

A Harmless Treasure



25 February - 27 April 2019

An exhibition of 16th and 17th century herbals, including John Gerard's *The Herball* and John Parkinson's *Theatrum botanicum*



The ROYAL
SOCIETY of
MEDICINE



Exhibition Curator
Robert Greenwood

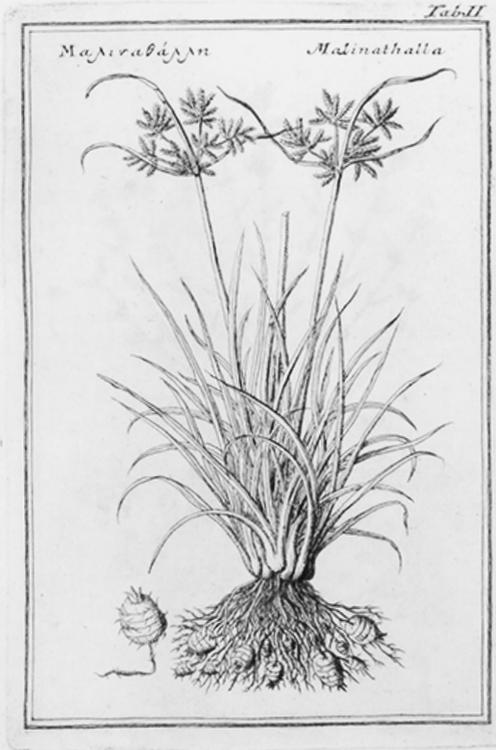
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Exhibition hours
Mon - Thurs 9am - 9pm
Friday 9am - 5.30pm
Saturday 10am - 4.30pm

A Harmless Treasure



*"Although my pains have not been spent (courteous reader) in the gracious discovery of golden mines, nor in the tracing after silver veins, whereby my native country might be enriched, with such merchandise as it hath most in request and admiration yet hath my labour (I trust) been otherwise profitably employed, in describing of such **harmless treasure** of herbs, trees and plants, as the earth frankly without violence offereth unto our most necessary*

uses. Harmless I call them, because they were such delights, as man in the perfectest estate of his innocence did erst enjoy; and treasure I may well term them, seeing both kings and princes have esteemed them as jewels; sith wise men have made their whole life as a pilgrimage, to attain to the knowledge of them."

- Preface to Gerard's Herbal



Anemone: Pulsatilla, from Brunfels' 'Herbarum Vivae Eicones'

Otto Brunfels (1488-1534)

Herbarum vivae eicones : ad naturae imitationem, summa cum diligentia et artificio effigiate, unâ cum effectibus earundem, in gratiam veteris illius, & iam renascentis herbariae medicinae.

Argentorati : Apud Joannem Schottu, 1530-1536. L.3.a.5-7

The first herbal to derive from direct personal observation whereby the author went direct to nature rather than relying on earlier writers. This copy once belonged to the celebrated physician and botanist Andreas Cæsalpinus, first physician to Pope Clement VIII, and has his autograph on the title page of vol.ii.

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Argentorati : Apud Joannem Schottu, 1532-1536.

Librarian's Room 29 & 30

Hieronymus Bock (1498 – 1554)

Kreüter Buch, darin Unterscheid, Würckung und Namen der Kreüter so in Deutschen Landen wachsen auch der selbigen eigentlicher und wolgegründter Gebrauch inn der Artzney fleissig dargeben, Leibs Gesundheit zü behalten und zü fürderen seer nutzlich und tröstlich vorab dem gemeinen einfaltigen man ... Von newemfleissig übersehen, gebessert und gemehret, dazu mit hüpschen artigen Figuren allenthalben gezieret ...

[Strassburg : Wendel Rihel.], 1546.

Librarian's Room 14

Bock discovered and described several new species in this work on the local flora of Germany. Along with Brunfels and Fuchs, Bock was one of the three fathers of German botany.

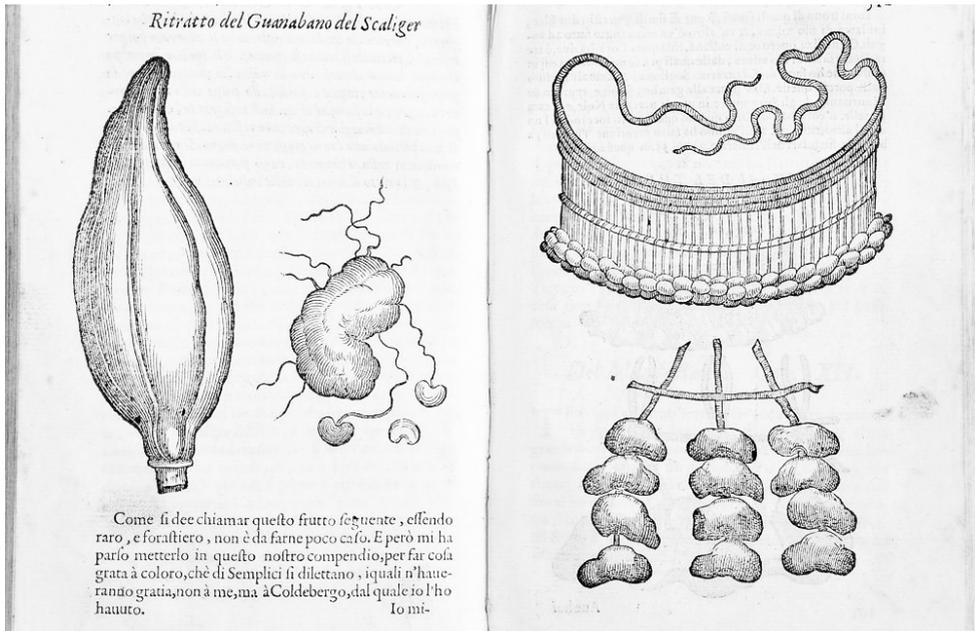
Garcia d'Orta (1501 - 1568)

Colloquios dos simples e drogas e cousas medicinaes da India : e assi de algumas fructas achadas nella (Varias cultivadas hoje no Brazil) compostos pelo doutor Garcia de Orta.

2nd ed., feita, proximamente pagina por pagina, pela primeira, impressa em Goa por João de Endem no anno de 1563.

Lisboa : Na Imprensa Nacional, 1872. 284.d.15

Originally published in 1563, this work was the third book ever to be printed in India, and was the first textbook on tropical medicine to be written by a European and the first account anywhere of Indian materia medica.



Illustrations from Garcia d'Orta's "Coloquios dos simples e drogas da India"

Matthias de L'Obel (1538 – 1616)

Plantarum, seu, Stirpium historia Matthiae de Lobel ... Cui annexum est adversariorum volumen ... Antverpiae : Ex Officina C. Plantini, 1576.

L.4.b.7

Born at Lille, then part of Burgundian Flanders, L'Obel spent several years in Britain, setting up in Bristol as a physician around 1567. His *Stirpium adversaria nova* was published in London in 1571 and describes some 3000 plants observed by L'Obel and Pierre Pena on botanizing trips throughout Europe. The genus of plants named *Lobelia* is named after L'Obel.

Matthias de L'Obel (1538 – 1616)

Kruydtboeck oft beschryuinghe van allerleye ghewassen, kruyderen, hesteren, ende gheboomten. T'Antwerpen : By Christoffel Plantyn, 1581.

A revision and rearrangement of L'Obel's *Plantarum, sev Stirpium historia*, 1576; translated by himself, with the help, it is supposed, of Martin Everaert.

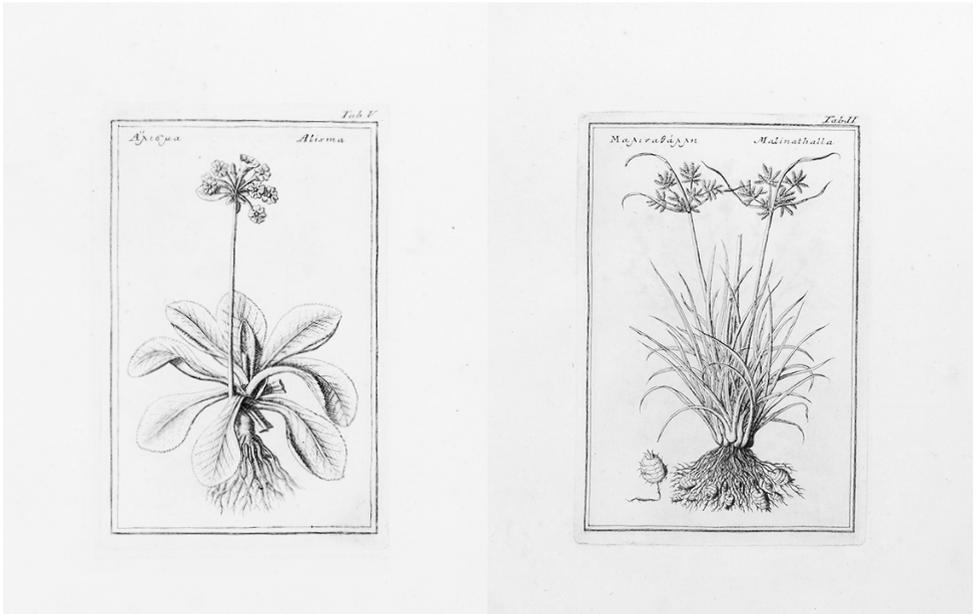
L.3.b.4

Andrea Cesalpino (1524/5-1603)

De plantis libri XVI Andreae Caesalpini Aretini, medici clarissimi, doctissimiq; atque philosophi celeberrimi, ac subtilissimi ... Florentiae : Apud Georgium Marescottum, 1583.

51.c.8

Cesalpino studied botany at the University of Pisa and became Director of the Pisa Botanic garden in 1554-1558. Cesalpino was a precursor of William Harvey in discovering the concept of the circulation, but, unlike Harvey, he was unsuccessful in presenting quantitative evidence or a convincing experimental method to demonstrate the circulation of the blood, and so his lasting fame rests on his *De Plantis Libris XVI* (1583), dedicated to the Grand Duke Francisco I de Medici (1541-87), the fruit of nearly forty years of teaching and practical experience combining philosophy, medicine and botany.



An illustration from Fabio Colonna's 'Phytobasanos'

Fabio Colonna (1567-1650)

[Phytobasanos] sive plantarum aliquot historia: in qua describuntur diversi generis plantæ veriores, ac magis facie, viribusque respondentis antiquorum Theophrasti, Dioscoridis, Plinij, Galeni, aliorumque delineationibus, ab alijs hucusque non animaduersæ. / Fabio Colonna auctore. Accessit etiam piscivm aliquot, plantarumque nouarum historia eodem auctore.

Neopoli : apud I.I. Carlinum, & A. Pacem, 1592. L.5.c.15

The first book with pictures of plants engraved on copper.

William Langham

The garden of health : conteyning the sundry rare and hidden vertues and properties of all kindes of simples and plants, together with the maner how they are to be used and applyed in medicine for the health of mans body ...

London : [s.n.], 1579 [i. e. 1597].

L.7.b.24

This work has been described as "user friendly" with its alphabetical arrangement of simples and plants, so, writes the author, "that thou mayst without any difficulty finde them by the titles of the pages, and to every Simple is annexed a brief Table of the effects thereof."

Garcia d'Orta (1501 - 1568)

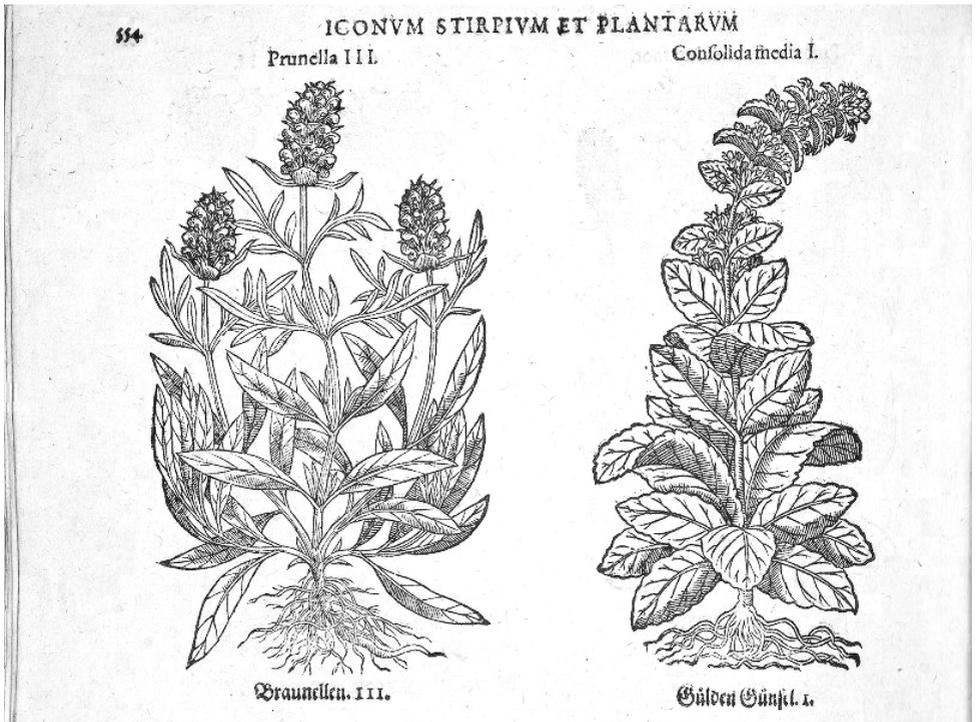
Aromatum, et simplicium aliquot medicamentorum apud Indos nascentium historia : primum quidem Lusitana lingua dialogikos conscripta.

4. ed. / castigatior, & aliquot locis auctior.

Antverpiæ [Antwerp] : Ex Officina Plantiniana, apud viduam, & Joannem Moretum, 1593.

L.6.b.25

This is an epitome of: Coloquios dos simples e drogas he cousas medicinais da India, 1563.



Illustrations from Jacobus Theodorus' Neuw Kreuterbuch (1588)

Jacobus Theodorus (d.1590)

Neuw vollkommentlich Kreuterbuch : mit schönen und künstlichen Figuren, aller Gewächs der Bäumen, Stauden und Kräutern; so in Teutschen unnd Welschen Landen, auch in Hispanien, Ost unnd West Indien oder in der Newen Welt wachsen, derer über 3000. eygentlich beschrieben werden auch deren Unterscheid und Wirkung sampt ihren Namen in mancherley Sprachen angezeigt werden ... darinn viel ... Artzney vor allerley innerlichen unnd eusserlichen Kranckheiten, beyde der Menschen, und dess Viehes ... beschrieben werden / ... durch Jacobum Theodorum Tabernaemontanum ... Jetzt widerumb ... gemehret, durch Casparum Bauhinum ...

Franckfurt am Mayn : Gedruckt durch Paulum Jacobi, in Verlegung Johann Dreutels, 1625.

Librarian's Room 1

A student of Hieronymus Bock, the physician Jacobus Theodorus has been described as "the father of German botany." His illustrated *Neuw vollkommentlich Kreuterbuch* provided unacknowledged source material for John Gerard's *Herball* (London, 1597) and was reprinted in Germany throughout the 17th century.

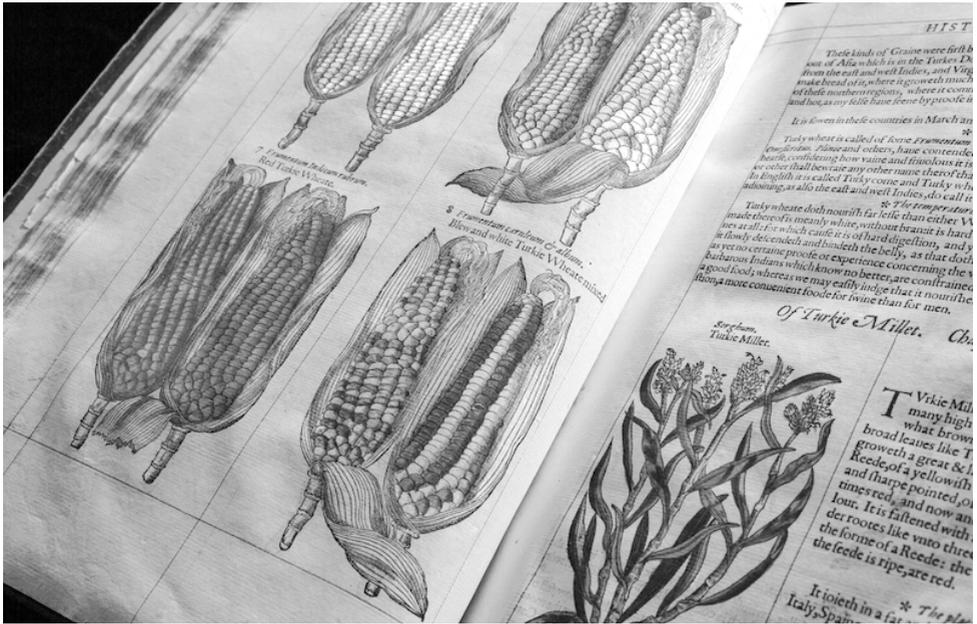
John Gerard (1545-1612)

The *herball* or *Generall historie of plantes*. / Gathered by John Gerarde of London, master in chirurgerie. Very much enlarged and amended by Thomas Johnson, citizen and apothecarye of London.

London : Printed by Adam Islip, Joice Norton and Richard Whitakers, 1633.

211.c.1 & 2

Although much of his work was plagiarised from Dodoens, Gerard is the most famous of the English herbalists. The publisher, apothecary, and soldier Thomas Johnson (1595x1600-1644) enlarged this work, correcting its errors, and increasing the number of plants described to a total of 2850, making this second edition (1633) the most important.



Illustrations from John Gerard's 'The Herball'

John Gerard (1545-1612)

The Herball: or, Generall historie of plantes. / gathered by John Gerarde ... very much enlarged and amended by Thomas Johnson ...

London: Printed by A.J.J. Norton ..., 1636. L.4.b.5

Leonhart Fuchs (1501-1566)

New Kreüterbuch, in welchem nit allein die gantz Histori, das ist, Namen, Gestalt, Statt und Zeit der Wachung, Natur, Krafft und Würckung, des meysten Theyls der Kreüter so in teütschen unnd andern Landen wachsen ... beschriben: sonder auch aller derselben Wurtzel, Stengel, Bletter, Blumen, Samen, Frücht ... also ... abgebildet ... ist, das deszgleichen vormals nie gesehen, noch an Tag kommen ...

Basell: Michael Isingrin, 1543.

Librarian's Room 4

The name of the flowering plant Fuchsia derives from and immortalises the name of German physician and botanist Leonhart Fuchs. As well as identifying the plants described by the classical authors such as Dioscorides, Hippocrates, and Galen, Fuchs describes around 400 wild, and more than 100 domesticated plant species and their medical uses many of them grown in the garden attached to his house, and many of them rare specimens brought to him by his fellow botanists throughout Europe.

The greate herball, which geueth parfyte knowledge & understandinge of al maner of herbes, and theyr gracious vertues ... practysed by many experte and wyse maysters ... / Newlye corrected and diligently ouersene.

London: Jhon Kyng, 1561.

Librarian's Room 43

Mostly a translation of Le Grand Herber, published in Paris in 1520, itself deriving from Paltearius's De simplici medicina, the first French herbal (which owes much of its content to Dioscorides), The greate herball is the first illustrated English herbal.

William Turner (1515-1568)

The first and seconde partes of the Herbal, lately oversene, corrected and enlarged with the thirde parte, lately gathered and nowe set oute with the herbes in Greke, Latin, English, Duch, Frenche, etc. Collen : by Arnold Birckman., 1568.

Librarian's Room 26

The first scientific herbal written by an English author, and the first scientific herbal published in the English language.

Rembert Dodoens (1517-1585)

A nieuwe herball : or, Historie of plantes: wherein is containned the vvhole discourse and perfect description of all sortes of herbes and plantes: their diuers and sundry kindes ... and that not onely of those which are here growyng in this our countrie of Englande but of all others also of forrayne realmes commonly used in physicke / first set fourth in the Doutche or Almaigne tongue, by that learned D. Rembert Dodoens ... and now first translated out of French into English, by Henry Lyte. London, G. Dewes, 1578

Librarian's Room 27

The first Belgian botanist of international repute, Dodoens grouped plants according to their medicinal properties.

William Bullein (d.1576)

Bulleins bulwarke of defence against all sicknesse, soarenesse, and woundes that doe dayly assaulte mankinde: which bulwarke is kept with Hilarius the gardener, & Health the phisicion, with the chirurgian, to helpe the wounded souldiours ... London : Thomas Marsche, 1579.

Librarians Room 42

Written while Bullein and his wife were in debtors' prison, and first in 1562, Bullein's Bulwarke includes some of the earliest references to Paracelsus, and replaces a manuscript lost when the boat carrying Bullein's possessions to London was shipwrecked.

Nicolas Monardes (1493-1588)

Joyfull newes out of the new-found worlds : wherein are declared, the rare & singular vertues of divers herbs, trees, plantes, oyles & stones, with their applications ... / englished by John Frampton ; newly corrected ... whereunto are added 3 other bookes treating of the Bezaar stone, the herb Escuerconera the properties of iron & steele in medicine ... London, 1596.

Librarian's Room 78

An English translation of the first treatise, published at Seville in 1565, on Central American drugs and the medicinal plants of the New World.

John Gerard (1545-1612)

The herball : or, Generall historie of plantes.

London : Imprinted by John Norton, 1597.

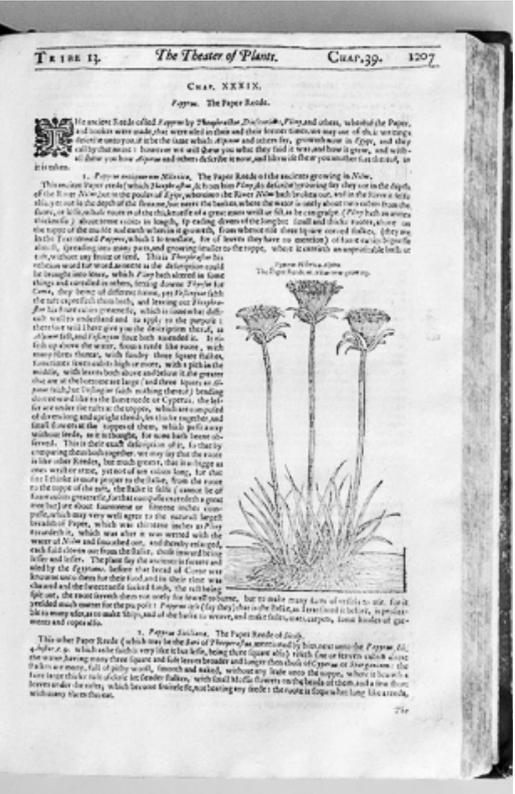
Librarian's Room 20

John Parkinson (1567-1650)

Paradisi in sole paradisus terrestris, or, a garden of all sorts of pleasant flowers which our English ayre will permitt to be noursed up : with a kitchen garden and an orchard. London : H. Lownes & R. Young, 1629.

Librarian's Room 21

The title of this work indulges in some word play on its author's name: Park-in-sun.



John Parkinson's 'Theatrum Botanicum'

John Parkinson (1567-1650)

Theatrum botanicum. The theater of plants; or, An herbal of a large extent, containing therein a more ample and exact history and declaration of the physical herbs and plants that are in other authorours, encreased by the accessse of many hundreds of new, rare and strange plants from all parts of the world. London., T. Cotes, 1640.

Librarian's Room 8

Considered the last of the old English herbalists, Parkinson was Apothecary to James I. He describes nearly 3800 plants in this work described by Eleanour Sinclair Rohde as "the largest herbal in the English language."



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