

You are viewing one of thousands of biographies – click below for more, including Search box and access to Plant associated organisations.

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

---

*Hibbertia*

*Dilleniaceae*

*Hibbertia* commemorates an English merchant, politician, slaver and botanist, George Hibbert (1757-1837) who cultivated an exotic plant collection in his garden at Clapham in London which included many South African plants (especially proteas). In his home there he also built up a valuable book collection which he eventually sold at auction in 1829 for £23,000. He was a patron of both the arts and botanical expeditions. His ships carried not only slaves (and eventually Australian convicts) but also commodities such as tropical hardwood, coffee, cotton, sugar and rum. As first Chairman of the West India Company he was involved in the construction in 1800 of London's West India Dock and after this he was Seaford's Member of Parliament for six years. In 1824 he was one of the founders of today's Royal National Lifeboat Institution (originally called the Institution for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck). He held the office of Agent for the Island of Jamaica (his family had plantations there) and when he retired from this post in 1831 he was presented with a William IV silver candelabrum which still exists today.