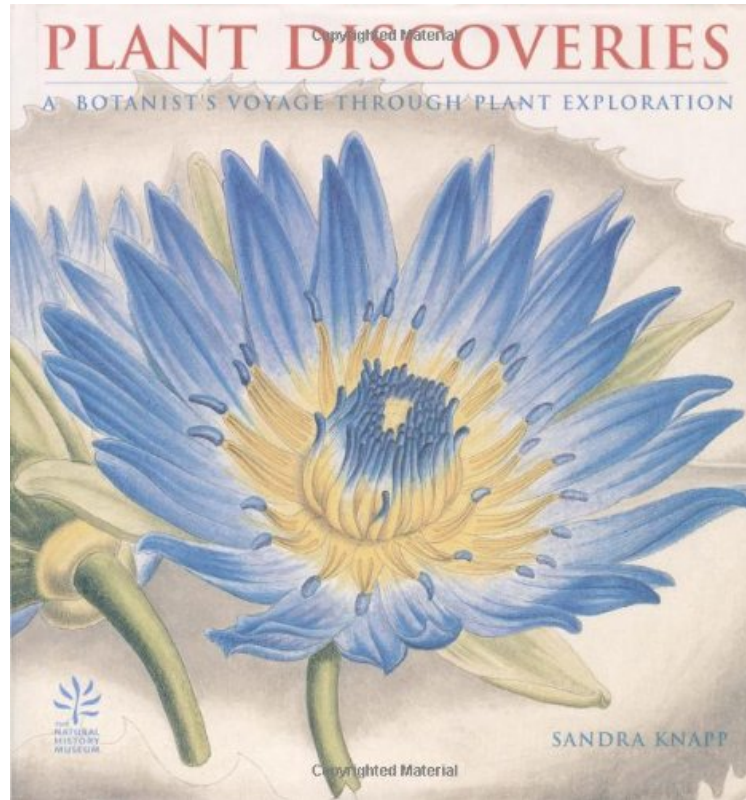


(Free) Plant Discoveries: A Botanist's Voyage Through Plant Exploration

## Plant Discoveries: A Botanist's Voyage Through Plant Exploration

*Sandra Knapp*

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**Sandra Knapp : Plant Discoveries: A Botanist's Voyage Through Plant Exploration** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Plant Discoveries: A Botanist's Voyage Through Plant Exploration:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. My favorite book, and I read it voraciouslyBy David W. SnyderMy favorite book, and I read it voraciously! If you are a gardener or a Junior Botanist this is a must-read.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful and enlighteningBy bukhtanReaders will first notice the extraordinary color reproductions paintings and watercolors of all sorts of plants; each opening of the book will reveal one or two. [There are no photographs.] These are plants that have been used as ornamentals, mostly flowering plants, but also cacti, conifers, and palms. These are drawn from, mostly, the 1700's and 1800's, but other epochs are scattered among them. They are or were in the collection of the Natural History Museum in London. Biographies of the artists are included.But the text is equally interesting, or more so. The author, a staff member at the Museum, seems to have equal grip on her all her domains: the sciences of botany plant ecology along with history and folklore. Unlike so many of those who write about plants in the USA, she is very aware of the transportation of plants from one part of the world to the other, and its consequences. This and other aspects make the book a great pleasure for those like myself who love plants but have a hard time sticking with literature that focuses upon the types only in their essence as garden cultivars.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Great paintings of classic aircraftBy Charles HallThis large

format book has two major appeals: the beautiful paintings that illustrate the planes - and the nicely written biographical pieces. Each section averages about 3 pages, some more, some less. Typically there are 2-3 small photos and 3-4 paintings (some large) per story. There are about 60 such sections, each on a famous flyer or flight. This a much more international selection than you're used to seeing. While the stories are fascinating, it's the paintings that will draw you back again and again to this book. They appear to be a mixture of oils and watercolors I think (I'm no artist!). Many are beautiful action scenes; all show great detail. This is the kind of book that will inspire you to go buy a cheap set of watercolors and see if you can capture some of this magic yourself! Highly recommended.

The history of plants and flowers. Botanical paintings and fascinating essays are combined in *Plant Discoveries* to examine the fascinating history of plants and flowers. Over 20 plant families are profiled including cacti, daffodils, iris, magnolia, poppies, roses, tulips, conifers, hibiscus, palms and waterlilies. Throughout history, plants have dramatically affected the lives of individuals and society as a whole. Holland's infamous tulip craze is now legend. The 17th century spice trade was so profitable that stevedores who unloaded nutmeg from the boats were obliged to wear coveralls without pockets since only a few nutmegs were worth a fortune. The natural history of the plants themselves is an engrossing topic. The book suggests that plants take a more active role in their survival than commonly assumed. It discusses how plants have adopted remarkable strategies for survival in a variety of harsh habitats. One such plant is the dead horse arum -- a putrid-smelling plant that adapted to compete with dead birds to attract pollinating carrion flies. Plants that gardeners now take for granted once could only be found in remote and hostile regions. *Plant Discoveries* tells the fascinating story of the adventurous botanist explorers who braved disease, slave traders, war, jungles and other dangers to collect plants now commonly grown in our own backyards. These pages are graced with hundreds of stunning color illustrations selected from the vast collection of botanical paintings archived at the Natural History Museum, London. *Plant Discoveries* is an exciting voyage of discovery and a must-have volume for lovers of art, botany, and adventure.

From Booklist Before there were digital cameras producing detailed photographs, botanists relied on the pens and palettes of virtuoso artists who accompanied intrepid explorers on their ambitious, and frequently dangerous, plant-collecting expeditions. In a sweeping and sumptuous examination of this fortunate synergy, Knapp unlocks the resources of London's Natural History Museum to profile the influential plants that populate today's suburban gardens and urban conservatories and the artists who brought them to life. An internationally acclaimed botanist and taxonomy expert, Knapp presents the legend and the lore, the data and the details behind more than 20 common and exotic plant families, highlighted by exceptional, never-before-published treasures from the museum's extensive archives. As enlightening as it is entertaining, intriguing as it is informative, this sweeping guide reveals the timeless enchantment of exquisite botanical art. From the awe-inspiring alien allure of cacti to the opulent lushness of peonies, Knapp's commanding discourse pays homage to the artists and scientists who endeavored to preserve and protect the world's exquisite and fragile floral treasures. Carol Haggas Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved If you enjoy art, science and the history of garden plants this book will fascinate you... magnificent. (Brenda Ruzycki Edmonton Sun 2003-12-28) Features drawings and etchings of plants and flowers that are stunning... a serious gardener will weep with joy when she opens this book. (Mary Ann Grossmann St Paul Pioneer Press 2003-11-23) A compelling voyage... fascinating tales... hundreds of masterpieces. (Linda Stilkowski Winnipeg Free Press 2003-12-07) The ultimate botanical cocktail table book, with its amazing collection of botanical prints... [Knapp] has succeeded amazingly well in her objective. (Joan Richards Current Books on Gardening and Botany [Chicago Bot]) Stunning artwork from London's Natural History Museum accompanies botanists Sandra Knapp's look at common garden plants. (Macleans 2003-12-08) Stirring stories of brave botanists daring disease, oceans, wars and jungles to collect many of the plants we take for granted today. (Valerie Easton Seattle Times 2003-12-14) A scholarly work... the paintings and illustrations... are as impressive as the writing. (Dan Vierria Sacramento Bee 2003-12-13) A treasury of botanical illustration... an intriguing book. (The Oregonian 2003-12-11) Elegantly illustrated... Knapp's text links the dreamy watercolors and drawings... with stories of the plants' and flowers' discoveries. (Peggy Earle Norfolk Virginian-Pilot 2003-12-07) Scientific, historic, and cultural perspectives on plants that have been gathered from around the globe. (Science 2004-05-14) Without question, the most enticing book in recent years. (Peter Goddard Toronto Star 2004-05-22) A lush and lovely book that would take root with any gardener or print collector. (Globe and Mail 2003-11-22) Takes readers back in time... when botanists routinely faced adventure and danger... generously illustrated with masterpieces of botanical reproductions. (Suzanne Hively Cleveland Plain Dealer 2003-11-13) Colorful, intricate botanical paintings... detailed text describing the histories, structures and beauties of various families of plants... stunning illustrations. (Gretchen Heber Austin American-Statesman 2003-11-15) Besides being full of great stories, the book is a treasure trove of botanical illustrations. (Valerie Berenyi Calgary Herald 2003-11-30) A great coffee table book that one can pick up and nibble with lazy pleasure. (Jackie Shane E-Streams) Knapp goes beyond the call of duty, taking readers on a voyage of discovery... A lovely book... recommended for all libraries. (Marit MacArthur Taylor Library Journal 2004-04-01) A solid, substantive, classy book. Highly recommended. (Liam

Kennedy American Gardener)A wonderful blend of science and adventure... beautiful and engaging. (Science News 2004-02-28)As enlightening as it is entertaining, intriguing as it is informative, this sweeping guide reveals the timeless enchantment of exquisite botanical art. From the awe-inspiring alien allure of cacti to the opulent lushness of peonies, Knapp's commanding discourse pays homage to the artists and scientists who endeavored to preserve and protect the world's exquisite and fragile floral treasures. (Carol Haggas Booklist / RBB 2004-02-15)Page after page of stunning, beautiful, and intricate illustrations of plants... a delightful glimpse of the history of plant taxonomy, plus a tasteful blend of art and science. (Prachi Patel Audubon 2004-03-01)This volume is a real treat for everyone keen on botanical art and lore. (L.W. Roberts Choice)A very special book. (Marty Figley Minnesota Observer and Eccentric Newspapers 2004-12-16)About the Author Sandra Knapp is an editor of Flora Mesoamerica at the Natural History Museum in London. She has collected plants for the Missouri Botanical Garden and also spent time at the Institute for Botanical Exploration at the Mississippi State University.