

Herbarium

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USA

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ISBN: 978-1-78160-963-7

Publisher's note: The plates printed here come from the *Hortus Eystettensis* of Basilius Besler published for the first time in 1613.

Herbarium

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Flos Solismaior.

Helianthus annuus
Sunflower
Compositae

Biography

1561: Birth of Basilius Besler, son of Michael Besler, in Nuremberg on the 13th February.

1586: Besler marries Rosine Flock.

1596: Second marriage to Susanne Schmidt. From his two marriages, Besler would have sixteen children altogether.

1589-1629: Besler manages the apothecary shop *Zum Marienbild* in Nuremberg. There he creates and maintains a botanical garden as well as a collection of curiosities (*Naturalienkabinett*).

1597: The bishop of Eichstatt commissions Besler to create a botanical garden at Willibaldsburg. He designs a garden of one hectare comprising eight terraces. To realise this, Besler turns to the botanists Charles de l'Écluse, Joachim Camerarius le Jeune and Ludwig Jungermann for help. Following this, Besler undertakes an inventory of the rare and little-known plants of the time.

1607: Birth of his nephew Michel-Basile Besler.

1613: Besler publishes his *Hortus Eystettensis* in Eichstatt and Nuremberg. The work brings together 1,084 species of plants, classed in order of appearance according to

the seasons, comprising 367 plates engraved using intaglio techniques, principally by Wolfgang Kilian. Printed in black and white, the herbarium was coloured by painters engaged by the richest buyers of the work.

1616: Publication of engravings of the rarest “products” of nature, which he had brought together in his collection of curiosities.

1627: Hieronymus Besler, Basilius’ brother, prints a new edition of the *Hortus Eystettensis*, a less lavish version with just 96 plates.

1629: Basilius Besler dies on the 13th March in Nuremberg.

1646-1648: Michel-Basile Besler publishes *Mantissa ad Viretum stirpium Eystettense*, as a complement and homage to his uncle’s *Hortus Eystettensis*.

In Icona affabrè effictam clariff. Pharmacopœi
 NORIMB. DN. BASILII BESLERII



BESLERVM glyptes BASILEION imaginè pulcrâ,
 Quisquis es, ô Hospes, reddidit, ecce, tibi.
 Nempe viri vultus dedit heic, atq; ora tueri:
 Cernere vis mentis dona sagacis? age,
 HERBARVM magnum hoc PLANTARVMq; Amphitheatron.
 Inspice, quas dotes AREATINVS habet.
 Divitiâsq; HORTVS: Paradiſon dixeris iplum:
 Condidit immortale hoc BASILEIVS OPVS.

GEORG. REMVS. P. ed. 16^{ta}

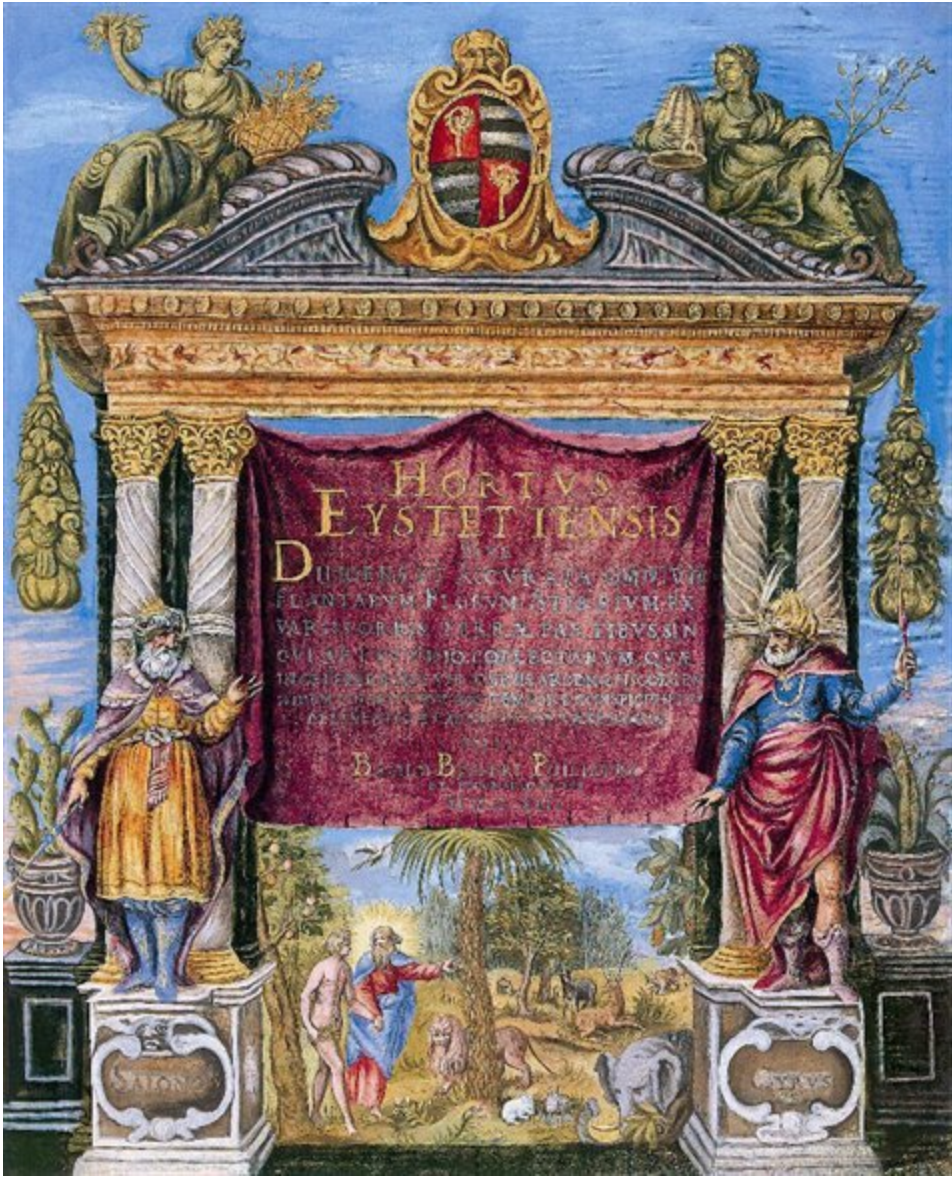
Introductory plate: Portrait of Basilius Besler



A herbarium, or Hortus Siccus, is a collection of plants that have been dried and preserved so as to illustrate as far as possible their different characters. Since the same plant, owing to peculiarities of climate, soil and situation, degree of exposure to light and other influences may vary greatly according to the locality in which it occurs,



Introductory plate: Hortus
Eystettensis

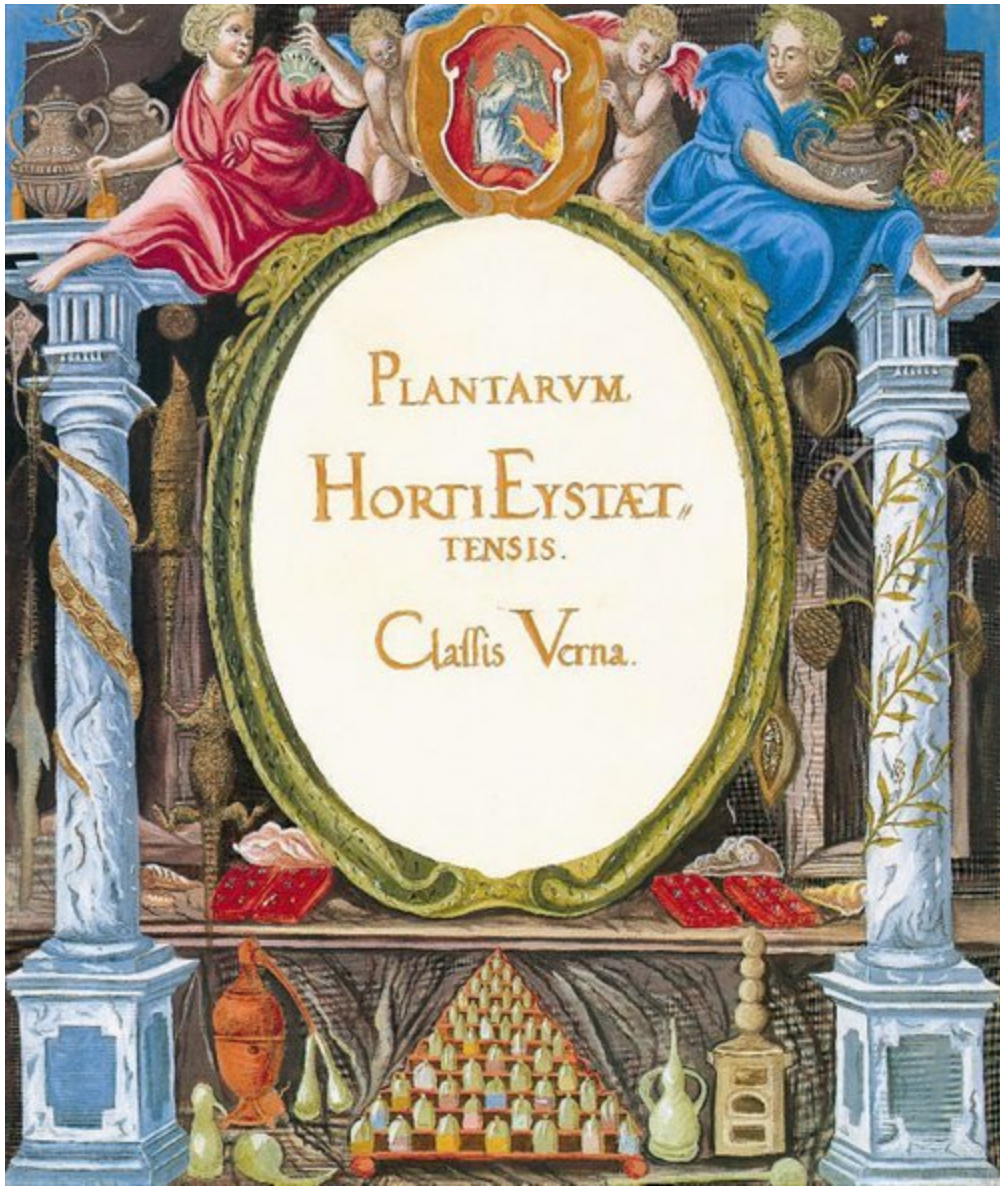




it is only by gathering together, for comparison and study, a large series of examples of each species that the flora of different regions can be satisfactorily represented. Even in the best-equipped botanical garden it is almost impossible to have more than a very small percentage of the representatives of the flora of any given region or large group of plants.



PLANTARUM HORTI EYSTÆT
TENSIS
Claffis Verna
Introductory plate: Spring



PLANTARVM
HORTI EYSTATENSIS.
Classis Verna.



Hence, a good herbarium forms an indispensable part of a botanical museum or institution. There are large herbaria at the British Museum and at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, and smaller collections at the botanical institutions at the principal British universities.



I. *Ruscus aculeatus*
Butcher's Broom
Liliaceae-Asparagales



II. *Philadelphus coronarius*
Double-flowered Mock-orange
Hydrangeaceae

III. *Philadelphus coronarius*
Single-flowered Mock-orange
Hydrangeaceae



*Syringa Italica flw' albo
plens.*

Ruscus.

Syringa flw' albo simplici



Linnaeus' original herbarium is in the possession of the Linnaen Society of London. It was purchased from the widow of Linnaeus by Dr. (later Sir) J. E. Smith,



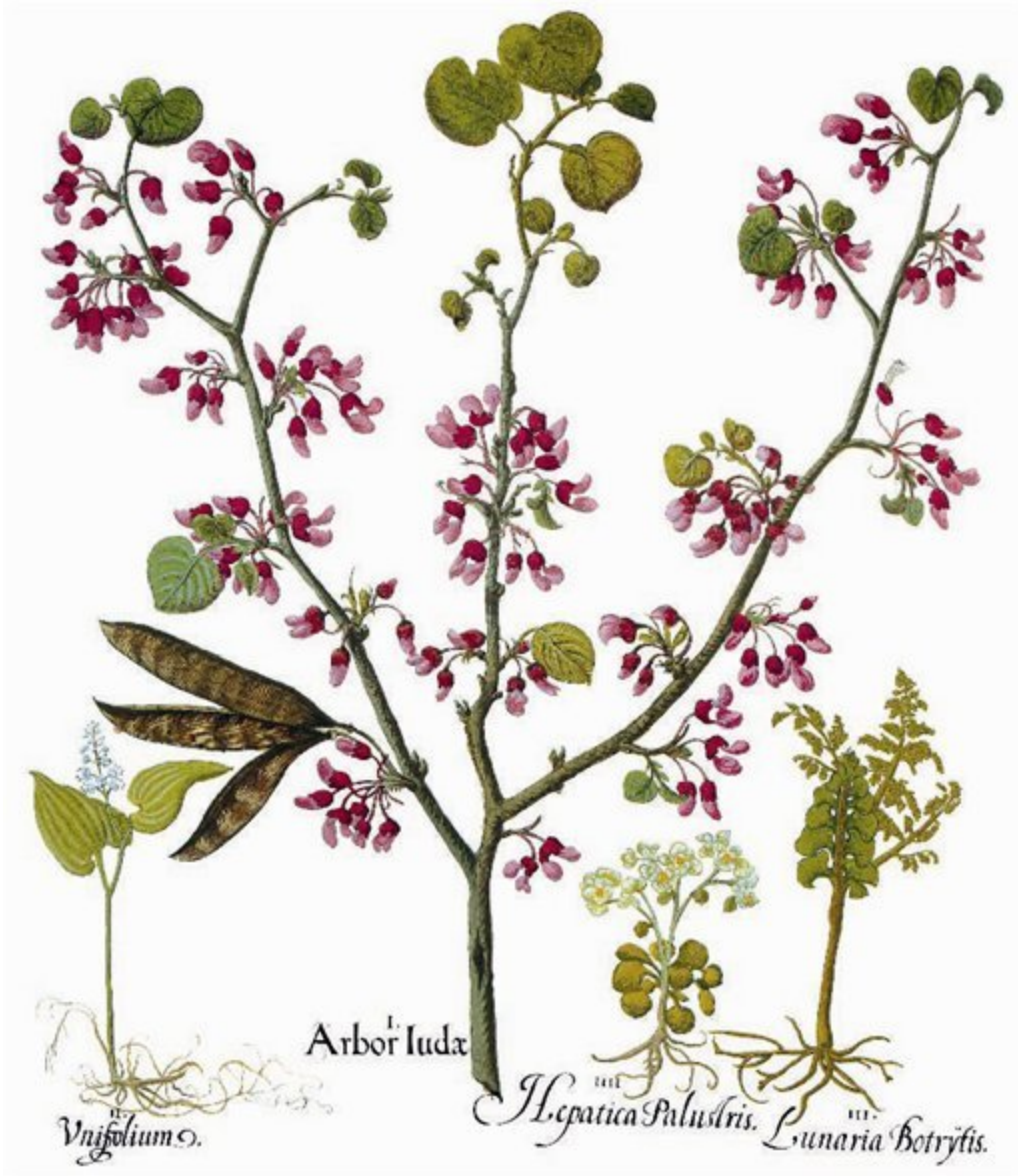
I. *Cercis siliquastrum*
Judas Tree
Leguminosae-Caesalpinia

II. *Maianthemum bifolium*
False Lily of the Valley
Liliaceae



III. *Botrychium lunaria*
Moonwort
Ophioglossales-Pteridophyta

IV. *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*
Golden Saxifrage
Saxifragaceae



Arbor Iuda

Vnifolium

Hepatica Palustris. Lunaria Botrytis.



one of the founders of the Linnaen Society, and after his death was bought by the society. Herbaria are also associated with the more important botanical gardens and museums in other countries.



I. *Prunus specie*
Double-flowered Cherry
Rosaceae



II. *Prunus padus*
Bird Cherry
Rosaceae

III. *Picea abies*
Branch and cones of the Norway
Spruce
Conifer



Cerasus flore pleno.

Summitates Picæ.

Cerasus micropsa sylvestris.



The value of a herbarium is much enhanced by the possession of “types”, that is, the original specimens on which the study of a species was founded.



I. *Malus specie*
Double-flowered Apple
Rosaceae



II. *Lychnis viscaria*
Sticky Catchfly
Caryophyllaceae

III. *Campanula patula*
Spreading Bellflower
Campanulaceae



Lychnis viscaria sylvatica flore incarnata.

Rosa flore multiplici.

Ranunculus Sylvaticus major.



Thus the herbarium at the British Museum, which is especially rich in the earlier collections made in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, contains the types of many species founded by the earlier workers in botany. It is also rich in types of Australian plants from the collections of Sir Joseph Banks and Robert Brown, and contains in addition many valuable modern collections.



- I. *Staphylea pinnata*
Bladdernut
Staphyleaceae



- II. *Vinca minor*
White-flowered Lesser
Periwinkle
Apocynaceae

- III. *Vinca minor*
Lesser Periwinkle
Apocynaceae

- IV. *Vinca minor*
Mauve-flowered Lesser
Periwinkle
Apocynaceae

V. *Vinca minor*
Double-flowered Lesser
Periwinkle
Apocynaceae



Clematis Daphnoides.
flor. caeruleo.

Clematis Daphnoides
flor. albo.

Staphylocdendron.

Clematis Daphnoides
flor. purpurea plena.

Clematis Daphnoides
flor. purpurea.



The Kew herbarium, founded by Sir William Hooker and greatly developed by his son Sir Joseph Hooker, also contains many types, especially those of plants described in the *Flora of British India* and various colonial floras.



I. *Laburnum anagyroides*
Common Laburnum
Papilionaceae

II. *Laburnum alpinum*
Alpine Laburnum
Papilionaceae



Anagyris latifolia.

Anagyris angustifolia.



The collection of Dillenius is deposited at Oxford, and that of Professor W. H. Harvey at Trinity College, Dublin. The collections of Antoine Laurent de Jussieu,



I. *Viburnum opulus*
Snowball Bush [Gelder-rose]
Caprifoliaceae



II. *Cytisus sessilifolius*
Stalkless-leaved Laburnum
Papilionaceae

III. *Cytisus ciliatus*
Small Alpine Laburnum
Papilionaceae



^{i.}
Sambucus arborosa

^{ii.}
Cytisus V. Clusij.

^{iii.}
Trifolium arborescens.