

Minet), gave a lengthy history of the family and Minet estate (from which the bulk of the 1951 *Survey of London* entry seems to have been gleaned), and reviewed the Park itself, well but only briefly. Even so, Sexby's observations seem reliable and his descriptions give a good overview of how Myatt's Fields was composed at the end of the nineteenth century. He noted how:

The park lies a little below the level of Knatchbull Road, from which it is separated by an open wrought-iron railing, with massive and artistic gates, which are a decided ornament to the park. The principal entrance is through a porch attached to the superintendent's lodge, something after the style of a country lych-gate. The park is tastefully laid out with gravel walks, flower-beds, and grass enclosures, which are large enough to provide room for several tennis-courts. A portion of the ground is used as a gymnasium for boys and girls, the remainder of the buildings comprising a large circular shelter, a bandstand, and the necessary green-houses for the raising of the flowers for decoration.⁵²

Nearly ten years later, garden historian Alicia Amherst (the Hon Mrs Evelyn Cecil) published *London Parks and Gardens*. She, too, named the donor, repeated the brief family history of the estate, the handing over of the Park to the LCC, and described how 'Myatt's Fields or Camberwell Park is but a short distance to the south-west of Kennington. This Park of 14 1/2 acres was one of those princely gifts which have been showered on the inhabitants of London.'⁵³ Amherst thought Myatt's Fields 'one of the most tasteful of the new parks' and was particularly impressed with the lime avenue which she expected would 'some day be one of the great beauties of the neighbourhood, and which is in the meantime a pleasant shady walk'.⁵⁴ She continued:

The small Park in Camberwell has a little avenue of limes running straight across, with a centre where seats can be put and paths diverge at right angles. It is quite small, and yet the Park would be exactly like every other piece of ground, with no particular design, without this. It gives a point and centre to the meandering paths, and comes as a distinct relief.⁵⁵

Described as 'the largest area [...] we have hitherto dealt with' by the MPGA in 1889,

Myatt's Fields Park remains an exceptional park for a number of reasons. Historically, the park is important because it retains many of its original features, such as its layout, some of its built structures, planting and play areas, and as such is an unusual example of a surviving smaller-scale Victorian urban park. It also has interest in being one of the first municipal parks designed and laid out by a professional female landscape gardener who was active in the campaign for full suffrage. Its conveyance in trust to the local authority for the benefit of tenants by an enlightened landlord interested in cooperative principles adds another interesting dimension. But its true significance was enshrined in the original agreement between William Minet and the MPGA, which stipulated that the land be 'dedicated for the purposes of a Public Park and Recreation Ground for ever thereafter'.⁵⁶ These qualities - the combination of attractive landscape design with local amenity in what is now a highly populated area in which green space of any kind is in short supply - are as important today as the day that Myatt's Fields Park was opened on Tuesday 28th May 1889, when it 'was daily thronged with visitors'.⁵⁷

A NEW LOOK at J. GIBSON'S
'SHORT ACCOUNT of SEVERAL GARDENS
NEAR LONDON, WITH REMARKS on
SOME PARTICULARS WHEREIN THEY EXCEL,
or are DEFICIENT, UPON a VIEW of THEM
in DECEMBER 1691'
By Eileen Harris

Many garden historians have quoted from J. Gibson's 'Short Account of several Gardens near London, with remarks on some particulars wherein they excel, or are deficient, upon a View of them in December 1691' using the text communicated to the Society of Antiquaries by the Revd Dr Anthony Hamilton 'from an original Manuscript in his possession' on 3rd July 1794, and published in *Archaeologia* in that year.¹ The 'Account' supplies concise critical descriptions of twenty-eight contemporary gardens in and around London, but does not provide any

52. J J Sexby, *The Municipal Parks, Gardens and Open Spaces of London* (London: Elliot Stock, 1898), pp. 172-173.

53. Alicia Amherst, *London Parks and Gardens* (London: Archibald Constable & Co Ltd, 1907), pp. 166-168.

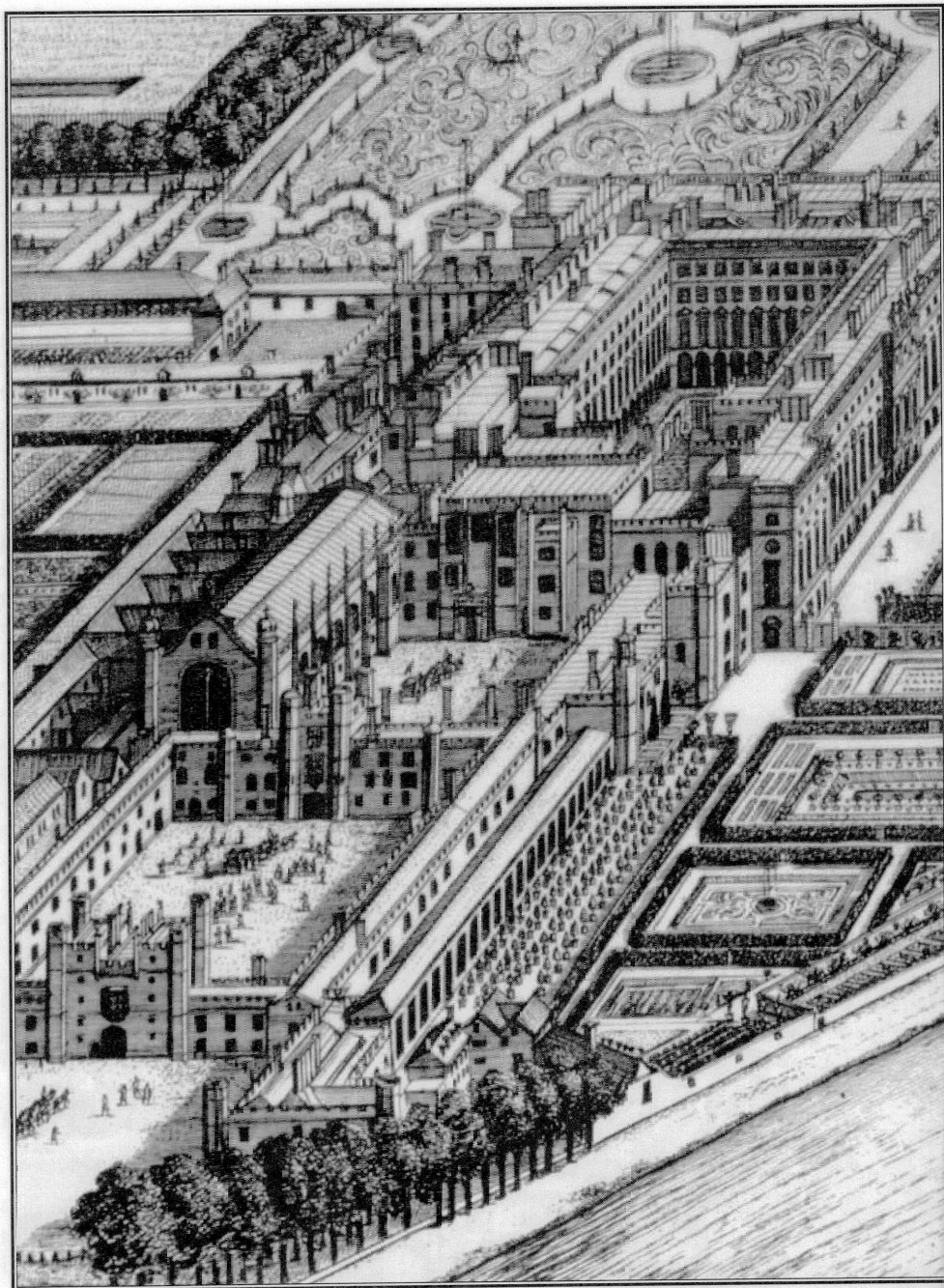
54. *Ibid.* p. 168.

55. *Ibid.* pp. 126-127.

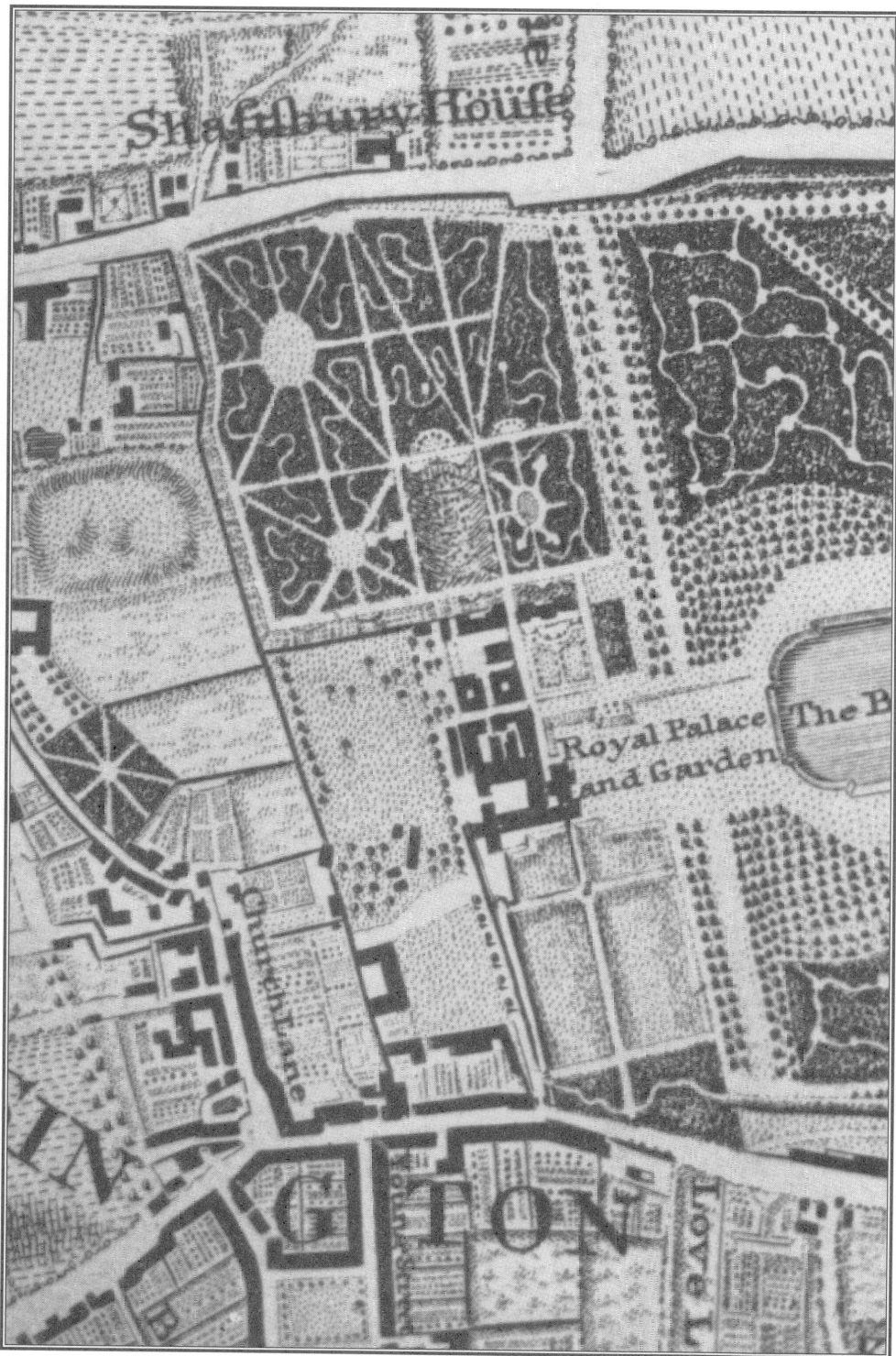
56. GL, Ms 21670/10, Agreement between W Minet and MPGA, 16 May 1888.

57. GL, Ms 10097/9, *MPGA Minutes*, Wednesday 5 June 1889, p. 10.

1. *Archaeologia*, XII, 1794, pp. 181-192. The account is signed J. Gibson and dated 26 January 1691 (i.e. 1692).



23. Detail of Leonard Knyff's *Hampton Court from the West*, 1707, showing the Lower Orangery Terrace and the Pond Gardens (COPYRIGHT HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES)



24. Detail from John Rocque's *An Exact Survey of the City of London, Westminster...and the Country Near Ten Miles Round* (1746) showing the gardens of Kensington Palace
(PRIVATE COLLECTION)

prefatory remarks on its purpose or origins. It is safe to assume that Hamilton, being one of the vice presidents of the Society of Antiquaries from 1788 until his death in 1813, had acquired the original manuscript for its antiquarian rather than garden interest.² Its present whereabouts are unknown. The 'Account' in *Archaeologia* was reprinted in 1887 by the bibliographer, William Carew Hazlitt (1834-1913), grandson of the essayist, in his *Gleanings in Old Garden Literature*.³ In reprinting the full text again, *The London Gardener* sets out for the first time to explain Gibson's purpose, to put it in context, and to add editorial information where possible.⁴

About J. Gibson himself we know nothing more than what little can be deduced from his 'Account'. First and foremost, he was a practising gardener mainly concerned with the management of citrus trees, myrtles and other tender evergreens. This special interest was the *raison d'être* for his garden tour, determining not only where he went, but also when. The month of December was an ideal time for him to observe and evaluate the winter protection of tender evergreens in orangeries, heated greenhouses and timber shelters. Greenhouses were noted in twenty-two of the twenty-eight gardens he visited - Revd Robert Uvedale, a famous botanist, had six or seven houses in his garden on Church Street, Enfield (no. 16). In order to catch the sun all these greenhouses were south facing; nevertheless, some were criticised by Gibson for being poorly sited without due regard to overshadowing by the surrounding hills (no. 14), by the dwelling house (nos. 8, 19), or by the church in the case of the Archbishop of Canterbury's garden at Lambeth Palace (no. 15).

December, being a quiet time in the garden, was also an opportune moment for Gibson to talk to the gardeners in charge who supplied him with interesting, ephemeral information on the prices of rare plants and trees: £20 for four striped hollies at Sir Henry Capel's garden at Kew and £40 for two lentiscus trees supplied by Anthony Verspritt

(no. 10); £10,000 paid by Sir Josiah Child for his plantations at Wanstead (no. 13); £3,000 that Sir Thomas Cooke was intending to spend on rebuilding a damaged glasshouse and other improvements to his garden at Hackney (no. 12).

Remarks on the summer as well as winter arrangements at Capel's garden at Kew, Sir William Temple's at West Sheen and Lord Fauconbergh's at Sutton Court, Chiswick suggest that Gibson came from or may have been working in that area. Although he must have had an itinerary for his twenty-eight visits, he did not present his material by place, but rather in an hierarchical sequence starting with three royal gardens, followed by the Physic Garden at Chelsea, seventeen private gardens and finally seven nursery gardens. With the exception of Brompton Park belonging to London and Wise (no. 20), 'sale' gardens had never been described before, though they were of considerable importance as suppliers of the rare trees and plants that were so eagerly sought-after.⁵

When Gibson made his garden tour in 1691, the cultivation of exotic plants in England was at a high point, stimulated and enriched by the ascent to the throne in February 1689 of William III and Mary II, Prince and Princess of Orange, two of the foremost plant collectors of the time. Shortly before he came to England, William bought the entire collection of the recently deceased Gaspar Fagel, which represented 'the zenith of Dutch horticulture in the seventeenth century'.⁶ Hundreds of plants that had never been seen in England arrived at Hampton Court in 1690 and were arrayed in three new, heated greenhouses that were said to be 'the best contrived in England'.⁷

Word of the horticultural wonders to be seen at Hampton Court would have spread like wild-fire to gardeners like Gibson, involved in the everyday management of such plants. John Evelyn's most extensive and important discourse on the mechanics of

2. Joan Evans, *A History of the Society of Antiquaries* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1956) pp. 200, 219.

3. William Carew Hazlitt, *Gleanings in Old Garden Literature*, (London, Elliot Stock, 1887), pp. 225-241.

4. T. R. Slater's brief notice, 'A short account of several gardens near London', *Garden History*, 6:2 (1978), pp. 29-30, describes the contents of Gibson's account and notes his interest in tender evergreens.

5. See John Harvey, *Early nurserymen* (London: Philimore 1974).

6. Carla Oldenburger-Ebbers, 'Notes on Plants Used in Dutch Gardens in the Second Half of the Seventeenth Century' in John Dixon Hunt, ed., *The Dutch Garden in the seventeenth century* (Washington, D.C.: Dumbarton Oaks, 1990), p. 173.

7. Miles Hadfield, *Gardening in Britain* (London: Hutchinson, 1960), p. 142; see also Elizabeth den Hartog and Carla Teune, 'Gaspar Fagel (1633-88): his garden and plant collection at Leeuwenhorst', *Garden History*, 30:2 (2002), pp. 191-205, esp. pp. 200-1.

heating greenhouses was published in 1691 in the eighth edition of his *Kalendarium*, and this too must have underpinned Gibson's tour later in the same year.⁸

Having sketched in the background of Gibson's 'Short Account' of his garden visits, we can now turn to what he had to say.

A Short Account of several Gardens near London, with remarks on some particulars wherein they excel, or are deficient, upon a View of them in December 1691.

1. HAMPTON COURT Garden [fig. 23] is a large plat, environed with an iron palisade round about next the park, laid all in walks, grass plats, and borders. Next to the house, some flat and broad beds are set with narrow rows of dwarf box, in figures like lace-patterns. In one of the lesser gardens is a large green house divided into several rooms, and all of them with stoves under them, and fire to keep a continual heat. In these there are no orange or lemon trees, or myrtle, or any greens, but such tender foreign ones that need continual warmth.

Note: For an account of William and Mary's glasshouses at Hampton Court see Terry Gough, 'The Exotic Garden: The Restoration of William and Mary's Lower Orangery Garden', *Historic Gardens*, Building Conservation Directory Report, 2000, pp. 7-11. The orange, lemon and other trees from Gaspar Fagel's collections at Leeuwenhorst remained there until 1692, when they were transferred to The Hague in August and September, and then to England in October. Elizabeth den Hartog and Carla Teune, 'Gaspar Fagel (1633-88): his garden and plant collection at Leeuwenhorst', *Garden History*, 39:2 (2002), p. 201.

2. *Kensington* Gardens are not great nor abounding with fine plants. [fig. 24] The orange, lemon, myrtles, and what other trees they had there in summer, were all removed to Mr. London's and Mr. Wise's greenhouse at

Brompton Park, a little mile from them. But the walls and grass laid very fine, and they were digging up a flat of four or five acres to enlarge their garden.

Note: William III paid for and maintained the greenhouse at the Brompton nursery, and also for a new stove built in 1701. The earliest recorded greenhouse at Kensington Gardens was the still surviving one built for Queen Anne in 1704-5 by Sir John Vanbrugh. See H. M. Colvin, ed., *The history of the King's Works* (London: HMSO, 1976), v. 192-94.

3. *The Queen Dowager's Garden*, at *Hammersmith*, has a good greenhouse, with a high erected front to the South, whence the roof falls backward. The house is well stored with greens of common kinds; but the Queen not being for curious plants or flowers, they want of the most curious sorts of greens, and in the garden there is little of value but wall trees: though the gardener there, Monsieur Hermon Van Guine, is a man of great skill and industry, having raised great numbers of orange and lemon trees by inoculation, with myrtles, Roman bayes, and other greens of pretty shapes, which he has to dispose of.

Note: The 'Queen Dowager's House', later known as Rivercourt House, Upper Mall, Hammersmith, was occupied by Queen Catherine of Braganza, widow of Charles II, from 1686 to 1692. In addition to a greenhouse, there was a 'bay-tree house' which is not mentioned by Gibson. The latter was the orangery or banqueting house, parts of which survived into the nineteenth century. See *The parish of Hammersmith*, Survey of London VI (1955), p. 75; Barbara Denny, *Hammersmith and Shepherds Bush Past*, (London: Historical Publications, 1995), p. 17. Nothing is known about the gardener Monsieur Hermon Van Guine, who according to Gibson also sold the rare plants he had propagated, though he is likely to have been Dutch.

4. *Beddington* Garden, at present in the hands of the duke of Norfolk, but belonging to the family of Carew, has in it the best orangery in

8. Douglas Chambers, 'John Evelyn and The Invention Of The Heated Greenhouse', *Garden History*, 20:2 (1992), pp. 201-6.

England. The orange and lemon trees there grow in the ground, and have done so near one hundred years, as the gardener, an aged man, said he believed. There are a great number of them, the house wherein they are being above two hundred feet long; they are most of them thirteen feet high, and very full of fruit, the gardener not having taken off so many flowers this summer as usually others do. He said, he gathered off them at least ten thousand oranges this last year. The heir of the family being but about five years of age, the trustees take care of the orangery, and this year they built a new house over them. There are some myrtles growing among them, but they look not well for want of trimming. The rest of the garden is all out of order, the orangery being the gardener's chief care; but it is capable of being made one of the best gardens in England, the soil being very agreeable, and a clear silver stream running through it.

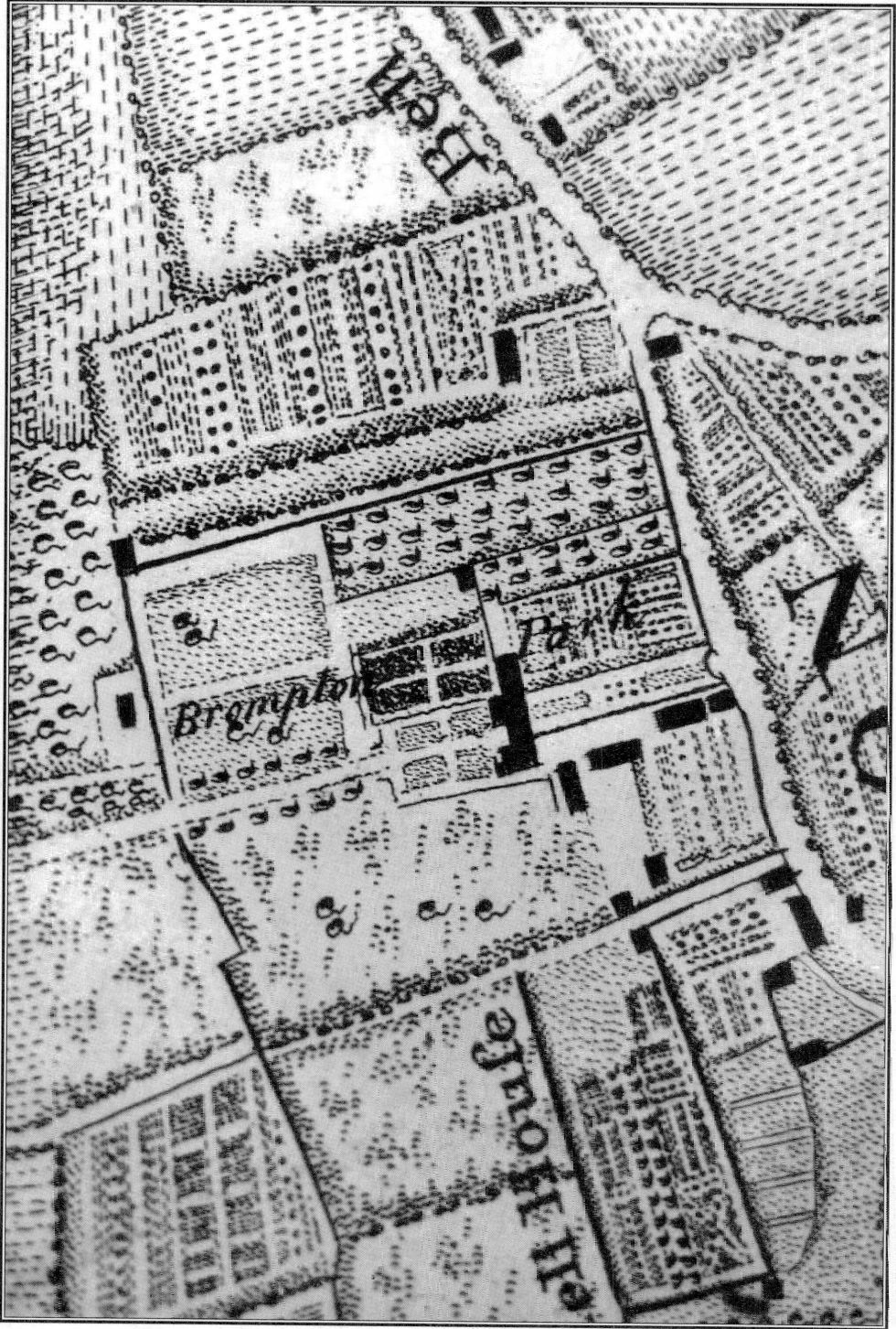
Note: Beddington had been the site of a famous orange garden since Elizabethan times, when Sir Francis Carew imported orange trees and succeeded in growing them; John Evelyn gave him credit for being the first man in England to do so. His orangery followed the pattern of Italian ones such as Duke Farnese's, with the trees planted in the ground and surrounded by a timber framework that could be boarded over in winter. It was heated by two iron stoves. A new orangery was built in 1652-3. Evelyn visited Beddington on 27th September 1658, and commented: that the estate was 'famous for the first orange garden of England being now over-grown trees, & planted in the ground, & secured in winter with a wooden tabernacle and stoves'. On 20th September 1700, Evelyn found the famous orange trees 'in decay as well as the Grotts & other curiosities ... The Estate & Parke about it also in decay: the negligence of a few years, ruining the Elegances of many'. May Woods and Arete Swartz-Warren, *Glass Houses: a History of Greenhouses, Orangeries and Conservatories* (London: Aurum, 1988), pp. 12-14. John Evelyn, *The diary of John Evelyn*, ed. E. S. de Beer (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1955), v, p. 427. See Virginia Black, 'Beddington - 'the best

Orangery in England', *Journal of Garden History*, 3:2 (1983), pp. 113-120.

5. *Chelsea Physick Garden* has great variety of plants, both in and out of greenhouses. Their perennial green hedges and rows of different coloured herbs are very pretty, and so are their banks set with shades of herbs in the Irish stitchway, but many plants of the garden were not in so good order as might be expected, and as would have been answerable to other things in it. After I had been there, I heard that Mr. Watts the keeper of it, was blamed for his neglect, and that he would be removed.

Note: It is interesting that Gibson does not notice the heated greenhouse, which had been built in 1681 and was the first of its type in England. The greenhouse had been described by Hans Sloane and John Evelyn. On 11th November 1684, Sloane wrote to John Ray: '[Mr Watts] has a new contrivance, at least in this country; viz. he makes under the floor of his greenhouse a great fire plate, with grate, ash-hole etc., and conveys the warmth through the whole house, by tunnels; so that he hopes, by the help of weather-glasses within, to bring on or keep the air at what degree of warmth he pleases, letting in upon occasion the outward air by the windows. He thinks to make, by this means, an artificial spring, summer and winter.' By 1690, Watts' activities as a merchant adventurer and the demands of his own garden near Enfield (no. 19) were causing him to neglect his duties as manager of the Physic Garden, to which he had been appointed in 1680. He left Chelsea in August 1692 and his post was filled by Samuel Doody. Sue Minter, *The Apothecaries' Garden: a New History of the Chelsea Physic Garden* (Stroud: Sutton Publishing, 2000), pp. 5, 7, 9.

6. My Lord *Ranelagh's* Garden being lately made, the plants are but small, but the plats, borders, and walks, are curiously kept, and elegantly designed, having the advantage of opening into Chelsea college walks. The kitchen garden there lies very fine, with walks and seats, one of which, being large and covered, was then under the hands of a curious



25. Detail from John Rocque's *An Exact Survey of the City of London, Westminster...and the Country Near Ten Mile Round* (1746) showing Brompton Park Nursery
(PRIVATE COLLECTION)

painter. The house there is very fine within, all the rooms being wainscoted with Norway oak, and all the chimneys adorned with carving, as in the council-chamber in Chelsea college.

Note: As Treasurer of Chelsea Hospital (1685-1702), Richard Jones, 3rd Viscount and 1st Earl of Ranelagh (?1638-1712) was able to acquire land adjoining the hospital on which he built a house to his own design in about 1689, and laid out a garden probably with the help of Henry Wise whom he remembered in his will. He was close to William III who appointed him to the lucrative post of Paymaster of his Army in 1691. Howard Colvin, *Biographical Dictionary of British architects 1600-1840* (3rd ed; London: Yale University Press, 1995).

7. *Arlington* Garden, being now in the hands of my Lord of Devonshire, is a fair plat, with good walks, both airy and shady. There are six of the greatest earthen pots that are any where else, being at least two feet over within the edge; but they stand abroad, and have nothing in them but the tree holy-oke, an indifferent plant, which grows well enough in the ground. Their greenhouse is very well, and their green-yard excels; but their greens were not so bright and clean as farther off in the country, as if they suffered something from the smutty air of the town.

Note: Following the death of Henry Bennet, 1st Earl of Arlington in 1685, Arlington House near St James's Park was occupied by William, 1st Duke of Devonshire (1640-1707), who was related by marriage to the Dowager Countess of Arlington, Isabella van Nassau, a Dutch aristocrat. It was probably Devonshire who erected and stocked the greenhouse, encouraged, no doubt, by the example of William III to whom he was closely allied, having been lord high steward at the coronation. Arlington House became Buckingham House in 1700. See Jane Brown, *The Garden at Buckingham Palace: an Illustrated History* (London: Royal Collection Publications, 2004), ch. 1.

8. My Lord *Fauconberg's* Garden, at *Sutton Court*, has several pleasant walks and apartments in it; but the upper garden next the house is too irregular, and the bowling green too little to be commended. The greenhouse is very well made, but ill set. It is divided into three rooms, and very well furnished with good greens; but it is so placed, that the sun shines not on the plants in winter, where they most need its beams, the dwelling-house standing betwixt the sun and it. The maze or wilderness there is very pretty, being set all with greens, with a cypress arbour in the middle, supported with a well-wrought timber frame; of late it grows thin at the bottom, by their letting the fir trees grow without their reach unclipped. The enclosure wired-in for white pheasants and partridges is a fine apartment, especially in summer, when the bones [bowls?] of Italian bayes are set out, and the timber walk with vines on the side is very fine when the blew pots are on the pedestals on the top of it, and so is the fish-pond with th[e] greens at the head of it.

Note: Thomas Belayse, Earl of Fauconberg (1627/8-1700) occupied Sutton Court, Chiswick from 1676 until his death in 1700. He was a staunch supporter of William III who rewarded him with an earldom in 1689. His widow, Mary Cromwell, daughter of the Protector, lived at Sutton Court until her death in 1713. The place was acquired by Richard, 3rd Earl of Burlington in 1727. Warwick Draper, *Chiswick* (London: Philip Allan, 1923), pp. 78-80.

9. Sir *William Temple*, being lately gone to live at his house in Farneham, his garden and greenhouse at *West Sheene*, where he has lived of late years, are not so well kept as they have been, many of his orange trees, and other greens, being give to Sir John Temple, his brother, at East Sheene, and other gentlemen; but his greens that are remaining (being as good a stock as most greenhouses have) are very fresh and thriving, the room they stand in suiting well with them and being well contrived, if it be no defect in it that the floor is a foot at least within the ground, as is also the floor of the dwelling house. He had attempted to have orange trees to grow in the ground (as

at Beddington), and for that purpose had enclosed a square of ten feet wide, with a low brick wall, and sheltered them with wood, but they would not do. His orange trees in summer stand not in any particular square or enclosure, under some shelter, as most others do, but are disposed on pedestals of Portland stone, at equal distance, on a board over against a South wall, where is his best fruit, and fairest walk.

Note: Sir William Temple (1628-99) lived at Sheen from 1665 to 1686 when he moved to his new house, Moor Park near Farnham, Surrey. His eldest son, John, was in occupation in 1688 when the garden was visited by Evelyn who was greatly impressed by the orangery and the fruit trees 'exquisitely nailed and applied to the walls'. Evelyn, *Diaries*, iv, p. 576. Temple's three embassies in The Hague and his friendship with William III must have influenced his plant collecting. His ideas on gardening can be read in his essay 'Upon the gardens of Epicurus', first published in the second part of his *Miscellanea*, in 1690.

10. Sir Henry Capell's garden at Kew has as curious greens, and is as well kept as any about London. His two lentiscus trees⁹ (for which he paid forty pounds to Verspritt) are said to be the best in England, not only of their kind, but of greens. He has four white striped hollies, about four feet above their cases, kept round and regular, which cost him five pounds a tree this last year, and six laurustinuses he has, with large round equal heads, which are very flowery and make a fine shew. His orange trees and other choicer greens stand out in summer in two walks about fourteen feet wide, enclosed with a timber frame about seven feet high, and set with silver firs hedge-wise, which are as high as the frame, and this to secure them from wind and tempest, and sometimes from the scorching sun. His terrace walk, bare in the middle, and grass on either side, with a hedge of rue on one side next a low wall, and a row of dwarf trees on the other, shews very fine, and so do from thence his yew hedges with trees of

the same at equal distance, kept in pretty shapes with tonsure. His flowers and fruits are of the best, for the advantage of which two parallel walls, about fourteen feet high, were now raised and almost finished. If the ground were not a little irregular, it would excel in other points, as well as in furniture.

Note: Gibson does not mention, and presumably did not see, the 'two Greene-houses for Oranges & Myrtils' (the 'Orangerie and Myrtetum') communicating with the ground-floor rooms of Capel's house at Kew, which Evelyn saw on 30th October 1683 and again on 29th March 1688 and thought 'very well contriv'd'. Evelyn, *Diary*, iv, pp. 347, 576.

11. Sir Stephen Fox's garden at Chiswick being but of five years standing, is brought to great perfection for the time. It excels for a fair gravel walk betwixt two yew hedges, with rounds and spires of the same, all under smooth tonsure. At the far end of the garden are two myrtle hedges that cross the garden; they are about three feet high, and covered in winter with painted board cases. The other gardens are full of flowers and salleting, and the walls well clad. The greenhouse is well built, well set, and well furnished.

Note: The garden described by Gibson as being 'of five years standing' belonged to the house built by Hugh May for Sir Stephen Fox in 1682-3. Evelyn, who was asked 'to give some directions for the gardens' in October 1682, thought it was much too narrow, and too near the highway and the 1st Earl of Burlington's great house. In 1691 Fox acquired more land on the west side of Chiswick Lane where he built a larger house, known as Manor Farm House, with better gardens. Gibson's description has been erroneously related to the second house. Fox (1627-1716), an enormously wealthy financier and government official, was William III's London banker from 1680. Evelyn, *Diary*, iv, p. 294; Draper, Chiswick, pp. 87-88. See also Sally Jeffery, "The flower of all the private gentlemen's palaces in England": Sir Stephen Fox's "extraordinarily fine" garden at Chiswick', *Garden History*, 32:1 (2004), pp. 1-19, which

9. *Pistacia lentiscus* (mastic tree): a low-growing evergreen shrub from the Mediterranean. Recommended by Evelyn as among the evergreens 'accommodable for Groves'. John Evelyn, *Elysium Britannicum*, ed. John E. Ingram (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2001), pp. 147-8.

indicates that Fox was buying orange trees, bays and tuberose from nurseries such as John Hill and Anthony Verspritt in 1693-4, several years after Gibson's visit.

12. Sir *Thomas Cooke's* garden at *Hackney* is very large, and not so fine at present, because of his intending to be at three thousand pounds charge with it this next summer, as his gardener said. There are two greenhouses in it, but the greens are not extraordinary, for one of the roofs being made a receptacle for water, overcharged with weight, fell down last year upon the greens, and made a great destruction among the trees and pots. In one part of it is a warren, containing about two acres, very full of coney, though there was but a couple put in a few years since. There is a pond or a mote round about them, and on the outside of that a brick wall four feet high, both which I think will not keep them within their compass. There is a large fish-pond lying on the South to a brick wall, which is finely clad with philaria. Water brought from far in pipes furnishes his several ponds as they want it.

Note: Apart from his lucrative business as a merchant goldsmith, Sir Thomas Cooke (c.1648-1709) had a vast fortune in shares in the East India Company of which he was deputy governor and later governor. He acquired his house at Hackney, Lord's-hold Manor, in 1676. In 1691 he married his daughter, Elizabeth, to Sir Josiah Child of Wanstead (see no. 13).

13. Sir *Josiah Child's* plantations of walnut and other trees at *Wansted* are much more worth seeing than his gardens, which are but indifferent. Besides, the great number of fruit trees he has planted in his enclosures with great regularity, he has vast numbers of elms, ashes, limes, &c. planted in rows on Epping forest. Before his outgate, which is above twelve score distance from his house, are two large fish ponds on the forest, in the way from his house, with trees on either side lying betwixt them; in the middle of either pond is an island betwixt twenty and thirty yards over, and in the middle of each a house, the one like the other. They are said to be well stocked with fish, and so they had need to be if they cost him five thousand pounds, as it is said they did; as also

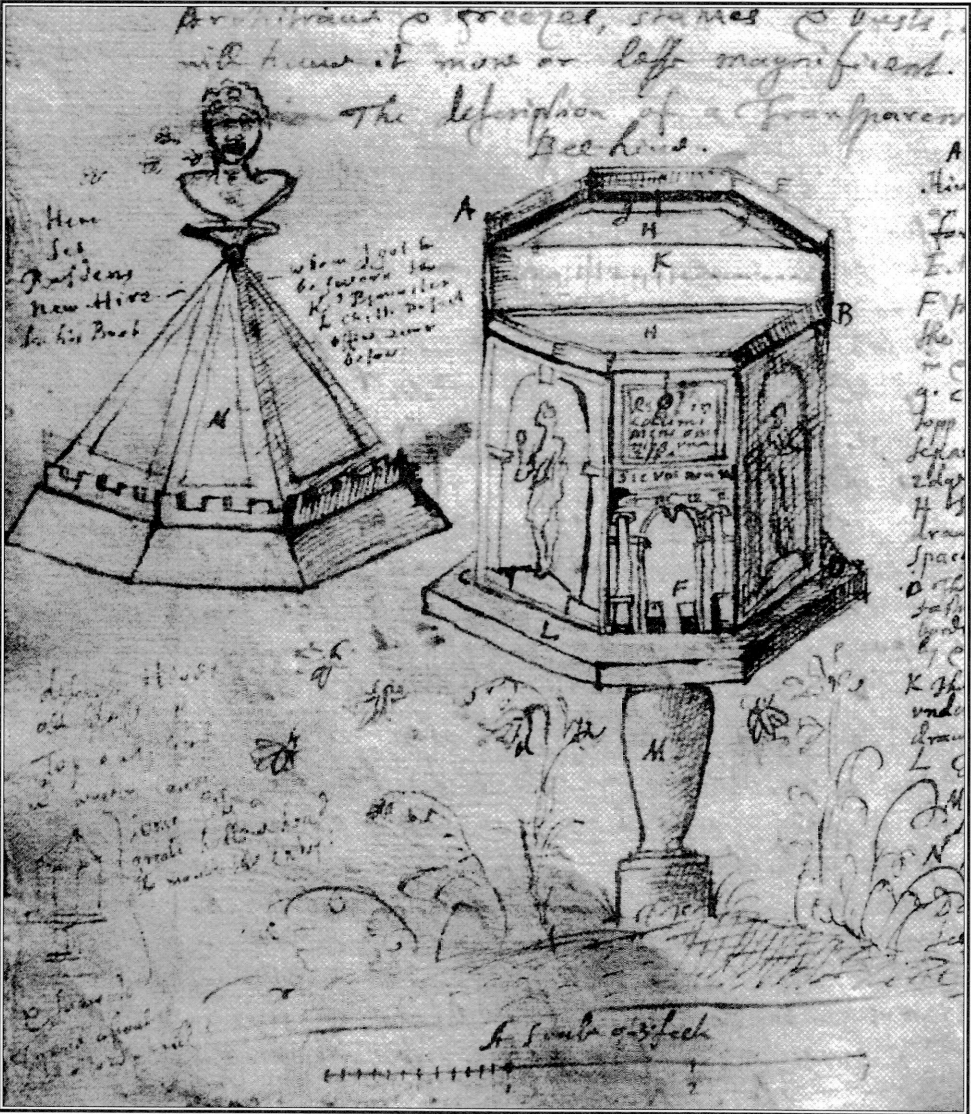
that his plantations cost twice as much.

Note: The Wanstead estate was acquired in 1667 by Sir Josiah Child (1630-1699), Governor of the East India Company and a man of legendary wealth. Gibson's brief and not entirely complimentary account is the fullest description we have of the late seventeenth-century garden before it was remodelled by George London from 1706. Its value is further enhanced by the absence of any surviving visual record of this period.

14. Sir *Robert Clayton* has great plantations at *Marden* in Surrey, in a soil not very benign to plants, but with great charge he forces Nature to obey him. His gardens are big enough, but strangely irregular, his chief walk not being level, but rising in the middle and falling much more at one end than the other; neither is the wall carried by a line either on the top or sides, but runs like an ordinary park wall, built as the ground goes. He built a good greenhouse, but set it so that the hills in winter keep the sun from it, so that they place their greens in a house on higher ground not built for that purpose. His dwelling house stands very low, surrounded with great hills; and yet they have no water but what is forced from a deep well into a waterhouse, whence they are furnished by pipes at pleasure.

Note: Marden, near Godstone in Surrey, was bought by the wealthy banker and one-time Lord Mayor of London, Sir Robert Clayton (1629-1707), from Mary Guitings, heir of Evelyn's kinsman, Sir John Evelyn, in 1672. Evelyn, who knew the place in its previous barren state, was in great admiration of the improvements made by Clayton with 'extraordinary expense'. Evelyn, *Diary*, v. pp. 425-6.

15. The Archbishop of *Canterbury's* garden at *Lambeth* has little in it but walks, the late archbishop not delighting in one, but they are now making them better; and they have already made a greenhouse, one of the finest and costliest about the town. It is of three rooms, the middle having a stove under it; the fore-sides of the rooms are almost all glass, the roof covered with lead, the whole part (to adorn the building) rising gavel-wise higher than the



26. Illustration of a 'Transparant Bee-Hive' included in John Evelyn's manuscript of the 'Elysium Britannicum' (c.1702) (COURTESY BRITISH LIBRARY)

rest; but it is placed so near Lambeth church, that the sun shines most on it in winter after eleven o'clock; a fault owned by the gardener, but not thought on by the contrivers. Most of the greens are oranges and lemons, which have very large ripe fruit on them.

Note: At the time of Gibson's visit the incumbent archbishop was Dr John Tillotson (1630-94) who was elected in May 1691 and moved into the palace in the following November (see also no. 17). By mid December he had built a three-room greenhouse under which his son-in-law, James Chadwick, had installed the furnace perfected by Evelyn and first described in the new edition of his *Kalendarium Hortense* in 1691. Evelyn, *Diary*, v., p. 80; Douglas Chambers, 'John Evelyn and The Invention Of The Heated Greenhouse', *Garden History*, 20:2 (1992), pp. 201-6.

16. Dr. *Uvedale* of *Enfield* is a great lover of plants, and having an extraordinary art in managing them, is become master of the greatest and choicest collection of exotic greens that is perhaps any where in this land. His greens take up six or seven houses or roomsteads. His orange trees and largest myrtles fill up his biggest house, and another house is filled with myrtles of a less size, and these more nice and curious plants, that need closer keeping are in warmer rooms, and some of them stoved when he thinks fit. His flowers are choice, his stock numerous, and his culture of them very methodical and curious; but, to speak of the garden in the whole, it does not lie fine to please the eye, his delight and care lying more in the ordering particular plants, than in the pleasing view and form of his garden.

Note: As a distinguished botanist, Robert Uvedale (1642-1722), was the recipient of curious plants and seeds from all over Britain, Europe and the Far East. His garden at Enfield was on the south side of Church Street. G. S. Boulger, 'Uvedale, Robert (1642-1722)', rev. Anita McConnell, *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004). Dr Uvedale supplied seeds to Hampton Court in 1700-01; see his 'Catalogue of

seeds planted in Hampton Court garden', British Library Sloane MS 965.

17. Dr. *Tillotson's* garden near *Endfield* is a pleasureable place for walks, and some good walls there are too; but the tall aspin trees, and the many ponds in the heart of it, are not so agreeable. He has two houses for greens, but had few in them, all the best being removed to Lambeth. The house is moated about.

Note: Dr John Tillotson's moated house at Edmonton was The Rectory on the north side of Church Street (now Tillotson Road) belonging to the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's of which he was canon in 1675 and Dean in 1689. T. F. T. Baker (ed.), *VCH Middlesex*, v (Woodbridge, 1976), p. 154.

18. Mr. *Evelyn* has a pleasant villa at *Deptford*, a fine garden for walks and hedges (especially his holly one, which he writes of in his *Sylva*), and a pretty little greenhouse, [fig. 27] with an indifferent stock in it. In his garden he has four large round philareas, smooth clipped, raised on a single stalk from the ground, a fashion now much used. Part of his garden is very woody and shady for walking; but his garden, not being walled, has little of the best fruits.

Note: Gibson cannot have seen the whole of John Evelyn's garden at Sayes Court, Deptford, especially not the western area nearest the house, to criticize it so unjustly for lacking walls and fruit. In 1686 Evelyn recorded planting a great number and variety of fruit trees on walls 'by the stable', in the 'Greate Court', in the 'Fountain Garden' and 'On the wall of the Bowling Greene'; and this is confirmed by the map of Sayes Court drawn by Joel Gascoyne and annotated by Evelyn in 1692, a year after Gibson's visit. See Prudence Leith-Ross, 'The Garden of John Evelyn at Deptford', *Garden History*, 25:2 (1997), pp. 147-52.

19. Mr. *Watts's* house and garden made near *Endfield* are new; but the garden for the time is very fine, and large and regularly laid out, with a fair fish-pond in the middle. He has

built a greenhouse this summer with three rooms (somewhat like the archbishop of Canterbury's) the middle with a stove under it, and a sky-light above, and both of them of glass on the foreshide, with shutters within, and the roof finely covered with Irish slate. But this fine house is under the same great fault with three below (Numbers 8, 14, 15.): they built it in the summer, and thought not of winter; the dwelling house on the South side interposing betwixt the sun and it now when its beams should refresh plants.

Note: In 1690-91, while he was still managing the Chelsea Physic Garden (see no. 5), James Watts created a large 'new' garden for himself at Enfield. Its three-room greenhouse with under-floor heating can be related not only to the one that Archbishop Tillotson erected at Lambeth Palace on a model perfected by Evelyn (no. 15), but also to Watts's greenhouse at the Physic Garden which Evelyn visited in August 1685. See Evelyn, *Diary*, iv, p. 462.

20. *Brompton Park* garden, [fig. 25] belonging to Mr. *London* and Mr. *Wise*, has a large long greenhouse, the front all glass and board, the North side brick. Here the King's greens, which were in summer at Kensington, are placed, but they take but little room in comparison of their own. Their garden is chiefly a nursery for all sorts of plants, of which they are very full.

Note: Founded in 1681, the Brompton Park Nursery was the largest and most celebrated commercial nursery in London, occupying one hundred acres on the north side of Brompton Road more or less where the Victoria and Albert Museum is now.

21. Mr. *Raynton's* garden in *Endfield* is observable for nothing but his greenhouse, which he has had for many years. His orange, lemon, and myrtle trees, are as full and furnished as any in cases. He has a myrtle cut in shape of a chaire, that is at least six feet high from the case, but the lower part is thin of leaves. The rest of the garden is very ordinary, and on the outside of his garden he has a warren, which makes the ground about his seat lye rudely, and sometimes the coneyes work under the wall into the garden.

Note: Nicholas Raynton's Enfield garden was at Forty Hall which was built in 1629-36 for his kinsman, Sir Nicholas Raynton, a wealthy haberdasher and Lord Mayor of London in 1632. Remnants of the late seventeenth-century formal garden are thought to survive in the present park. See Bridget Cherry and Nikolaus Pevsner, *The Buildings of England, London 4: North* (London: Penguin, 1999), pp. 442-5.

22. Mr. *Richardson* at *East Barnet* has a pretty garden, with fine walks and good flowers; but the garden not being walled about they have less summer fruit, yet are, therefore, the more industrious in managing the peach and apricot dwarf standards, which, they say, supply them plentifully with very good fruit. There is a good fish-pond in the middle of it, from which a broad gravel walk leads to the highway, where a fair pair of broad gates, with a narrower on either side, open at the top to look through small bars, well wrought and well painted, are a great ornament to the garden. They have orange and lemon trees; but the wife and son being the managers of the garden (the husband being gentry and not minding it), they cannot prevail for a house for them other than a barn end.

Note: John Richardson (d. 1694) acquired Little Grove in East Barnet in 1680. The numerous trees – fruit trees, elms and others – which he planted there were highly prized by him and protected by covenants in his will of 18th July 1693. See Frederick Charles Cass, *East Barnet* (S.I.: London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, 1885-1892), p. 105.

23. Captain *Foster's* garden at *Lambeth* has many curiosities in it. His greenhouse is full of fresh and flourishing plants, and before it is the finest striped holly hedge that perhaps is in England. He has many myrtles, not the greatest, but of the most fanciful shapes that are any where else. He has a framed walk of timber covered with vines, which, with others, running on most of his walls without prejudice to his lower trees, yield him a deal of wine. Of flowers he has good choice, and his Virginia and other birds in a great variety, with his glass hive (fig. 26), add much to the pleasure of his garden.

Note: Captain Foster's garden at Lambeth was an unusual commercial nursery which apart from its rare plants, had rare birds and one of the famous glass apiaries made by Dr John Wilkins (1614-72), author of *Mathematical Magick or the Wonders That May Be Performed by Mechanical Geometry* (1680), Warden of Wadham College, Oxford and later Bishop of Chester. Evelyn had one at Sayes Court which Gibson did not see, Evelyn, *Diary*, iii, p. 110.

24. Monsieur *Anthony Versprit* has a little garden of very choice things. His greenhouse has no very great number of plants, but what he has are of the best sort, and very well ordered. His oranges and lemons (fruit and tree) are extraordinary fair, and for lentiscus's and Roman bayes he has choice above others.

Note: Anthony Versprit's nursery garden specializing in exotics was in Lambeth in the Marsh and Wall Liberty. See John Harvey, *Early nurserymen* (London: Philimore, 1974), p. 49.

25. *Ricketts*, at *Hoxton*, has a large ground, and abundantly stocked with all manner of flowers, fruit-trees, and other garden plants, with lime trees, which are now much planted; and, for a sale garden, he has a very good greenhouse, and well filled with fresh greens, besides which he has another room very full of greens in pots. He has a greater stock of Assyrian thyme than any body else; for, besides many pots of it, he has beds abroad, with plenty of roots, which they cover with mats and straw in the winter. He sells his things with the dearest, and, not taking due care to have his plants prove well, he is supposed to have lost much of his custom.

Note: George Ricketts (c.1635-1706) was one of the leading nurserymen and best florists of the period, with large premises at Hoxton between Kingsland Road and Hoxton Street. See Harvey, *Early nurserymen*, p. 48.

26. *Pearson* has not near so large a ground as *Ricketts* (on whom he almost joins), and therefore he has not so many trees, but of flowers he has great choice, and of anemonies he avers he

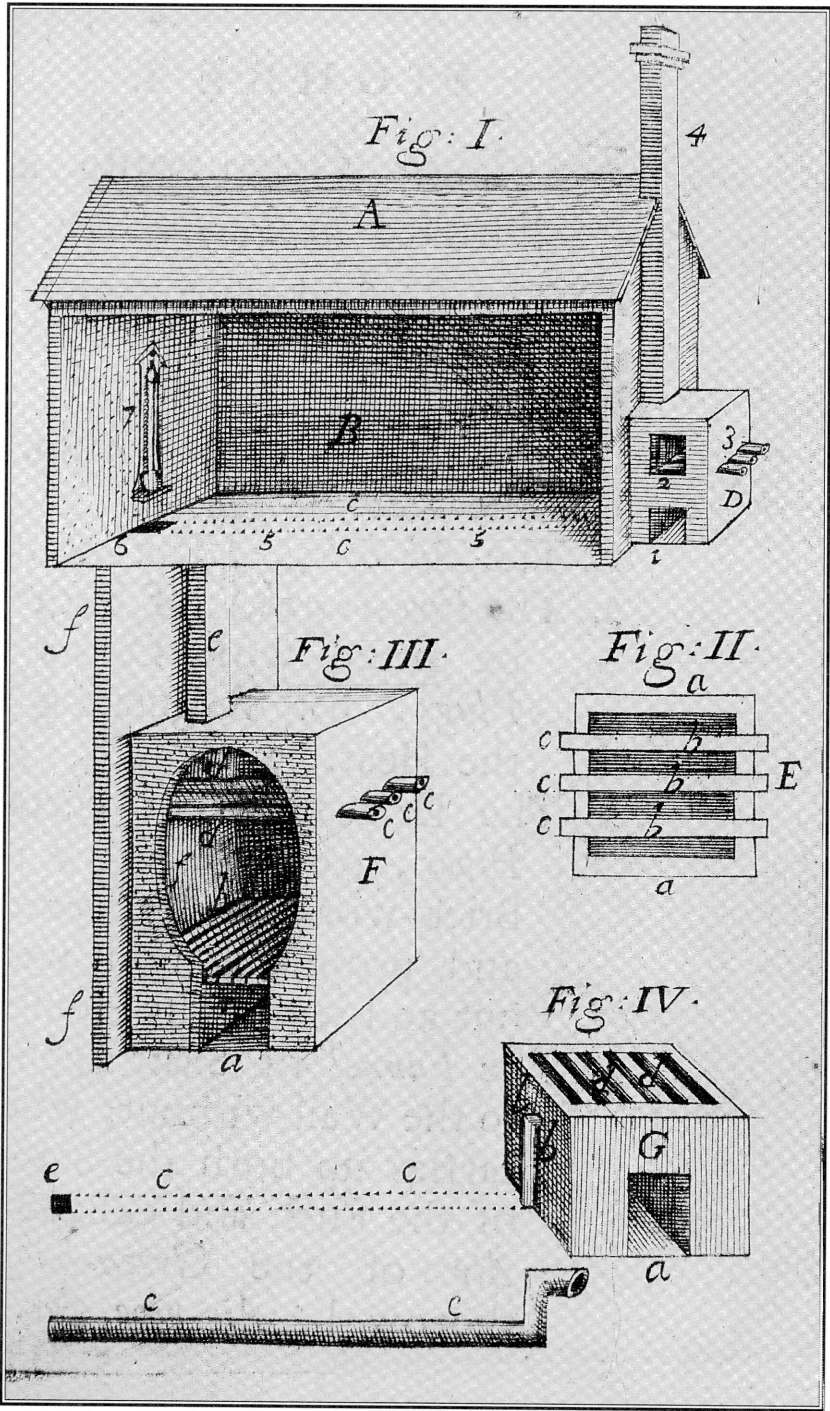
has the best about London, and sells them only to gentlemen. He has no greenhouse, yet has abundance of myrtles and striped philareas, with oranges and other greens, which he keeps safe enough under sheds, sunk a foot within ground, and covered with straw. He has abundance of cypresses, which, at three feet high, he sells for four pence apiece to those that take any number. He is moderate in his prices, and accounted very honest in his dealing, which gets him much chapmanry.

Note: Pearson, Ricketts' neighbour at Hoxton, is thought to be Samuel Peirson, sr., nursery gardener of Hoxton who died in 1700. See Harvey, *Early nurserymen*, p. 48.

27. *Darby*, at *Hoxton*, has but a little garden, but is master of several curious greens that other sale-gardeners want, and which he saves from cold and winter weather in greenhouses of his own making. His *Fritilaria Crassa* (a green) had a flower on it of the breadth of a half crown, like an embroidered star, of several colours; I saw not the like of any where, no, not at Dr. Uvedale's, though he has the same plant. He raises many striped hollies by inoculation, though Captain Foster grafts them as we do apple tre[e]s. He is very curious in propagating greens, but is dear with them. He has a folio paper book in which he has pasted the leaves and flowers of almost all manner of plants, which make a pretty shew, and are more instructive than any cuts in herbals.

Note: William Darby (fl. 1670s-1710) began to stock his nursery around 1677, and was described by his successor John Colville in *The curious and profitable gardener* (1718) as a 'famous Gardener, noted for one of the first in England who chose the Culture of Exotic Plants'. An American aloe over twenty years old bought from Anthony Versprit (see no. 24) was one of 'the first curious Exotic Plant[s] he ever had'. See Harvey, *Early nurserymen*, pp. 49, 50.

28. *Clement's*, at *Mile-end*, has no bigger a garden than *Darby*, but has more greens, yet not of such curious sorts. He keeps them in a greenhouse made with a light charge. He has vines in many places about old trees, which



27. John Evelyn, *Kalendarium Hortense* (1691)
showing *fig. i* The Whole Greenhouse and Furnace in Perspective; *fig. ii* The Furnace Air-piper;
fig. iii The Whole Stove or Furnace; *fig. iv* The Ash-hearth
(PRIVATE COLLECTION)

they wind about. He made wine this year of his white Muscadine, and white Frontinac, better I thought than any French white wine. He keeps a shop of seeds in plants in pots next the street.

Note: It has been suggested that Mr Clements's small nursery garden was the nucleus of the great Mile End Nursery formed by James Gordon after 1742. See Harvey, *Early nurserymen*, p. 48.

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HIERONYMOUS GRIMM'S DEPICTIONS of GARDENS in CAMDEN in THE LATE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

By Samantha Wyndham

Shortly after his arrival in England in 1768, the Swiss-born topographical artist Samuel Hieronymous Grimm (1733-1794) embarked on a tour of the countryside and villages to the north of London. The result of his travels, a collection of thirty pen-and-wash drawings dated between April to September 1772, are now in Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, where they provide an intriguing visual record of Camden Town, Marylebone, St Pancras and Kentish Town. Several of the drawings show taverns and inns, many of which had extensive gardens.

Grimm's drawing of *A farm behind Jew's Harp house* (fig. 28), when compared with a watercolour by William Sherlock of c.1800, can now be identified as Willan's Farm, which stood in Marylebone Park, just north of Portland Place in what is now the south-east corner of Regent's Park.¹ Attached to Willan's Farm was the former White House Farm, a building relinquished in 1745 when its tenant, the widower Mrs Mary Hall, went bankrupt following the decimation of her dairy herd by an infectious disease from the Low Countries. Shortly thereafter, White House Farm was converted to become the Jew's Harp tavern, a

popular place of entertainment particularly after the closure of Marylebone Gardens in 1778.

Sherlock's watercolour shows the rose-arbour, a single-storey circular structure with a sloping roof, set alongside the tavern and next to a pond. The arbour was divided into alcoves with a wooden soldier at the entrance to each, and tables and chairs within. It is not clear whether this structure existed when Grimm drew Willan's Farm, just behind the Jew's Harp tavern, but in 1785 the inn's proprietor, advertising in the *Morning Chronicle*, promised visitors skittle alleys and rose gardens, in addition to 'a stock of the Best Wines, Spirituous Liquers, Cyder, Perry, Fine Ales, &c.'

The Brill near St Pancras (fig. 29) still described in the nineteenth century as 'a comfortable country tavern', was situated on what is now the junction between Ossulston Street and Phoenix Road, close to Brill Place in Somers Town. Like the Jew's Harp and *The Old George*, (fig. 30) which was probably located somewhere in the vicinity of the Royal Veterinary College just north of Pancras Road, the Brill provided a welcome retreat from the city. Writing of the 1820s, Frederick Miller recalled 'Mr. Lawrence, the master of a school in Wilsted-street, [who] occasionally took his boys for a treat in the summer-time to the "Brill", where they enjoyed games, and took tea afterwards on the roof of the house, from which they had a fine view of the country'.²

Grimm's drawing of *St Pancras* (fig. 31) was executed from the gardens of the Elephant & Castle inn, on the junction of what are now St Pancras Way and Crowndale Road, looking south down Pancras Road. On the far left is the tower of St Pancras Old Church. The substantial building with domed cupola, just left of centre, must be the Smallpox Hospital, which was built in 1746, although the artist seems to have placed it on the wrong side of the road. Next to the church is the Adam & Eve tavern of Pancras Road, an inn renowned for its extensive pleasure grounds, which are evident on a map of 1801, but which had been appropriated as an extension to the cemetery by 1804. In 1770, George Lambert, the proprietor of the Adam & Eve, placed the following advertisement:

1. Sherlock's watercolour of Willan's Farm is reproduced in Ann Saunders, *Regent's Park* (London, 1981), plate 6.

2. Frederick Miller, *Saint Pancras Past and Present* (London, 1874), pp. 77-78.