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## GLADIOLUS × BRENCHLEYENSIS REDISCOVERED

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The authentic restoration of gardens of historic interest requires that the correct species, variety, cultivar or hybrid be planted. During the past 150 years, the loss of cultivated plants has been considerable and this was noted by Gertrude Jekyll who drew attention in 1929 to the garden plants grown 100 years ago, but now lost. By the late 20th century the loss became even greater as Brickell and Sharman (1986) demonstrated in their book on lost plants. Miss Jekyll attributed the losses to fashion and novelty, and in collecting and cultivating garden plants at Munstead and Munstead Wood (Jekyll, 1900, 1928, 1929; Tooley, 1994, 1995) and sending specimens to her friends and to Kew, she anticipated the foundation of The National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens in 1982.

Miss Jekyll designed about 400 gardens between 1868 and 1932 and in many she used drift plantings of *Gladiolus* × *brenchleyensis* Hort. ex Baker. It was first used in the hardy flower border at Munstead (House) in 1883 (Jekyll, 1882, 1883; Tooley, 1984a,b) where it was associated with plantings of *Kniphofia*, *Lobelia cardinalis* L. and *Lychnis*. In a similar flower border at Munstead Wood some years later, she used the same association with *Kniphofia*, together with scarlet *Salvia*, *Geranium*, *Gypsophila* and *Phlox*. This association is shown in a *Country Life* autochrome (Wood in Tooley & Arnander, 1995; Tankard & Wood, 1996) dating from about 1911. The first occasion on which it is known to have been used in a design commission was in the long border at Brackenbrough (Tooley & Tooley, 1982; Bisgrove, 1992) in 1904, and it is found again in borders designed by her at Upton Grey in 1908 (Wallinger, 2000), Presaddfed on Anglesey in 1909 (Tooley, 2001; Bisgrove, 1992), Lindisfarne in 1911 (Tooley & Tooley, 1982), Little Aston Hall in 1914, Little Cumbrae Island in the Firth of Clyde in 1916 (Gunn, 1991; Bisgrove, 1992), Hascombe Court in 1922 (Bisgrove, 1992), Gledstone in 1926 (Tooley & Tooley, 1982), and Blagdon in 1929 (Tooley & Tooley, 1982; Brown, 1982) where 72 corms were used in drift plantings. Other garden artists also used it in their designs; Margaret Waterfield (1908) planted