

= John Parkinson (botanist) =

John Parkinson (1567 ? 1650 ; buried 6 August 1650) was the last of the great English herbalists and one of the first of the great English botanists . He was apothecary to James I and a founding member of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries in December 1617 , and was later Royal Botanist to Charles I. He is known for two monumental works , *Paradisi in Sole Paradisus Terrestris* (Park @-@ in @-@ Sun 's Terrestrial Paradise , 1629) , which generally describes the proper cultivation of plants ; and *Theatrum Botanicum* (The Botanical Theatre or Theatre of Plants , 1640) , the most complete and beautifully presented English treatise on plants of its time . One of the most eminent gardeners of his day , he kept a botanical garden at Long Acre in Covent Garden , today close to Trafalgar Square , and maintained close relations with other important English and Continental botanists , herbalists and plantsmen .

= = Life = =

Parkinson , born in 1567 , spent his early life in Yorkshire . He moved to London at the age of 14 years to become an apprentice apothecary . Rising through the ranks , he eventually achieved the position of apothecary to James I , and a founding member of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries in December 1617 ; until 1622 he also served on the Court of Assistants , the Society 's governing body . In addition , he assisted the Society in obtaining a grant of arms and in preparing a list of all medicines that should be stocked by an apothecary . He was on the committee that published their *Pharmacop?ia Londinensis* (London Pharmacop?ia) in 1618 .

Then , on the cusp of a new science , he became botanist to Charles I. Anna Parkinson , a " distant descendant " of Parkinson and the author of a new popular biography of him , asserts that in 1625 when Charles I 's bride , Henrietta Maria of France , came at the age of 15 years to live at St. James 's Palace , " he took on the role of introducing the young queen to horticulturally sophisticated circles . " When he summed up his experience in writing *Paradisi in Sole Paradisus Terrestris* (Park @-@ in @-@ Sun 's Terrestrial Paradise , 1629 ? " Park @-@ in @-@ Sun " is a pun on " Parkinson ") , with the explanatory subtitle *A Garden of all sorts of pleasant flowers which our English ayre will permit to be noursed up* , it was natural that he dedicated this work , which he called his " *Speaking Garden* " , to the queen . Blanche Henrey called the work the " earliest important treatise on horticulture published in England " , while the Hunt catalogue described it as " a very complete picture of the English garden at the beginning of the seventeenth century , and in such delightful , homely , literary style that gardeners cherish it even to the present day . "

Parkinson actively sought new varieties of plants through his contacts abroad and by financing William Boel 's plant @-@ hunting expedition to Iberia and North Africa in 1607 ? 1608 . He introduced seven new plants into England and was the first gardener in England to grow the great double yellow Spanish daffodil (*Pseudonarcissus aureus Hispanicus flore pleno* or Parkinson 's Daffodil , see illustration) . (" I thinke none ever had this kind before myselfe nor did I myself ever see it before the year 1618 for it is of mine own raising and flowering first in my own garden " .)

His piety as a Roman Catholic is evident from *Paradisi in Sole* . In his introduction , Parkinson saw the botanical world as an expression of divine creation , and believed that through gardens man could recapture something of Eden . Nonetheless , a short French poem at the foot of the title page warned the gardener against hubris and in having excessive regard for his efforts , for whoever tries to compare Art with Nature and gardens with Eden " measures the stride of the elephant by the stride of the mite and the flight of the eagle by that of the gnat " . However , struggles between Protestants and Catholics compelled Parkinson to keep a low profile . He did not attend any parish church . At the height of his success , the English Civil War (1642 ? 1651) tore his family apart .

Parkinson 's London house was in Ludgate Hill , but his botanical garden was in suburban Long Acre in Covent Garden , a district of market @-@ gardens , today close to Trafalgar Square . Not much is known about the garden , but based on a study of the writings of Parkinson and others , John Riddell has suggested that it was at least 2 acres (8 @,@ 100 m²) in size and probably surrounded by a wall . Four hundred and eighty @-@ four types of plant are recorded as having

been grown in the garden . Thomas Johnson and the Hampshire botanist , John Goodyer , both gathered seeds there .

Parkinson has been called one of the most eminent gardeners of his day . He maintained close relations with other important English and Continental botanists , herbalists and plantsmen such as William Coys , John Gerard , John Tradescant the elder (who was a close friend) , Vespasian Robin , and the Frenchman Matthias de Lobel (also known as Matthias de L 'Obel or Matthaeus Lobelius) . Together , they belonged to the generation that began to see extraordinary new plants coming from the Levant and from Virginia , broadly speaking . In his writings , de Lobel frequently mentioned the Long Acre garden and praised Parkinson 's abilities . Parkinson , on his part , edited and presented in *Theatrum Botanicum* the papers of de Lobel , who had spent the final years of his life in Highgate supervising the gardens of Edward la Zouche , the 11th Baron Zouche .

Parkinson died in the summer of 1650 , and was buried at St Martin @-@ in @-@ the @-@ Fields , London , on 6 August . He is commemorated in the Central American genus of leguminous trees *Parkinsonia* . *Paradisi in Sole* also inspired the children 's writer Juliana Horatia Ewing (1841 ? 1885) to write the story *Mary 's Meadow* , which was first published from November 1883 to March 1884 in *Aunt Judy 's Magazine* (1866 ? 1885) , produced by her mother Margaret Gatty . In the story , some children read *Paradisi in Sole* and are inspired to create their own garden . The magazine received much favourable correspondence about the story , and in July 1884 it was suggested that a Parkinson Society should be formed . The objects of the society were to " search out and cultivate old garden flowers which have become scarce ; to exchange seeds and plants ; to plant waste places with hardy flowers ; to circulate books on gardening amongst the Members ... [and] to try to prevent the extermination of rare wild flowers , as well as of garden treasures . "

= = Work = =

Paradisi in Sole Paradisus Terrestris describes the proper cultivation of plants in general , and is in three sections : the flower garden , the kitchen garden , and the orchard garden . It does not include specific growing instructions for each type of plant , but at the start of each main section Parkinson provides instructions on " ordering " each type of garden , advising on situating and laying out a garden , tools , soil improvement , grafting , planting and sowing and the types of plants that should be included in each type of garden . It contains illustrations of almost 800 plants in 108 full @-@ page plates . Most of these were original woodcuts made by the German artist Christopher Switzer , but others appear to have been copied from the works of Matthias de Lobel , Charles de l 'Écluse and the *Hortus Floridus* of Crispijn van de Passe the Elder .

In *Paradisi in Sole* Parkinson hinted that he hoped to add a fourth section , a garden of simples (medicinal herbs) . He delivered the promise in his other great book , the monumental *Theatrum Botanicum* (*The Botanical Theatre or Theatre of Plants*) which he published in 1640 at the age of 73 years . The release of this work was delayed due to the popularity of Thomas Johnson 's edition of John Gerard 's book *The Herball or Generall Historie of Plantes* (1597) . *Theatrum Botanicum* , with 1 @, @ 688 pages of text , describes over 3 @, @ 800 plants and was the most complete and beautifully presented English treatise on plants of its day . It was the first work to describe 33 native plants , 13 of which grew near Parkinson 's Middlesex home . Some of these plants , such as the Welsh poppy , the Strawberry Tree and the Lady 's Slipper , were very common but had gone unnoticed or at least unrecorded . He intended the book to be a reliable guide for apothecaries , and it remained so for more than a hundred years after his death . Parkinson presented the work to Charles I , who conferred on him the title " *Botanicus Regis Primarius* " (" Royal Botanist of the First Rank ") though this came without a salary .

= = Published works = =

Parkinson , John (1629) . *Paradisi in Sole Paradisus Terrestris : Or A Garden of All Sorts of Pleasant Flowers which our English Ayre will Permitt to be Noursed Vp . With a Kitchen Garden of All Manner of Herbes , Rootes , & Fruites , for Meate or Sause Vsed with Vs , and an Orchard of All*

Sorte of Fruitbearing Trees and Shrubbes Fit for Our Land . Together with the Right Orderinge , Planting & Preserving of Them and Their Uses and Vertues Collected by Iohn Parkinson Apothecary of London . London : Printed by Hvmfrey Lownes and Robert Yovng at the Signe of the Starre on Bread @-@ Street Hill. doi : 10 @.@ 5962 / bhl.title.7100. Retrieved 29 December 2014 . Folio . In some copies the title page is woodcut ; in others it is printed (dated 1635) . Later editions and reprints :

Parkinson , John (1656) . *Paradisi in Sole Paradisus Terrestris* , or , A Choise Garden of All Sorts of Rarest Flowers with their Nature , Place of Birth , Time of Flowring , Names , and Vertues to Each Plant , Useful in Physic or Admired for Beauty : To which is Annexed a Kitchin @-@ Garden Furnished with All Manner of Herbs , Roots , and Fruits , for Meat or Sauce Used with Us , with the Art of Planting an Orchard ... All Unmentioned in Former Herbals . London : Printed by R.N. and are to be sold by Richard Thrale at his shop at the signe of the Cross @-@ Keys at S. Pauls @-@ gate , going into Cheap @-@ side . Folio .

Parkinson , John ; Alfred H. Hyatt (comp .) (1904) . *A Garden of Pleasant Flowers : Being a Description of the Most Familiar of Our English Garden Flowers from the Famous Collection of John Parkinson* . London : T.N. Foulis .

Parkinson , John (1904) . *Paradisi in Sole Paradisus Terrestris* ... Faithfully Reprinted from the Edition of 1629 . London : Methuen & Co. doi : 10 @.@ 5962 / bhl.title.24488. Retrieved 29 December 2014 .

Parkinson , John (1975) . *Paradisi in Sole Paradisus Terrestris* , etc . [*The English Experience ; no . 758*] . Amsterdam ; Norwood , N.J. : Theatrum Orbis Terrarum ; Walter J. Johnson . Facsimile of the 1629 edition without the letterpress title page , made from copies in the Bodleian Library .

Parkinson , John (1976) . *Paradisi in Sole* , etc . New York , N.Y. : Dover Publications . ISBN 0 @-@ 486 @-@ 23392 @-@ 8 . Facsimile of the 1629 edition .

Parkinson , John (1976) . *A Garden of Pleasant Flowers* . New York , N.Y. ; London : Dover Publications ; Constable . ISBN 0 @-@ 486 @-@ 23392 @-@ 8 .

Parkinson , John (1640) . *Theatrum Botanicum : The Theater of Plants . Or , An Herball of a Large Extent , Containing therein a More Ample and Exact History and Declaration of the Physicall Herbs and Plants that are in Other Authours , Encreased by the Accesse of Many Hundreds of New , Rare , and Strange Plants from All the Parts of the World , with Sundry Gummes , and Other Physicall Materials , than hath beene hitherto Published by Any before ; and a Most Large Demonstration of their Natures and Vertues . Shevving vvithall the Many Errors , Differences , and Oversights of Sundry Authors that have Formerly Written of Them ; and a Certaine Confidence , or most Probable Conjecture of the True and Genuine Herbes and Plants . Distributed into Sundry Classes or Tribes , for the More Easie Knowledge of the Many Herbes of One Nature and Property , with the Chiefe Notes of Dr. Lobel , Dr. Bonham , and Others Inserted therein . Collected by the Many Years Travaile , Industry , and Experience in this Subject , by Iohn Parkinson Apothecary of London , and the Kings Herbalist . And Published by the Kings Majestyes Especiall Priviledge . London : Thomas Cotes . Folio . Reprints :*

Parkinson , John (1967) . *A Fragment from Theatrum Botanicum , " or An Herball of a Large Extent "* . Falls Village , Conn . : Herb Grower Press .

Parkinson , John (1982) . *Theatrum botanicum : Or an Herball of a Large Extente* . [S.I.] : Remous .

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