

The Flora Graeca Story

Sibthorp, Bauer, and Hawkins in the Levant

H. W. Lack, Professor, Freie Universität, Berlin, with

D. J. Mabberley, Professor, Rijksuniversiteit, Leiden, Netherlands

- A must-have for botanic gardens, horticultural historians, and collectors
- The only account to date of the making of the Flora Graeca Plates
- Unique source of historical information

This is the first scholarly treatise that tells the remarkable story behind the making of the Flora Graeca, the monumental collection of illustrations and descriptions of plants in Greece, Cyprus and Turkey. First described by Dioskorides in the second century, the flora and fauna of the Levant was neglected until the gentlemen botanists-naturalists John Sibthorp and John Hawkins, accompanied by illustrator Ferdinand Bauer, travelled there. Bauer produced a class of paintings superior to anything of their kind in existence then, and his work was to become one of the most valuable treasures of the University of Oxford. Based on the original diaries, letters, and specimens, this fine work is illustrated with prints from the original illustrations which are still housed at the Department of Plant Sciences there.

Contents: Introduction; Complexities of discovery; Physicians and apothecaries; Levant Lunatics; Expeditions; Linnaean revolutions; Sibthorp - the early years; Bauer - the early years; Hawkins - the early years; Sibthorp - the first journey; Hawkins- the first journey; Sibthorp - the years between; Bauer's work for Sibthorp and Hawkins; Hawkins - the years between; Hawkins - the second journey; Sibthorp - the second journey; Sibthorp - the final months; The collections, drawings, and notes; Hawkins - the adventurer at home; The publication of the results; Epilogue; References; Appendices.

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