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## The Head Gardeners

By Toby Musgrave

Aurum Press Ltd, United Kingdom, 2009. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 192 x 128 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Toby Musgrave s delightful book about the single-minded and often tyrannical horticulturalistic pioneers of the English country garden. Independent on Sunday The great head gardeners of Victorian and Edwardian Britain enjoyed a status and an importance that extended far beyond the walled frontiers of their fiefdoms. Only the very best of the uneducated country lads who were taken on as garden boys survived the apprenticeship of up to fifteen years, but those that did were men of strong character who had educated themselves in the sciences of botany, etymology, plant breeding, plant physiology, surveying, perspective drawing and much else. As well as ensuring that the great houses were supplied with flowers, fruit and vegetables the year round - pineapples by the dozens, peaches and apricots by the thousand were harvested from their greenhouses - they learned to cultivate the host of exotic plants that their employers imported from the ends of the earth. They invented the trade of floristry. They wrote bestselling books and published the first gardening magazines. The fame and reputation of great houses and their owners depended...



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