THE WORLD IN A GARDEN

Gardens everywhere can be viewed as microcosms of the world of plants

The World in a Garden is a new traveling exhibition produced by the Botanic Garden of Smith College.

This exhibit explores ways botanic gardens since the early Renaissance have endeavored to represent our increasing awareness of the plant life of other continents and climatic regions. Stunning images from the rich collection of botanical works in the Smith College Mortimer Rare Book Room and the National Geographic image collection showcase how botanists and botanical artists have sought to describe and illustrate the diversity of the known plant world in an age of constant exploration and discovery.

See the exhibit online at www.smith.edu/garden/exhibits/worldinagarden
In the summer of 1947, when future Smith College Professor of Biology John Burk was eleven years old, he read an article in *National Geographic Magazine*, entitled “The World in Your Garden,” featuring paintings of familiar garden plants growing in their native regions around the world. At this time the United Nations was in its infancy, and this article illustrated that, despite the recent carnage or World War II, plants had been living together peacefully in our gardens all along.

“The World in Your Garden” became a part of Professor Burk’s botanical subconscious, and he recalled it at once when he saw his first bulb show in the Lyman Plant House at Smith College in the spring of 1962. Here in a single greenhouse were crocuses, snowdrops, and fritillaries from Alpine meadows, hyacinths from the shores of the Mediterranean, and tulips from Turkey. The sight of all these plants originating from distant regions, assembled and thriving together at winter’s end, seemed extraordinary to him then, as it still does today.

The beautifully illustrated old botanical texts found in Smith College’s Mortimer Rare Book Room provided further inspiration for this exhibition. An essential resource for teaching, particularly in discussions of the development of the science of botany and the art of botanical illustration, these books provide a historical record of plants brought back from the travels of exploration and discovery of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries – plants from Asia, Africa, and the New World. Professor Burk was further inspired by his own visits to other botanic gardens, where a common focus is the display of plant life from different continents and biogeographic regions. This fascination with exotic species can easily be seen in many of our home gardens, which today are filled with species originating from around the globe.

Sixty years after his encounter with the July 1947 issue of *National Geographic*, Professor Burk revisited this inspiration through *The World in a Garden* exhibit.

The exhibition is available for rental for $2,000 for a two month period (minimum) and $750 for each additional month, plus shipping and insurance. The rental fee includes all panels without any of the National Geographic images. For the four panels with the images from National Geographic there is an additional licensing fee of $825 for two months.

**For more information contact:**
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Images of the Exhibition on View at the Botanic Garden of Smith College
General Information about Exhibition Rental

1. Currently available

2. **Rental Fee:** $2000 for a two month period (minimum) and $750 for each additional month. This includes all panels except those with images that require an additional licensing fee from National Geographic.

   **Additional licensing fees from National Geographic:**
   
   For the four panels with the images from National Geographic there is an additional licensing fee of $825 for two months.

3. **Shipping Costs:** The borrowing institution pays all shipping expenses to and from the borrower. Or, you can rent the files, fabricate the exhibit on your end, and avoid all shipping costs (this has often proven to be cheaper than shipping).

4. **Insurance:** Insurance value of the exhibition is approximately $10,000, and the borrower is responsible for insurance coverage while the exhibition in under its control. This is only require if we ship the exhibit to you. If you fabricate the exhibit, we do not require insurance.

5. **Security Requirements:** Security requirements are similar to the “limited security” requirements of SITES. Personnel must be present at all times in the space while the exhibition is open to the public. Supervision by guard, student, volunteer, or receptionist is okay, and they may be performing other duties as well as watching the exhibition. Secure storage for shipping crates is required. The exhibition area must be locked and secure during closed hours. Fire protection must meet all local ordinances. These requirement only apply if we ship the exhibit to you.

6. **Space and Equipment Requirements:**
   
   i. Running feet for all the panels (including the National Geographic panels) is about 56 feet, but that does not include much space between panels. At the Botanic Garden at Smith College we used about 92 running feet to display all the panels.

   ii. Without the 4 National Geographic panels the exhibit is 37 running feet, for which we used 64 feet.

7. **Environmental Requirements (only apply if we ship our exhibit to you):**
   
   i. The exhibition must be displayed indoors.

   ii. Direct sunlight must be diffused or eliminated to prevent fading.

   iii. None of the panels or photographs may come into contact with heating or ventilation outlets when it is on display or in storage.

   iv. The exhibition space must have humidity and temperature controls, to eliminate great fluctuations in either temperature or humidity.

**For more information contact:**

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The World in a Garden
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48" × 48"

The Botanic Garden of Smith College

20" × 36"

36" × 36"
National Geographic Panels
(4 panels which have a separate licensing fee)
Botany Through the Early Sixteenth Century

The Link Between the Ancient and Modern World

The Introduction of Exotics

Leonhart Fuchs: New Kreutzk.

The Link Between the Ancient and Modern World

Otto Brunfels: Herbarum vivae icones

The Introduction of Exotics

Leonhart Fuchs: New Kreutzk.
The First Modern Botanic Garden

The introduction of curious and exciting “new” plants from far-flung lands was a source of wonder for the generation of naturalists and explorers. The need for a place where these rare specimens could be cultivated and studied arose.

The garden at Pisa, established in 1544, is an excellent example of the original concept. The four quadrants of the garden design may have originally represented each of the four main biomes—Europe, Asia, Africa, and America. The quadrants are now laid out in a more modern layout with plants from different regions, but the overall layout reflects the interest in exotic, non-native species.

A single quadrant includes a garden-like area including many exotic plants from different regions around the world.

36” × 36”

The Proliferation of Varieties in Cultivation

The proliferation of varieties in cultivation is a reflection of the wealthy and affluent society. The wealth of the medieval and Renaissance courts supported the development of extensive gardens and the cultivation of a wide variety of plants.

PIETRO ANDREA MATTIOLI: Commentarii in sex libros Pedali discorsi

MATTHIAS DE L’OBE: Plantarum, seu Stirpium historia

The wealth of the medieval and Renaissance courts supported the development of extensive gardens and the cultivation of a wide variety of plants. The botanists and naturalists of the time were responsible for documenting and describing these new varieties, which were often rare and exotic.

These men were not just collectors, but also renowned botanists, such as Pietro Andrea Mattioli and Matthias de l’Obe, who wrote extensively on the cultivation and care of these new varieties.

42” × 36”
The Great Water Lily

Plants gardens were once planted important role in plant introduction, and occasionally in the George Cullin’s garden at Hammersmith in John Prince. Plants and other plants were grown in small, natural environments. These gardens, although they may have been small, have provided a glimpse into the past and the natural beauty of the plants.

Richard Farsley, the great plant explorer, had observed that...