

A detailed botanical illustration of a mango branch. The illustration shows a central stem with several large, ovate leaves with prominent venation. At the top left, there are two flowers with five petals and a central ovary. To the right of the main branch, there is a large, round, unripe mango fruit. Below the main branch, there is a smaller branch with a single leaf. The entire illustration is rendered in a monochromatic, etched style.

Mi Waan go a Country go look Mango
June 30- July 29

Kedisha Coakley

Research & Archival Material

Mangifera indica, L.

HERBARIUM / KEWENSE.

Original drawing by the late

Mrs. T. R. E. STERLING.

Presented by E. C. WALLACE, Esq.

December, 1914.



Mango Dress

Evening

By Jean 'BINTA' Breeze

Evening brings in conversations
is just becoming dark
and as usual the red Jeep turns
into the driveway blocking the last
vision of the sea P

Philip brings the first fruit of this
season naseberries, mangoes,
custard apples

If there is nothing on the road today
he suggests an ice-cold beer
which he pops across the road for
he does not come to the verandah
without bearing gifts
and these gifts start the
conversation

Today he brings my cold beer
his is hot the bartender told him his
headache is a sign of low blood
pressure and a hot beer will help
put paid to that

I say, why don't you see the doctor
before it's too late
he says he'll go tomorrow
I know he won't
it will take several reminders

Philip is into Bush
for his nerves
it's soursop leaf tea
neem is the cure for diabetes
and the present miracle Bush is
called merengeh

He chews the seed
and drinks the leaves in hot tea
every morning

My mother passes by that bit of talk
on her way to water flowers in the
front garden 'I will die of something
I'm sure

but I won't die of bush' she says
'you never know how much to take
at least the doctor tells you
one pill a day'

Philip quotes from the Bible
there are herbs he says for all of
our illnesses growing right where
we are born

My mother seems to have brought
the rain with her watering
there is a thin drizzle in the air
and now the last bit of sunlight
has disappeared

Phillip says the bartender knows
more than any doctor
his grandmother taught him about
herbs it goes back a long way

Let's take a walk across the road
the rain is not enough to get a wet
the bartender will educate you
and another beer won't hurt

My mother on her way back in his
that too drinking too much, she
says
thought the doctor warned you
ginger beer I say
and signal Philip to shut up

On the edge of the sea
at the bamboo bar
for those who come home
ill from oversea behind me
the verandah sits empty





**HEAD WIFE OF CHIEF ABIEMBALI MAYOGO TRIBE.
ITURI DISTRICT**

Beneath the small, square-topped hat of woven vegetable fiber, she wears a sort of skull-cap adorned with hundreds of dogs' teeth, mostly canines. The crown of the hat is decorated with the red tail-feathers of the African grey parrot, which bird is often kept in captivity so that the much-prized feathers can be pulled out as fast as they grow.

The larger hatpin is made entirely of ivory, while the smaller consists of a thin, pointed bone from the forearm of a monkey.

The Fact of Blackness On
the Blackness of Black-
nuss. Pollock would listen
to jazz. Soft Punk Begin-
nings end.

Collage by Allan
Gardner, 120.

A Billion Black
Anthropocenes or
none. The
resolution of
this inter-
changeability
happens in the
geologic
language.

Tate Etc.

Pablo

Picasso.

Objects that
speak for
Themselves.

Ways of

Seeing. The
relation
between what
we see and
what we know
is never
settled.

Time The new
American
Revolution
visions of
Black future
that fulfil a
Nation's
promise. In
Thailand,
insulting
the royal
family risks
prison terms
of up to 15
years.

My Black Death On the Blackness of
Blacknuss. I felt an easily identifiable
flood mounting out of the countless facets
of my being.

Love that moves
the sun and
other stars.
Call as I might
on training,
art, or wit, no
words of mine
could make the
image seen.
Infringe
Anthropo-
gy of hair #3.
Crowned.
One hundred
kisses say it
with art.
Yes, art is
dangerous.
Black
beauty Stylist
of the year.
Available
colours.

Cosmopolitan
Modernism.

Setting the
tone for the
critical
exploration of
the
interactive
relationships.

Vogue Rebel!

Rihanna

rewrites the
rules. Up to
24H wear.

The myth of
primitivism. Some
wobbles and
obfuscations I've
tried my best to
eliminate
subsequently.





1 Windrush Square Plant Hunters

The large tree in Windrush Square is known as the 'Tate Plane'. It is a London plane tree and was planted when a memorial garden was created for English sugar merchant and philanthropist, Sir Henry Tate in 1905.

The London plane is the city's most common tree. It is thought to have been first cultivated from the seeds of an 'oriental' plane and an American sycamore by John Tradescant (c.1570-1638) in Lambeth in the 1600s. Tradescant and his son, also named John (1608-1662), were influential gardeners in 17th century England. They owned a large garden near Vauxhall where they grew a wide variety of plants, many of which were collected on expeditions across the globe, including on slave ships to England's earliest American colony, Virginia.

Travelling naturalists such as the Tradescants became known as 'plant hunters' and transported horticultural specimens across the globe. In the process they tapped vast reserves of indigenous knowledge and altered entire ecosystems.

The name of the two trees from which the London plane was born reflect this colonial heritage. Though the tree is named after the city in which it has flourished, its origin in Asia and America have been forgotten.

What else to see

Brixton Tate Library
Built by Sir Henry Tate for the people of Brixton, now run by Lambeth Council.

Black Cultural Archives
A national institution dedicated to the histories of people of African and Caribbean descent in Britain.

Cherry Grove Memorial Pavilion
Cherry 'Dorothy' Grove was a Jamaican mother who was shot by the Metropolitan Police in her home in 1985. The shooting left Cherry paralysed and sparked the Brixton uprising. Grove tragically passed away from her injuries in 2011. A memorial, designed by architect Sir David Adjaye, pays tribute to her life and the Brixton community.

2 St Matthew's Gardens Colonial Collecting

St Matthew's Gardens is home to horse chestnut, sycamore and plane trees (among others) which were introduced to English soil in Lambeth by the Tradescants in the 17th century.

The Tradescants were prolific collectors of plants and other items of natural history and ethnography. Plants and objects that were bought, collected or looted on colonial expeditions or during wars helped to establish the botanical institutions and museums we know today.

'Exotic' plants from colonial landscapes came to symbolise wealth and sophistication. Specimens were collected during plant hunting expeditions and their extraction and transportation was both directly and indirectly linked to transatlantic slavery. Africans carried seeds on slave-ships to the Americas. Botanical gardens

Today, breadfruit is sold in Brixton market less than three miles from Bligh's grave in the St Mary-at-Lambeth churchyard. Breadfruit symbolises exploitation and resilience. It is a reminder of the links between botany and the slave-trade. It's presence also traces the intercontinental journeys of Banks and Bligh to Tahiti. Africans to the Caribbean and, hundreds of years later, Caribbean people to Britain.

Get involved
Urban Growth help communities build garden and food growing spaces. They run volunteering schemes, free events and workshops at Brixton Orchard: urbangrowth.london

5 Windmill Gardens Legacies in the present

The Brixton Windmill is a relic of Brixton's rural past. It once stood among cornfields but as London expanded it became surrounded by houses. London's green spaces have changed over hundreds of years.

Our access to green space is influenced by local histories of landownership as well as by the privilege our ancestors were born into or the adversity they faced in their lifetime.

The Coronavirus pandemic has highlighted issues of landownership and unequal access to land. In England 1% of the population currently owns 50% of the land. The Office for National Statistics shows that one in eight British households have no garden. In addition, Black Britons are nearly four times as likely as white people to lack access to outdoor space at home.

Our gardens and green spaces may not seem obvious places to reflect on the outcomes of British colonialism. However, botany was integral to colonial commerce. People with colonial wealth were also able to buy land in Britain, which was inherited by subsequent generations.

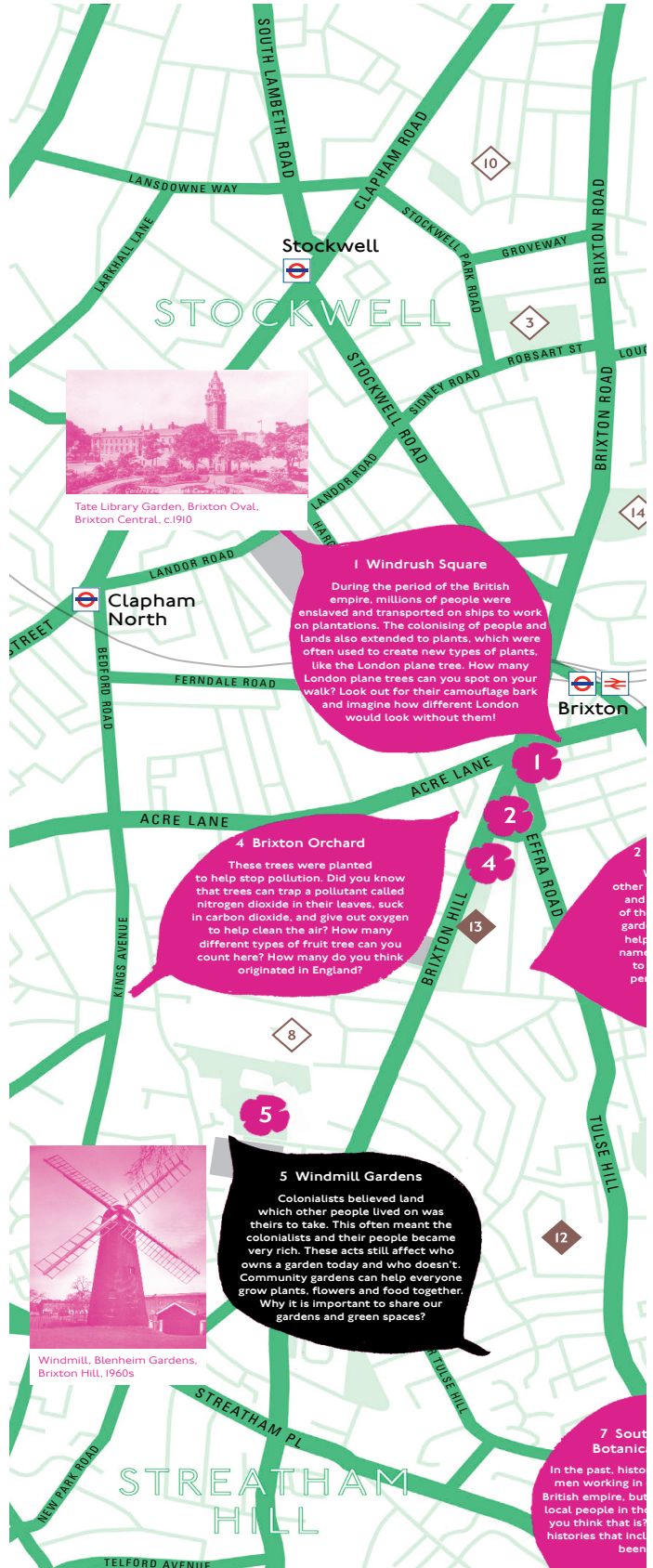
Community gardening and food growing initiatives are working to reclaim London's green spaces. See a list of local initiatives you can get involved with at the bottom of each section and on the reverse.

Get involved
Friends of Windmill Gardens is a community charity which runs a monthly gardening group, a community planting garden, education workshops, guided walks and tours of the windmill: brixtonwindmill.org

6 Brockwell Park Walled Garden Commerce, Wealth and Influence

Directions: look out for the temple folly at the centre of the park, and you'll find the entrance to the garden beside it.

The walled garden in Brockwell Park is a historic kitchen garden. It was originally laid out when Brockwell Hall was a private residence. It features rose beds, perennial flowers and wisterias. The **wisteria** was brought to England in 1812 by John Reeve, an East India Company tea inspector who was employed by Sir Joseph Banks to gather plant specimens for Kew Gardens. The East India Company had its own armies to conquer and control territories in South and East Asia and plant collectors used East India Company ships and networks.



Tate Library Garden, Brixton Oval, Brixton Central, c.1910



Windmill, Blenheim Gardens, Brixton Hill, 1960s

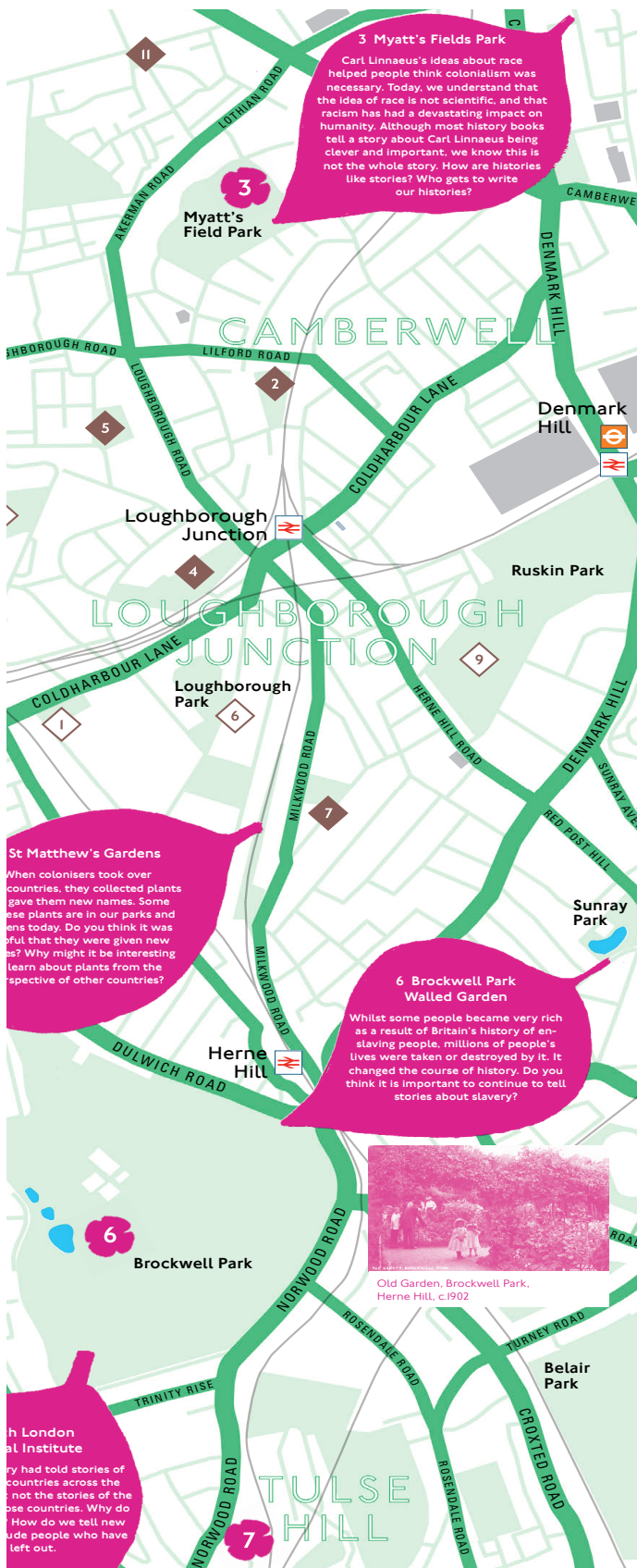
1 Windrush Square
During the period of the British empire, millions of people were enslaved and transported on ships to work on plantations. The colonising of people and lands also extended to plants, which were often used to create new types of plants, like the London plane tree. How many London plane trees can you spot on your walk? Look out for their camouflage bark and imagine how different London would look without them!

4 Brixton Orchard
These trees were planted to help stop pollution. Did you know that trees can trap a pollutant called nitrogen dioxide in their leaves, suck in carbon dioxide, and give out oxygen to help clean the air? How many different types of fruit tree can you count here? How many do you think originated in England?

5 Windmill Gardens
Colonialists believed land which other people lived on was theirs to take. This often meant the colonialists and their people became very rich. These acts still affect who owns a garden today and who doesn't. Community gardens can help everyone grow plants, flowers and food together. Why is it important to share our gardens and green spaces?

7 South Botanic
In the past, historians working in the British empire, but local people in the city, think that isn't histories that include been

other and of the gard help name to pe



3 Myatt's Fields Park
 Carl Linnaeus's ideas about race helped people think colonialism was necessary. Today, we understand that the idea of race is not scientific, and that racism has had a devastating impact on humanity. Although most history books tell a story about Carl Linnaeus being clever and important, we know this is not the whole story. How are histories like stories? Who gets to write our histories?

St Matthew's Gardens
 When colonisers took over countries, they collected plants and gave them new names. Some of these plants are in our parks and gardens today. Do you think it was useful that they were given new names? Why might it be interesting to learn about plants from the perspective of other countries?

6 Brockwell Park Walled Garden
 Whilst some people became very rich as a result of Britain's history of enslaving people, millions of people's lives were taken or destroyed by it. It changed the course of history. Do you think it is important to continue to tell stories about slavery?



Old Garden, Brockwell Park, Herne Hill, c.1902

South London Botanical Institute
 People had told stories of plants from other countries across the world, but not the stories of the people who used them. How do we tell new stories about people who have left out.

were established in the Caribbean by plantation owners who commissioned plant hunters to send specimens back to Britain. Plants became an important aspect of colonial commerce.

The use of colonial terminology to describe 'exotic' plants is ongoing. Many common plant names reflected racist slurs and the way we still talk about 'native' and 'invasive' species parallels human histories of conquest. Plants' classification also mirrored the empire's classification of human beings, promoting an ideology of **otherness** that persists today.

3 Myatt's Fields Park Naming

Myatt's Fields Park is named after Joseph Myatt (1771–1855), a tenant market gardener who became famous for growing award-winning strawberries and rhubarb on the land in the 19th century.

Sugar had become increasingly cheap because plantations were worked by enslaved people. As it became more accessible in Britain, and grew in popularity, so did Myatt's produce. Sugarcane is perhaps the most well-known example of a plant being exploited by humans to change global ecologies and human history.

Myatt named one of his rhubarb varieties after the Swedish botanist, Carl Linnaeus. Linnaeus and his taxonomies of the natural world, including humans were central to developing colonial racism.

He separated people into categories based on the colour of their skin and their perceived temperaments. This promoted the ideology of race and formed

the foundational justification for colonial dominance. It also demonstrates how the theories of individual men, in the name of science, have changed the course of history.

Get involved

Myatt's Fields Park Projects is a community food hub, and an edible park supporting local families and working with the local community with the aim of creating sustainable change. They run community food activities, a volunteer gardening scheme and offer thousands of free edible plants to local growing projects: myattsfieldspark.info

4 Brixton Orchard Colonial Planting

The Brixton Orchard was planted to help reduce pollution in this busy part of London. Food has been grown in Brixton for centuries.

Sir Joseph Banks (1743–1820) was a botanist who founded Kew Gardens. He was also an advocate of the slave trade. In 1787, he appointed **Captain William Bligh** (1754–1817), who lived in Lambeth, to lead a mission to transplant **breadfruit** trees from Tahiti to the Caribbean. Banks identified breadfruit as a cheap and nutritious food for feeding enslaved people on British-owned sugar plantations.

Breadfruit arrived in the Caribbean in 1793 and became a key ingredient in local cuisine. It arrived in post-war Britain with the Windrush generation. Caribbean people who were invited to Britain to alleviate labour shortages. Many Caribbean people settled in Brixton.

The land on which Brockwell Park sits today has connections with the transatlantic slave trade. It once belonged to the Tulse family. Sir Henry Tulse served on the committee of a prolific slave trading company, the Royal African Company, and was Mayor of London 1683–1684. Tulse Hill is named after him.

In the 1850s, William Augustus Parker (1802–1875), lived in a house in Brockwell Park. In 1835 Parker received the equivalent of half million pounds in today's money, as compensation for 88 liberated enslaved people on plantations in British Guiana. This was part of the government's **post abolition compensation scheme** which financially compensated British slave-owners.

Get involved
Brockwell Park Community Greenhouses run a volunteer gardening scheme, nature-based play and learning sessions for children, training and therapeutic workshops and community events with food and music. brockwellgreenhouses.org.uk

7 South London Botanical Institute Colonial Discovery

The South London Botanical Institute (SLBI) is a botanical garden, **herbarium** and library opened by Allan Octavian Hume (1829–1912) in 1910 to encourage anyone with an interest in botany, ecology and conservation.

Hume was a botanist, ornithologist and colonial administrator in India during the 19th century. He has been presented as radical in his time as an advocate for Indian people in a time of resounding support for colonial rule. He is remembered as the 'Father of Indian Ornithology' and for his plant and bird 'discoveries'.

Colonial narratives often described how Europeans 'discovered' continents, animals and plants and became 'fathers' of certain research fields. This denies that indigenous people had a deep knowledge of these lands, plants and animals long before colonial conquest, and which plant hunters and botanical institutes later came to rely on. In Hume's case, he made numerous references in his writing to knowledgeable Indian naturalists who helped him. Despite this, Hume ultimately worked as a colonial administrator and his name alone endures.

Get involved

The SLBI run open garden days, botanical education talks and schools' workshops. They open for specific events, are free to visit and open to the public on Thursday (10-4pm) and by appointment: slbi.org.uk

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-  Main sites
-  Kid's trail
-  Additional green spaces
-  Community run gardens

A Living and Healed Peoples

For all these portals
are not ripe appropriated fruits
but ligaments of spirit
hold this cup as a photo book
wear this orange meat like luring bells
that they hear the trophies
of a living and healed peoples

shaking dying bones, streetlit tambourines
raising up an unuttered tongue
an incantation at dusk
over bush tea and broth
the black shone in gild
where biblical fires roared with new spirit
red writings of christ are poems
on simmered and chilled leftovers

we laid hands on to the flame
and spilt cumin and cinnamon into a rage
we laid dormant or worked
or carried children or wrestled with god
or made love and pleased our ears with music

by Otis Mensah

on this staunch wet island
our succulent longing remains
bruised by sun gust
where blood pools in a pot

this body of low hanging fruit
this body of water
and its slow revealing dreams
cut and drained for our replenishing
to find reverent fervent mansions
in the eyes of our deceased homes

planes of sultry flowers on a stove
burn this cunning sickness in the crick of my back
in the spine of my church
like a poison on my gum

sup the psalm from a cup
with petals from your mother
petals from the marketplace
petals from aunty
and shimmering time



Passion Fruit
Breadfruit
Persimmon
Lychee
Tamarind
Moringa
Cerasee
Pomegranate
Pineapple
Cotton seeds
Coconut

Cerasese
Pomegranate
Pineapple
Milton seeds
Coconut

Moringa
Cerasee
Pomegranate
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Cotton seeds
Coconut

Passiflora edulis
Artocarpus Altilis
Diospyros Virginiana
Litchi Chinensis
Tamarindus Indica
Moringa Stenopetala
Momordica Charantia
Punica granatum
Ananas Comosus
Gossypium
Cocos nucifera

Passiflora edulis
Artocarpus Altilis
Diospyros Virginiana
Litchi Chinensis
Tamarindus Indica
Moringa Stenopetala
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Breadfruit
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Punica granatum
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Cocos nucifera

Breadfruit
Persimmon
Lychee
Tamarind
Moringa

2018.837.14

CUTCH

MINORIA

20

2018.837.24

East and WESTERN PACIFIC

COTTON
(*Gossypium sp.*)

2018.837.15

2018.837.16

EAST AFRICA

COTTON (Unbleached)
(*Gossypium sp.*)

From the collection of the
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, London

2018.837.17

2018.837.18

East and WESTERN PACIFIC

COTTON
(*Gossypium sp.*)

From the collection of the
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, London

2018

2018.837.20

2018.837.17

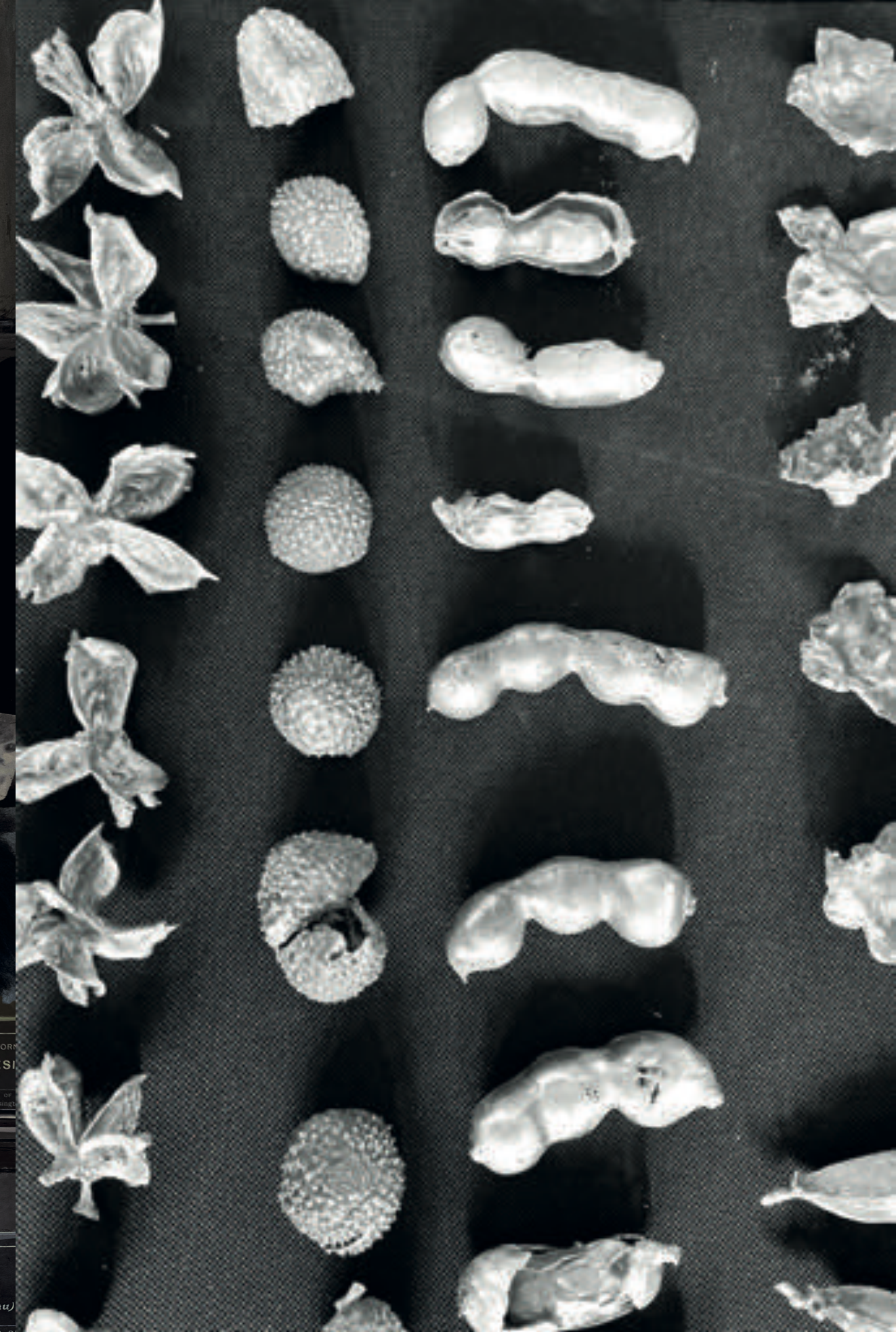
AFRICA

WESTERN PACIFIC

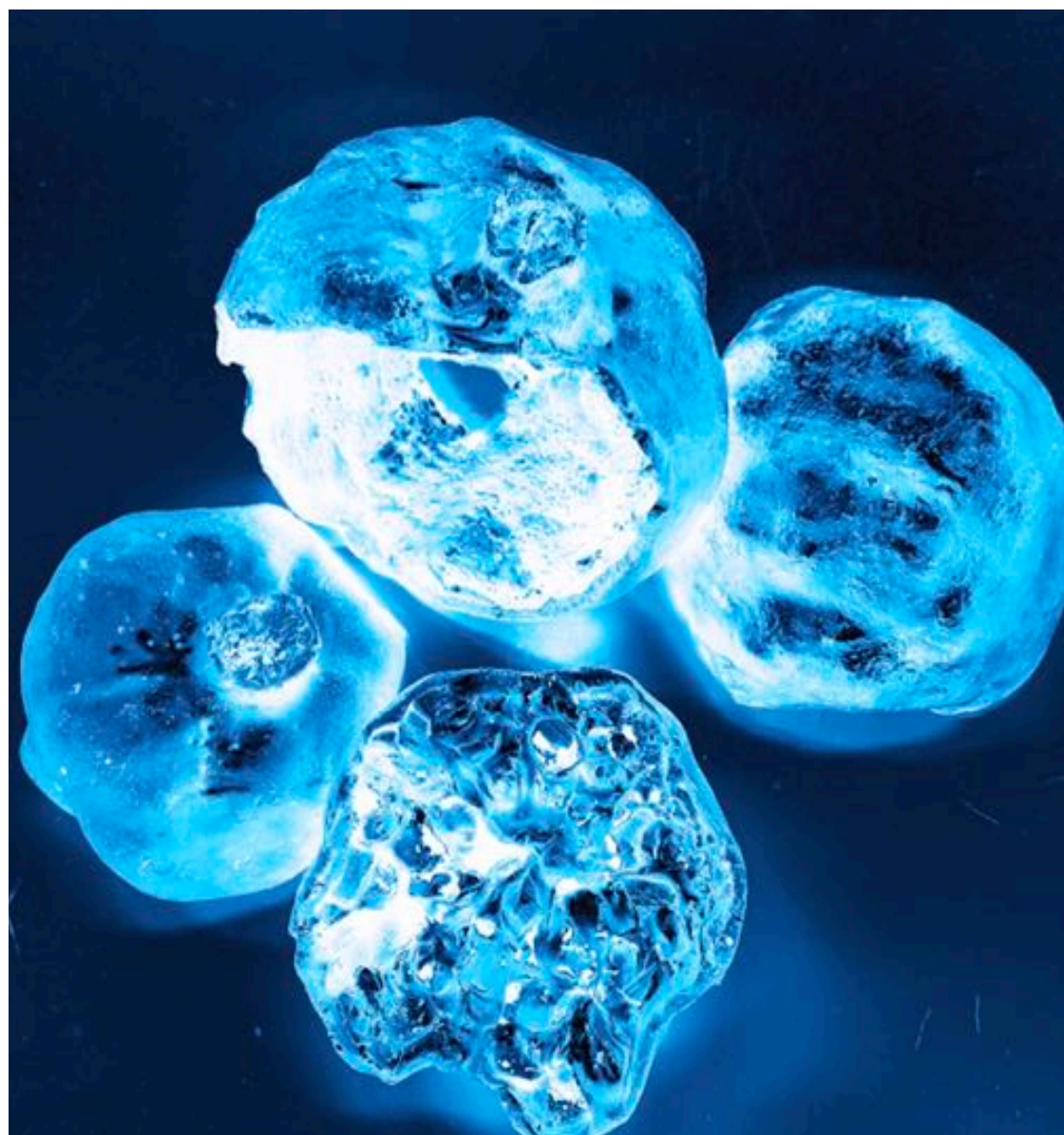
DAMAR GUM
(*Commersonia*)

SUDAN
SUDAN GUM
(*Acacia senegal*)

INDIA
CUTCH
(*Acacia Catechu*)









One short year ago, how different were my feelings on the subject of slavery! It is true, the wail of the captive sometimes came to my ear in the midst of my happiness, and caused my heart to bleed for his wrongs; but, alas! the impression was as evanescent as the early cloud and morning dew. I had formed a little world of my own, and cared not to move beyond its precincts.

But how was the scene changed when I held the oppressor lurking on the border of my peaceful home! I saw his iron hand stretched forth to seize me as his prey, and the cause of the slave became my own. I started up, and with one mighty effort threw from me the lethargy which had covered me as a mantle for years; and determined, by the help of the Almighty, to use every exertion in my power to elevate the character of my wronged and neglected race.

Sarah Mapps Douglass

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Kew Archives

The Botanical Adventures
of Joseph Banks by
Christina Harrison

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Jamayca map
The Testimonies of the
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Zakiya McKenzie

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Empire teaching tools
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Brixton Botanical Map
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Jamaica Botanical
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<https://www.anbg.gov.au/biography/wiles-james-1768-1851.html>

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Leeward Island map
Queen Pine
<https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/archaeologyofslavery/introduction-archaeology-of-slavery>

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References & Acknowledgements

On the Border of my Peaceful Home, 2023

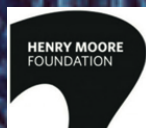


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