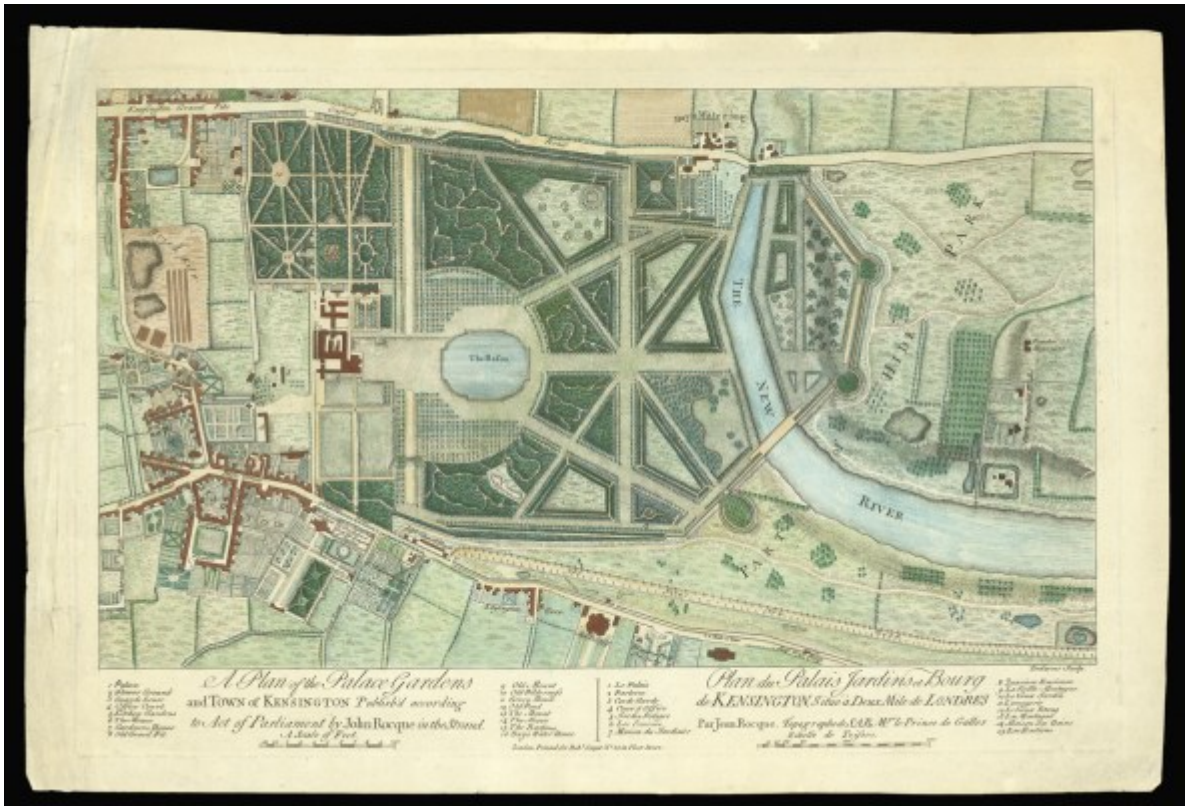


Engraved plan, hand-coloured, title below in English and French, scale bars and key to architectural and natural features.

A FINE PLAN OF KENSINGTON GARDENS

A Plan of the Palace Gardens and Town of Kensington

Author
ROCQUE, John

Publication date
[c.1752].

Publisher
Robert Sayer,

Publication place
London,

Physical description
Engraved plan, hand-coloured, title below in English and French, scale bars and key to architectural and natural features.

Dimensions
330 by 490mm (13 by 19.25 inches).

Notes
Kensington Palace was originally the suburban residence of Lord Chancellor Flinch, Earl of Nottingham, and it was known as Nottingham House. It was set in a large deer park that Henry VIII used for hunting. In 1689 the house was bought by William III who turned it into Kensington Palace.

The building was enlarged from designs by Sir Christopher Wren; the gardens, under instructions of Queen Mary, were landscaped by royal gardeners and were transformed with paths and flower-beds at right angles, in formal Dutch patterns, so as to make William feel at home.

It wasn't until 1727, when Queen Caroline moved into the palace, that the Dutch gardens were replaced by the current Charles Bridgman design, which included the round pond, the Broad Walk and the Temple Lodge, as well as the planting of several thousand trees. The gardens were opened on Saturdays to anyone who was respectably dressed.

Rocque's plan shows the full extent of the work implemented by Queen Caroline on the gardens. It also shows the grand mansions along Kensington Gore and the buildings along the High Street and Church Lane.

It would appear that John Rocque, a French Huguenot, emigrated with the rest of his family to London in the 1730s, where he began to ply his trade as a surveyor of gentleman's estates, and with plans of Kensington Gardens, and Hampton Court. However, in 1737 he applied his surveying skills to a much greater task, that of surveying the entire built-up area of London – a survey that would make his name. Begun in March of 1737, the map would take nine years to produce, eventually being engraved upon 24 sheets of copper and published in 1746.

Bibliography
Map Forum, Catalogue of Rocque's Engraved Works, No. 68.

Provenance

Price:

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