 1883-1891
JDH/2/8: Letters during a Tour in Paris c. 1844-1845
JDH/2/9: Misc Letters c. 1850-1922
JDH/2/10: Correspondence Received c. 1839-1845
JDH/2/11: Letters to I. Palgrave c. 1874-1911
JDH/2/12: Letters to La Touche and W.E. Darwin c. 1871-1911
JDH/2/13: Letters to T.H. Huxley c. 1851-1894
JDH/2/14: Correspondence with General Strachey c. 1858-1905
JDH/2/15: Letters to George Engelmann c. 1867-1883
JDH/2/16: Letters to Thiselton-Dyer c. 1870-1909
JDH/2/17: Linnean Society Letters to J.D. Hooker c. 1879-1886
JDH/2/18: Royal Society Letters c. 1870s-1900s
JDH/2/19: Memoranda (Inward Correspondence c. 1840s-1900s) c. early 1900s
JDH/2/20: Memoranda (In- and Out- Letters) c. 1840s-1900s
JDH/2/21: Two volumes of Correspondence from Joseph Hooker with Asa and Jane L Gray and others, including members of the Hooker family 1854-1905
JDH/2/22/1: Volume One of Joseph Hooker's correspondence with Asa and Jane L Gray 1854-1905
JDH/2/22/2: Volume Two of Joseph Hooker's correspondence with various correspondents, including members of the Hooker family 1854-1905

Series 3: Publications & Botanical Manuscripts

JDH/3: Publications and Botanical Manuscripts c. 1839-1906
JDH/3/1: Flora Antarctica - Letters about Publication c. 1845-1867
JDH/3/2: Census of Indian Flora c. 1840s-1850s
JDH/3/3: Flora of British India and Imperial Gazetteer of India 1851-1906
JDH/3/4: Census Flora Indica c. 1855-1859
JDH/3/5: Students Flora c. 1870s-1880s
JDH/3/6: Insectivorous Plants 1875-78
JDH/3/7: Floras of Burma, India, Eastern and Western Himalayas, Ceylon and Malaya - c. 1890s-1900

Series 4: Miscellaneous Papers

JDH/4: Miscellaneous Papers c. 1820s-1910s
JDH/4/1: Lecture Notebook c. 1827
JDH/4/2: Diplomas etc. 1839-1912
JDH/4/3: Awards and Memberships 1839-1901
JDH/4/4: Botanical Sketchbook c. 1840s
JDH/4/5: Testimonials 1845
JDH/4/6: Memoranda c. 1845-1916
JDH/4/7: Seeds, Plants & Museum Specimens from Dr. Hooker 1847-1851
JDH/4/8: Indian Herbaria c. 1850s-1880s
JDH/4/9: Retirement Pensions; Royal Naval Exhibition; Spencer Portrait c. 1851-1897
Provenance

Whilst the provenance of this collection is uncertain, evidence suggests that the bulk of J.D. Hooker's papers were probably deposited in the Kew archives by his widow, Lady Hyacinth Hooker, and other members of the family subsequent to the research for and publication of Leonard Huxley's book *Life and Letters of Sir J.D. Hooker* (1918). Letters in the file JDH/2/9 from Lady Hooker and W.H. Hooker (J.D. Hooker's son) mention some specific documents and remark that the Kew archive is the most appropriate place for deposit. Some other volumes may have been created in situ at Kew in relation to J.D. Hooker's position as Director but this is likely to have been primarily the related Directors' Correspondence series. (The Directors' Correspondence comprises letters inwards to Kew's Directors' and senior staff from 1841 to the 1920s, also including some of Sir William Jackson Hooker's correspondence pre dating his appointment as Director of Kew in 1841).

A number of volumes, however, were presented directly to the archive:

**JDH/1/17**: Journey to America; **JDH/4/5**: Testimonials; **JDH/4/4**: Botanical Sketchbook - these volumes were presented by J.D. Hooker in 1908.

**JDH/2/8**: Letters during a Tour in Paris - this volume was presented by Prof. Julian Huxley through Mr. J.S.L. Gilmour in May 1943.

**JDH/2/9**: Misc Letters - Copies of letters from Andrew Sinclair to J.D. Hooker and from J.D. Hooker to Sir George Grey which were deposited by Mr. Garry Tee of The University of Auckland in November 1991; copies of 2 original letters from J.D. Hooker to Sir John Kirk which were offered for sale (not bought) by John Wilson, Witney in 1979; a copy of an original letter from J.D. Hooker to "Grote" which was offered for sale (not bought) by Maggs Bros. in 1993; a photocopy and transcript of a letter from J.D. Hooker to "Frere" (?) and the reply from Col. Younghusband which was deposited by Ms. Joan DeFato of the Dept. of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens, Los Angeles in June 1982; an original letter from J.D. Hooker to an anonymous addressee which was deposited by E. Clifton, High Wycombe in Aug 2003; a photocopy of a letter which was sold at Sotheby's on 23 July 1974 to the American Philosophical Society (possibly deposited by a Mrs. Mortimer?).

**JDH/2/12**: Letters to W.E. Darwin - these letters were presented by G. Darwin in Oct 1976.


**JDH/2/17**: Letters to Thiselton-Dyer - this volume was presented by William Thiselton-Dyer in 1921.