



PLANTS IN PRINT

THE AGE OF BOTANICAL DISCOVERY

Exhibit Overview *Plants in Print: The Age of Botanical Discovery* examines the close relationship between plant discovery and printed communication, with 34 important works published over four centuries.

Europeans' pursuit of new plants has been carried out with passion and zeal for three hundred years. Sought after for food, medicine, and fuel, plants of the world ranked only second to gold as the motivation for exploring "new worlds." Discoveries in hand, explorers naturally wanted to communicate their successes, and did so first in letters and manuscripts, and later in books and journals.

The invention of printing in 1455 introduced a new technology that improved communication and made it more accurate. It also put botanical information into the hands of more people. For the first time, physicians and others could learn the botanical lessons of classical scholars such as Theophrastus and Dioscorides.

Armed with, and inspired by, botanical knowledge newly available in books, European explorers set out on expeditions around the world to discover new plants. Some plants, such as the potato, would change the diets of millions forever. Other plants, such as the tulip, would change the complexion of ornamental gardens in a single generation.

Rental and Shipping \$6,500 rental fee for three-month period includes the 40-page color catalog at cost (shipping additional), a Chicago Botanic Garden staff member to supervise installation and de-installation (includes expenses), a link to the website www.plantsinprint.org, a student field journal and teacher guide, and an installation manual. Two-way shipping is the responsibility of the renting institution.

Space Requirements 1,500 square feet, or 130 running feet of walls

Components Five freestanding, lighted graphic walls (8' x 8', separable into 4' x 8' for handling); 13 display cases; 34 rare books; custom-designed bookstands; four banners (36" x 115").

Gallery Requirements Temperature and humidity controls

Security High

Availability Call for availability

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Exhibit Website www.chicagobotanic.org/exhibitions

