

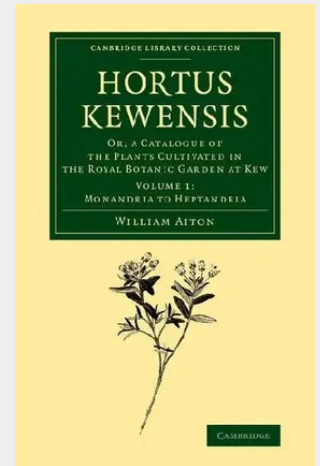
Aiton

Hortus Kewensis

Or, a Catalogue of the Plants Cultivated in the Royal Botanic Garden at Kew

Trained as a gardener in his native Scotland, William Aiton (1731–93) had worked in the Chelsea Physic Garden prior to coming to Kew in 1759. He met Joseph Banks in 1764, and the pair worked together to develop the scientific and horticultural status of the gardens. Aiton had become superintendent of the entire Kew estate by 1783. This important three-volume work, first published in 1789, took as its starting point the plant catalogue begun in 1773. In its compilation, Aiton was greatly assisted with the identification and scientific description of species, according to the Linnaean system, by the botanists Daniel Solander and Jonas Dryander (the latter contributed most of the third volume). Aiton added dates of introduction and horticultural information. An important historical resource, it covers some 5,600 species and features a selection of engravings. Listing the printed works consulted, Volume 1 provides plant descriptions from Monandria to Heptandria.

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70,80 €

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Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage

Artikelnummer: 9781108069670

Medium: Buch

ISBN: 978-1-108-06967-0

Verlag: Cambridge University Press

Erscheinungstermin: 16.01.2014

Sprache(n): Englisch

Auflage: Erscheinungsjahr 2014

Serie: Cambridge Library Collection - Botany and Horticulture

Produktform: Kartoniert

Gewicht: 759 g

Seiten: 542

Format (B x H): 140 x 216 mm

