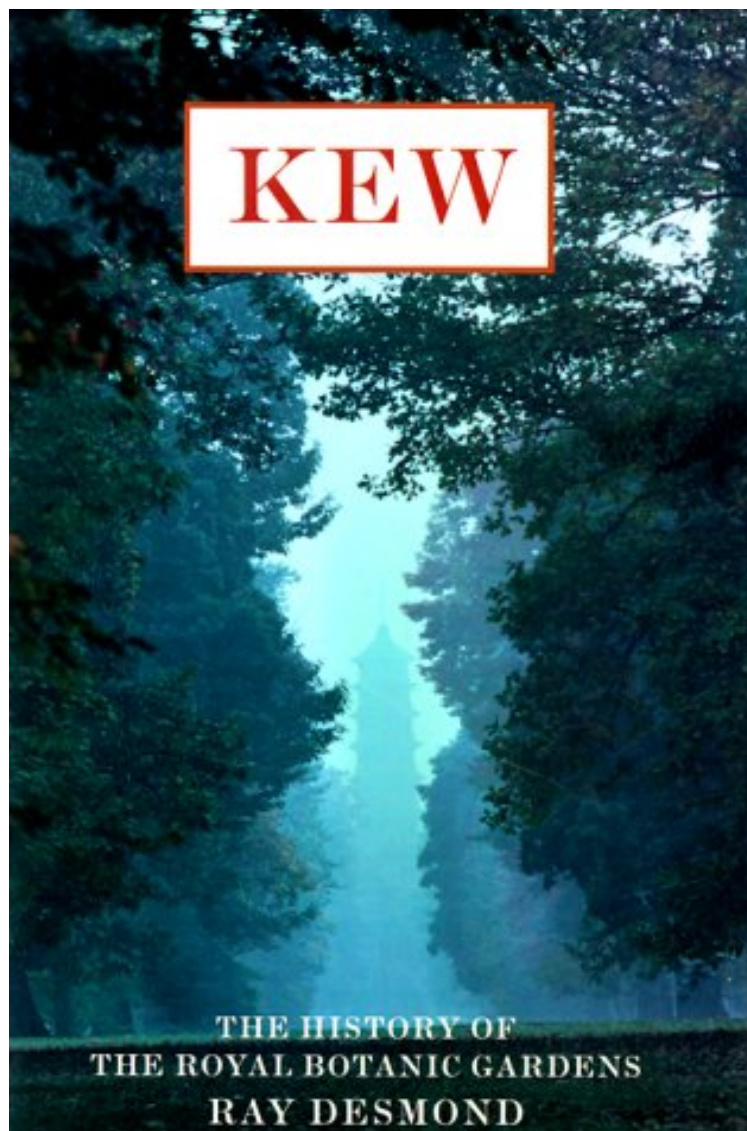


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Ray Desmond : History of Kew before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised History of Kew:

This illustrated history of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew traces an evolution over more than two centuries from their origins in the reign of Queen Caroline as two royal gardens into the nation's premier botanic garden.

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
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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).