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## Benson Latin American Collection

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Editor: Ann Hartness

### PLANTS OF THE NEW WORLD

Compiled by Russell E. Thomas

This bibliography focuses on the history of plant science in South America through the early nineteenth century. The Benson Collection's holdings in this area are significant and include rare books, facsimile editions, and large, elaborately produced reports of botanical expeditions. Much of the material listed is kept in the Rare Books and Manuscripts division of the library.

The history of plant science in Latin America can be divided into three large areas: 1) The indigenous traditions, some of which are partially preserved in pre-Conquest picture writing and other artifacts, as well as in early post-Conquest histories and ethnographies; 2) 16th and 17th century attempts by Europeans to discover *materia medica*—medically useful plants or drugs—in the Western hemisphere; and 3) the age of the Enlightenment and of modern botanical science and expeditions. All materials listed are in the Benson Latin American Collection.

Subject headings for searching in the online catalog (UTCAT) in this area include BOTANY--, NATURAL HISTORY--, and MATERIA MEDICA--, followed by geographical qualifiers, such as BOTANY-PERU.

### GENERAL SURVEYS AND BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Chardón, Carlos E. *Los naturalistas en America Latina*. Ciudad Trujillo: Editora de Caribe, 1949-.

The most thorough historical treatment, beginning with the early Spanish chroniclers and ending with Charles Darwin. Index.  
G574.9806/C375n/v.1 • Benson Collection stacks

*Plants and Plant Science in Latin America*. Edited by Frans Verdoorn. Waltham, MA: Chronica Botanica, 1945.

This general and very comprehensive introduction includes extensive bibliographies and an excellent "historical sketch" by F. W. Pennel. Articles in English and Spanish.  
G581.9806/V584p • Benson Collection stacks

Real Expedición Botánica del Nuevo Reino de Granada. *Flora de la Real Expedición Botánica del Nuevo Reino de Granada*. Madrid: Ediciones Cultura Hispánica, 1954-.

Volume 1 of this massive publishing venture is a historicobibliographical introduction to the subject area. Chapters 1 through 5 deal in general terms with eighteenth century botany in Spain and Spanish America.  
fGz581.986/F661/v.1 • Rare Books Reading Room

Steele, Arthur Robert. *Flowers for the King. The Expedition of Ruiz and Pavon and the Flora of Peru*. Durham, NC: Duke University, 1964.

Chapters 1 and 2 of this well-written book provide a historical review of the beginnings of botany in the Western Hemisphere. Extensive bibliographical references.

G581.985/St32f • Benson Collection stacks

#### THE INDIGENOUS RECORD

**Codex Félerváry-Mayer; 12024m City of Liverpool Museums.** 2 vols. Graz, Austria: Akademische Druck-u. Verlagsanstalt, 1971.

The drawings in this pre-Hispanic manuscript are elegant and clear and include representations of identifiable trees and plants -- cacao and maize, for example. (See commentary of Eduard Seler in the Berlin and London edition, 1901-1902, at qF1219/C666/1901/LAC-Z)

F1219/C666/1971/LAC-Z • Rare Books Reading Room

Cruz, Martín de la. *Libellus de Medicinalibus Indorum herbis*. México: Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social, 1964.

Known better as the Badianus manuscript, this precious herbal compiled in 1552 by a noble Aztec physician educated at the Franciscan Colegio de Santa Cruz de Tlatelolco will delight anyone interested in indigenous American cultures, plants, and the art of botanical illustration. Includes transcription of the original Latin and a Spanish translation of the text.

Gz615.32/c889b/1964 • Rare Books Reading Room

#### **Relaciones geográficas de Indias**

Under this heading are grouped the many reports made in response to a questionnaire sent from King Phillip II to all of the realms of the Spanish Empire in 1579. Questions 22 through 26 of this survey concern trees, plants, herbal remedies known to local populations, and crops, both indigenous and imported. To read some of the interesting responses, see an English version which is found in Volume 12 of the *Handbook of Middle American Indians* (F1434/H3/LAC)

*Papeles de Nueva España, publicados de orden y con fondos del gobierno Mexicano por Francisco del Paso y Troncoso*. Madrid: Sucesores de Rivadeneyra, 1905-

Gz972.02/P198/ser.2/v.4-10 • Rare Books Reading Room

*Relaciones Geográficas de Indias: Peru*, por Marcos Jiménez de la Espada. Edición y estudio preliminar por José Urbano Martínez Carreras. 3 vols. Madrid: Ediciones Atlas, 1965. (Biblioteca de autores españoles, vol. 183-185)

PQ/6171/A2/B6/v.183-185/LAC • Benson Collection stacks

Sahagún, Bernardino de. *Historia de las cosas de Nueva España*.

Under this uniform title are listed many editions of this most important of 16th century ethnographic studies.

\_\_\_\_\_. *General history of the Things of New Spain: Florentine Codex. Part XII*. vols. Santa Fe, NM: School of American Research; Salt Lake City, UT: University of Utah, 1950-1982.

Part XII of this edition in English comprises Sahagún's Book Eleven, "Earthly Things," which deals with plants and herbs.

G972.014/Sa19H/v.12 • Benson Collection stacks

\_\_\_\_\_. *Historia de las cosas de Nueva España*, publicase con fondos de la Secretaría de Instrucción Pública y Bellas Artes de México, por Francisco del Paso y Troncoso. Madrid: Fototipia de Hauser y Menet, 19??-.

Unusually fine reproductions of the plants and herbs in Book 11.  
fGz972.014/Sa19h/19--/v.5 • Rare Books Reading Room

Estrada Lugo, Erin Ingrid Jane. *El Códice florentino: su información etnobotánica*. 1st edition. Montecillo, México: Colegio de Postgraduados, Instituto de Enseñanza e Investigación en Ciencias Agrícolas, 1989.

This very useful study of Sahagún's "Book of Earthly Things" indexes the ethnobotanical material in several different ways.  
fM1219.76/E83/E88/1989/LAC • Benson Collection stacks

#### MATERIA MEDICA

Monardes, Nicolás, ca. 1512-1588. *Joyfull newes out of the newe founde worlds*, written in Spanish by Nicholas Monardes ... and Englished by John Frampton. 2 vols. London, Constable; New York, A.A. Knopf, 1925.

Physician Nicolás Monardes studies the medicinal properties of New World plants as they arrived at the wharves of his native Seville. His work is pre-scientific, but Frampton's translation of this 16th century "best-seller" into Elizabethan English has great charm.  
RS/169/M64/1925/LAC • Benson Collection stacks

Hernández, Francisco, 1517-1587. *Historia de las plantas de Nueva España*. 3 vols. Mexico: Imprenta Universitaria, 1942-1946.

Results of the government-financed "scientific" expedition, directed by Dr. Francisco Hernández, chief medical examiner of Phillip II.  
G581.972/H43oTSr • Benson Collection stacks

\_\_\_\_\_. *Obras Completas*. Volume 1. México: Universidad Nacional de México, 1959-.

Volume 1 includes a scholarly treatment of the history of the Hernández expedition and of the fascinating, complex bibliography that flowed from it.  
qGz574.9806/H43/A1/v.1 • Rare Books Reading Room

Somolinos d'Ardois, Germán, 1911-. *El doctor Francisco Hernández y la primera expedición científica en América*. México: Secretaría de Educación Pública, 1971.

"Antología hermandina" on p.77-156 gives some representative writings by this almost forgotten converso humanist.  
QH/31/H37/S61/LAC • Benson Collection stacks

The wild popularity of two of America's more addictive plant-derived substances--chocolate and tobacco--prompted the prominent jurist, Antonio de León Pinelo, and an Inquisition theologian, Tomás Hurtado, to consider the moral and doctrinal implications of their consumption:

León Pinelo, Antonio de, 1590 or 91-1660. *Question moral si el chocolate quebranta el ayuno eclesiástico; trátase de otras bebidas y confecciones que se usan en varias provincias*. Madrid: Viuda de Juan Gonçalves, 1636.  
GT/2920/C3/L468/LAC-ZZ • Rare Books Reading Room

Hurtado, Tomás. *Chocolate y tabaco ayuno eclesiástico y natural: si este le quebranta el chocolate; y el tabaco al natural, para la sagrada comunión*. Madrid: F. García, 1645.  
Gz282.46/H947 • Rare Books Reading Room

Descourtiz, M. E. (Michel Étienne), b. 1775. *Flore médicale des Antilles, ou, Traité des plantes usuelles: des colonies françaises, anglaises, espagnoles et portugaises*. 8 vols. Paris: Pichard, 1821-1829.

Worth perusing if only for the beauty of the illustrations, hand-colored by the author's son.  
Gz581.9729/D455f • Rare Books Reading Room

Heim, Roger. *Les champignons hallucinogènes du Mexique; études ethnologiques, taxinomiques, physiologiques et chimiques*. Paris: Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, 1958.

Exhaustive study of the psilocybin mushroom. Stretches from the archeological record of Classic Teotihuacán to the present day. Profusely illustrated.  
qGz615.329222/H363c • Rare Books Reading Room

#### BOTANICAL EXPEDITIONS

Marggraf, Georg, 1610-1644. *História natural do Brasil*. Tradução de mon. dr. José Procópio de Magalhães, edição do Museu Paulista comemorativa do cincoentenário da fundação da Imprensa Oficial do Estado de São Paulo. São Paulo: Imprensa Oficial do Estado, 1942.

Modern Brazilian edition of Marggraf's historic report on the first expedition to the Western Hemisphere that can be called scientific in the modern sense (1638-1644). Includes a biography of Marggraf by Afonso de E. Taunay.  
qGz574.981/M336hTpm • Rare Books Reading Room

The following works are related to botanical expeditions of the eighteenth century organized and funded by the Spanish crown. (Three of the four expeditions are best known by the names of their leaders):

#### MALASPINA

González Claverán, Virginia. *Malaspina en Acapulco*. Madrid: Turner, 1989.

A combination of scholarly presentation and very fine and profuse illustrations, including botanical drawings, make this beautiful book a good introduction to the Malaspina Expedition.  
qF1211/G6/1989/LAC • Benson Collection stacks

Cutter, Donald C. *Malaspina in California*. San Francisco: J. Howell, 1960.

One of the few works in English on Malaspina. Some illustrations, index, bibliography.  
qG917.94/M291bc • Benson Collection stacks

#### REAL EXPEDICION BOTANICA DEL NUEVO REINO DE GRANADA

Real Expedición Botánica del Nuevo Reino de Granada. *Flora de la Real Expedición Botánica del Nuevo Reino de Granada*. Madrid: Ediciones Cultura Hispánica, 1954-.

The monumental publication of the results of the studies directed by José Celestino Mutis, "el sabio Mutis," the outstanding man of science of the Spanish 18th century. Among the six over-size volumes held by the Benson Collection, perhaps number 27, devoted to the passionflowers and begonias, has the most exquisite illustrations.  
fGz 581.986/F661/v.1,7,8,27,30,44 • Rare Books Reading Room

#### RUIZ Y PAVON

Ruiz, Hipólito. *Flora peruviana, et chilensis, sive, Descriptiones et Icones plantarum peruvianarum, et chilensium, secundum systema*

**Linnaeanum digestae, cum characteribus plurium generum evulgatorum reformatis.** Lehre (Germany): J. Cramer, 1965.

Facsimile edition, three volumes in one. The first volume has text of preface and plant descriptions in Spanish as well as in Latin.  
qGz581.985/R8591/1965 • Benson Collection Rare Books

\_\_\_\_\_. **Relación del viaje hecho a los reynos del Perú y Chile por los botánicos, y dibujantes enviados para aquella expedición, extratado de los diarios por el orden que llevó en estos su autor Hipólito Ruiz ...** Madrid: Est. tipográfico Huelves y Compañía, 1931.

A personal account of this expedition by one of its leaders.  
G918.5/R859r • Benson Collection Stacks

## SESSE Y MOCINO

Rickett, Harold William. **The Royal Botanical Expedition to New Spain, 1788-1820 as Described in Documents in the Archivo General de la Nación, Mexico, Now Translated and Collated.** Waltham, MS: Chronica Botanica, 1947.

Based closely on documents from the Archivo, this account in English is brief, highly detailed and well illustrated.  
G581.972/R424r • Benson Collection Stacks

Sessé, Martín. **Plantae Novae Hispaniae.** Ed. 2. México: Oficina Tip. de la Secretaría de Fomento, 1893.

The story of the loss to history of the drawings that should have accompanied this edition is one of the most tortured and fascinating in Spanish botanical bibliography. At the beginning of "Flora Mexicana," the second part of this book, is a "Reseña de la Expedición de historia natural dirigida por Martín Sessé" by Ricardo Ramírez.  
qGz581.972/Se72p/1893 • Rare Books Reading Room

Grobet Palacio, René. **El peregrinar de las flores mexicanas. José Mariano Mocino y Losada, 1752-1822.** Xalapa, Veracruz: Instituto de Investigaciones sobre Recursos Bióticos, 1982.

A study dedicated to the Mexican naturalist Mocino and to the amazing story of the final loss of the drawings from the expedition to Mexico.  
QK/31/M64/G76/1982/LAC • Benson Collection Stacks

Humboldt, Alexander von, 1769-1859 and Aimé de Bonpland, 1773-1858. **Voyage de Humboldt et Bonpland. Voyage aux régions équinoxiales du nouveau continent.** Amsterdam: Theatrum Orbis Terrarum; New York: DaCapo Press, 1971.

This sumptuous facsimile edition of the entire **Voyage** (the original publication of which nearly bankrupted the wealthy Baron von Humboldt) features stunning botanical drawings, especially the black and white lithographs in part VI, the *Plantes Equinoxiales*. Humboldt's **Personal Narrative of Travels to the Equinoctial Regions of the New Continent During the Years 1799-1824 [i.e. 1804]** was published in English translation (Amsterdam and New York: 1971. 7 vols. in 4; F/2216/H9282/LAC-ZZ) as an addition to the facsimile edition.  
fF/2216/H9/1971/LAC-ZZ • Rare Books Reading Room