

# Basilius Beslerus

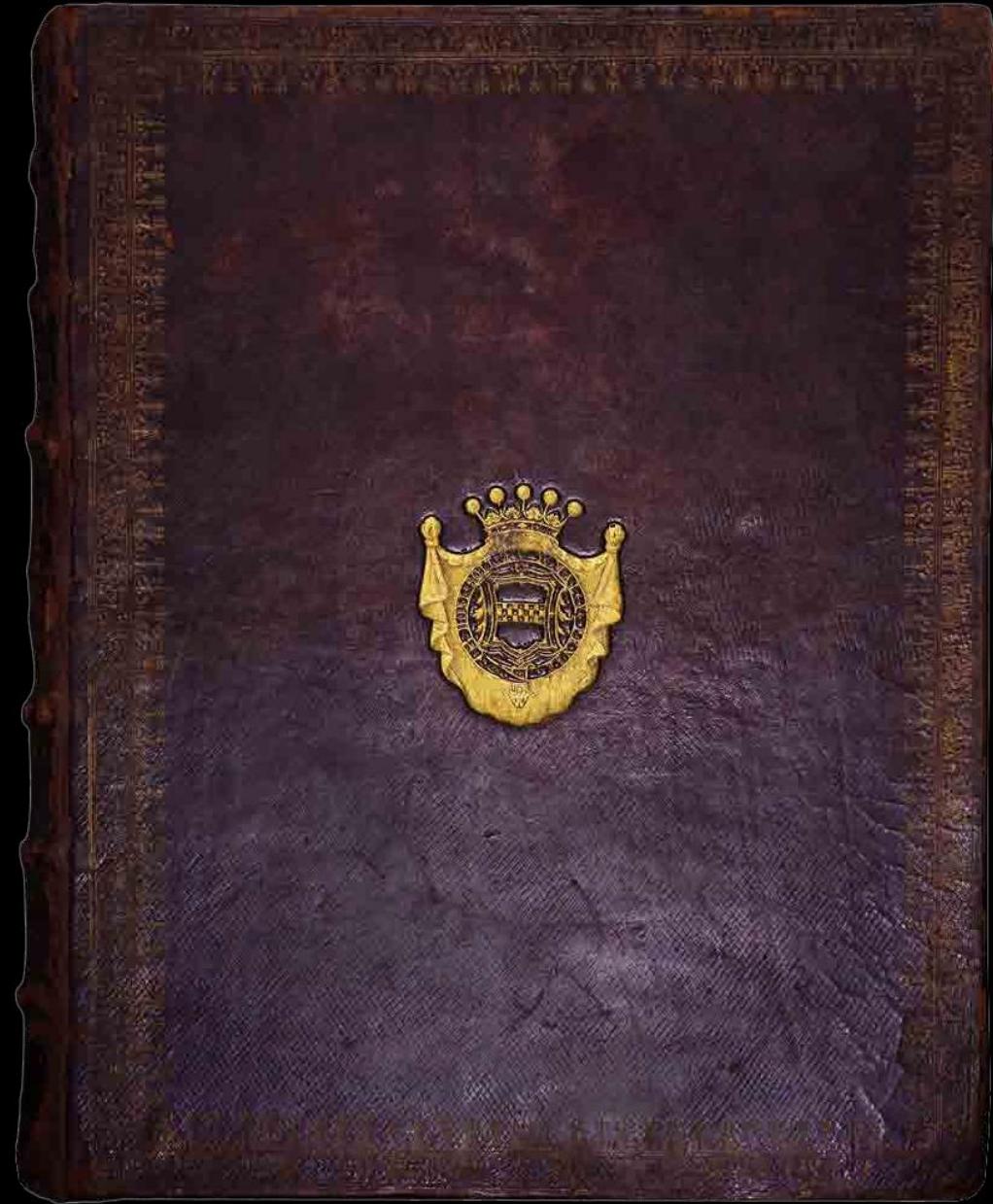
(*Besler*)

*a selection of images from*

***Hortus Eystettensis, sive diligens et accurata  
omnium plantarum, florum, stirpium, ....  
singulari studio collectarum, 1640***

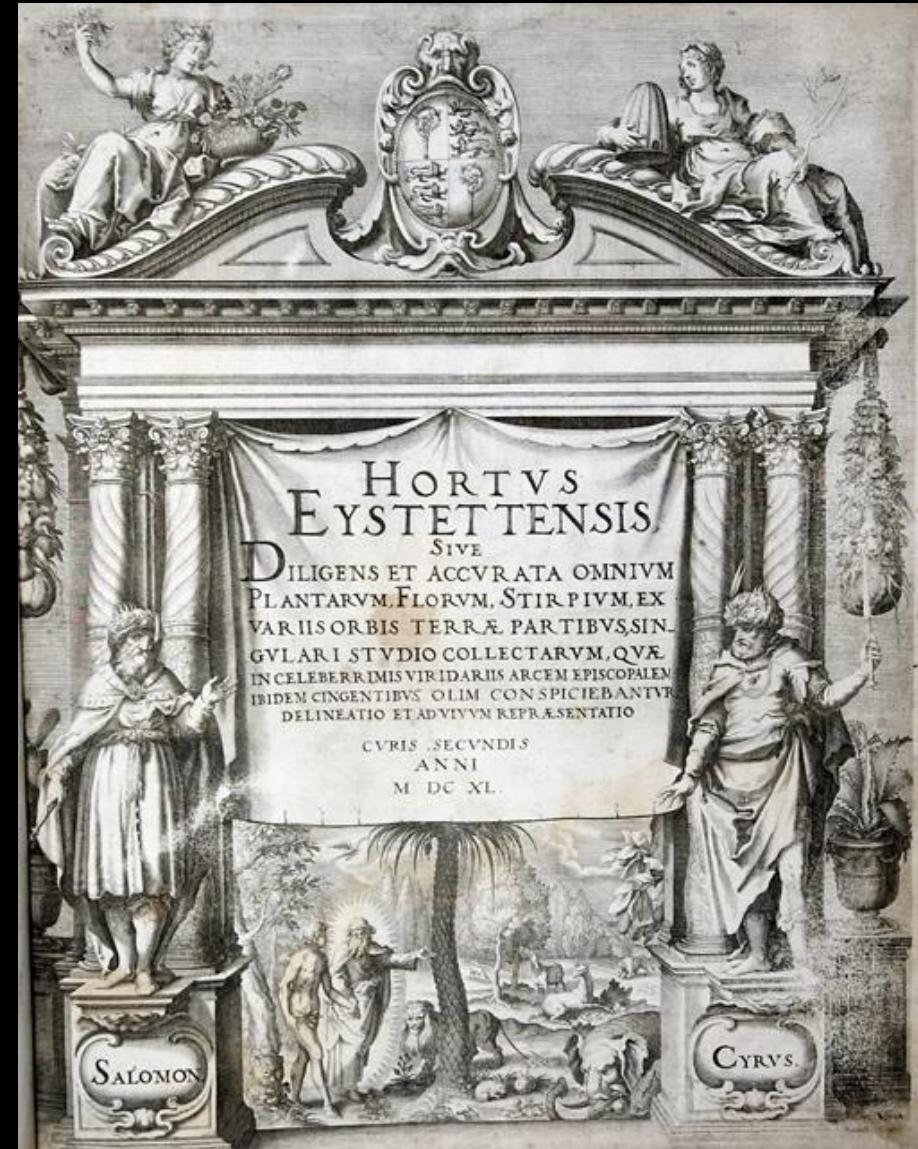
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*Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh*  
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**Basil Besler**  
**Hortus Eystettensis**  
**Eichstatt**  
**1640**



**Two hundred and forty –five years ago, on 7th March 1768, an honorary fellow of the College, the first Scottish born, British Prime Minister - John Stuart 3rd Earl of Bute gave some wonderful botanical books to the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.**

**The creator of the book, Basil Besler, was a Nuremberg apothecary and botanist. Besler cared for the garden of the Archbishopric of Eichstätt in Bavaria.**



**The Bishop, Johann Konrad von Gemmingen, was an enthusiastic botanist who had laid out his garden to celebrate the diversity of creation. Around 1600, the bishop commissioned Besler to create a work describing the Eichstätt plants.**

**Bishop Conrad's successor had less interest in horticulture and the garden was neglected.**

**However there is now a modern reconstruction - the Bastion Garden of Willibaldsburg Castle opened in the 1990s – which has been modelled on the “Hortus Eystettensis”; the flowers are planted according to their blooming seasons, as described in Besler’s book.**



**Backed by a large budget Besler worked for sixteen years on the drawings. Copper plate engravings were then produced by at least six engravers including the famous Wolfgang Kilian of Augsburg.**

**There are two versions of the work, one was printed on special paper suitable for hand-colouring and one was printed on more ordinary paper and included some explanatory letterpress text. Only 28 coloured copies still exist.**

**The book is arranged by seasons and there are 367 unusually large plates illustrating more than a thousand specimens.**





## SPECTATORI.

**E**xhibemus tibi per hanc te paginas HORTVM EYSTETTENSEM, in  
te annos aliquamnudos propter ipsas radices AR CIS VVILBALDINAE extenua-  
SÆCVLO AVREO, aucto regio, impensis maximis, successu imprestabilis, auspicio R. e. re.  
rendissimi auct. illustrissimi PRINCIPIS IOANNIS CONRADI. Sed, ut sunt humani,  
superveniens super ex AQVILONI PROCELLA decubuit flores, & protrubantes suis cum plantulis  
thalamos everint; ut jam, quo loco olim Mitissime Scirpes adoleverant, nihil aliud superfit, quin feror & truci-  
lent BELLONAE Facies; Alibi superstantes faxis minacibus aggeres, alibi precipitari defendendis agg-  
ribus scopuli, & fulmina per oblique rupes proficiunt, & trunci ac prominentes cippi, & corbes rudi fabula  
trementes; ac quidquid in bellantium perniciem hodierni Ævi Solertia excogitavie.

Ceterum ne Immortalis Aucti Memoria omni Posteriori effuerat, fecit IS, quem exoratus iterum DEVIS  
Mitigandis horum Temporum Calamitibus indulxit, Reverendissimus atque illustrissimus PRINCEPS, ac  
DOMINVS D. MARQVARDO Episcopus Eystetensis. Eius Munere ac Sumpibus habet, qui  
Curis hinc Secundis elaboravimus ex voto & sententia eorum, qui hanc operam desiderare visi; quales fuit in  
GALLIA. BELGICA. BRITANNIA complures.

Ordinem fecuti sumus, qualcum prima exempla præxivere, nisi quod supervacuum credimus in tot manipu-  
los hanc messem digerere; Tripartita tamen Serie procedunt, vt Prima Classis Vernis Scirpes exhibeat, Altera  
Æditivas, Ultima eas, que vix precipitante Autumno apud Nos excoqui possunt.

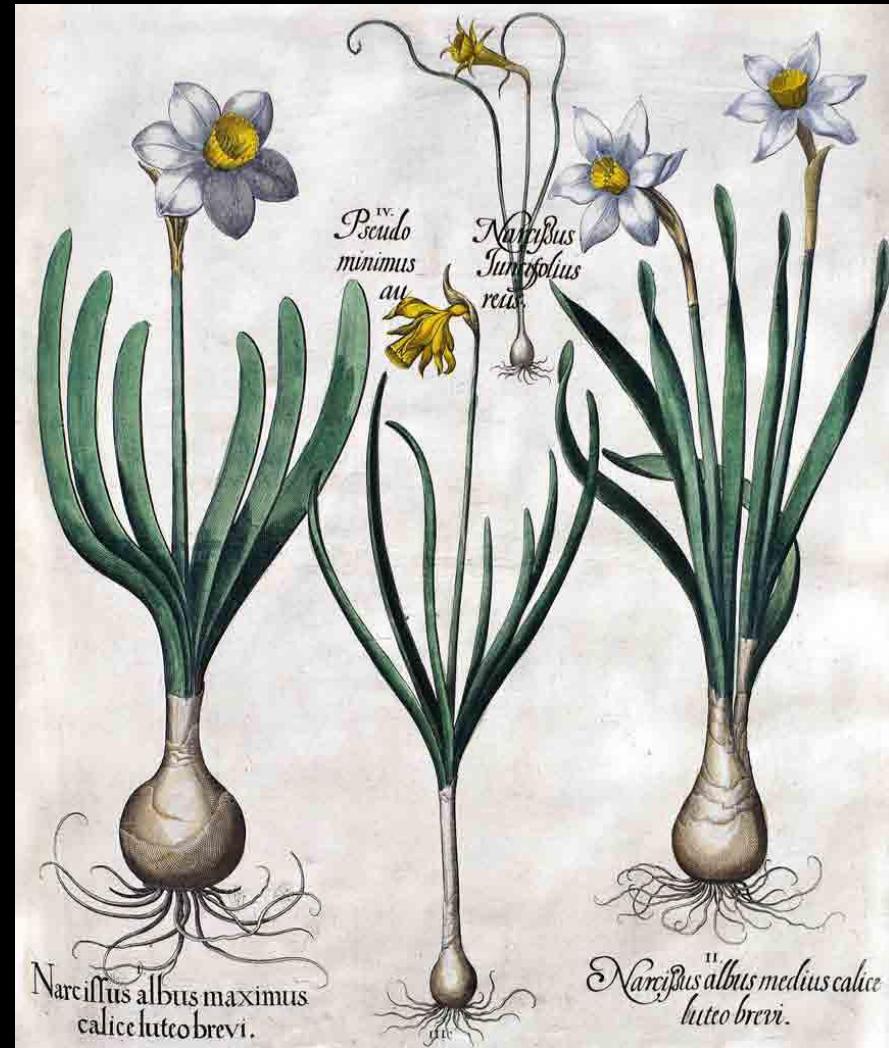
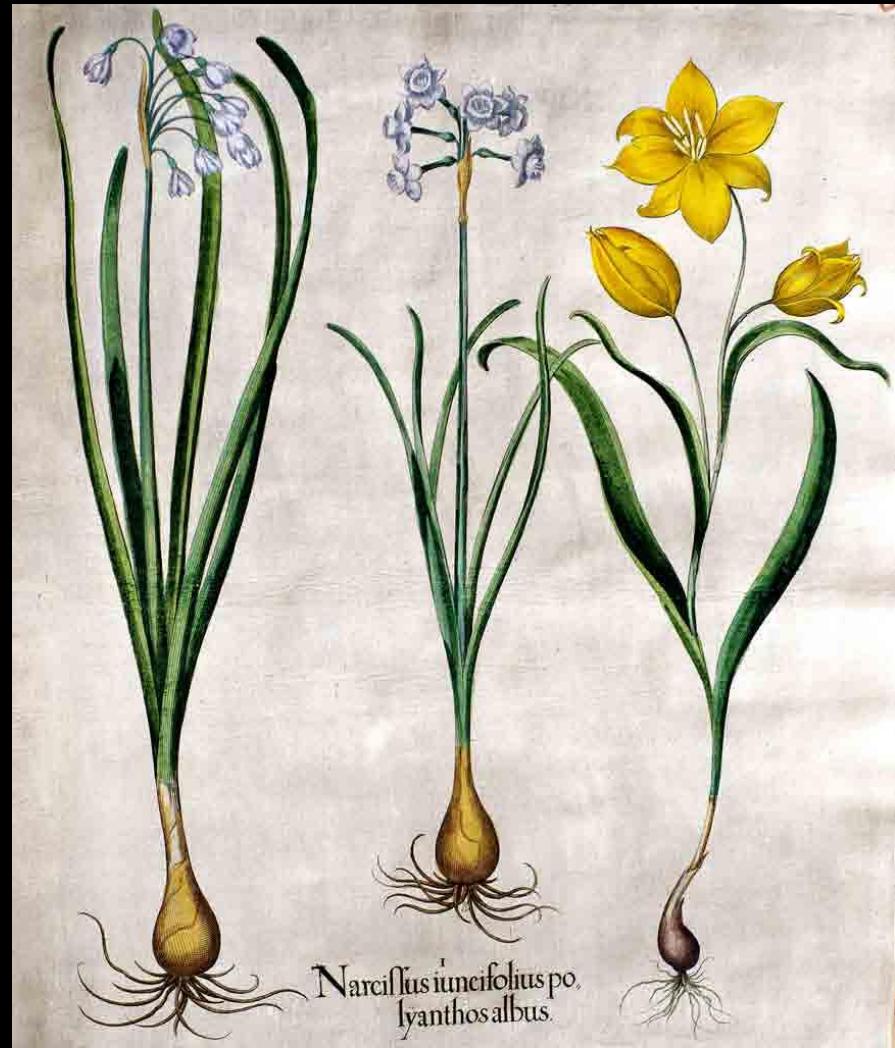
Descriptiones, quas alij parum siccetas, alij parum scitas nec sufficiunt huius Sacculi impatiens exstimirant;  
omnibus, sed etiam maxime, ne exemplo peccatorum artificum peccatorum, quibus necesse fuit artis sua simplicitas ad-  
fatis bona fide Indicibus succurrere, & admodum scilicet Populum, Bovem esse, qui spectatur, non Hominem. Cœta, qua  
hic addi poterant, eu inspicie, alluma, percuse, & Gatis Habe ILI VSTRISSIMO PRIN-

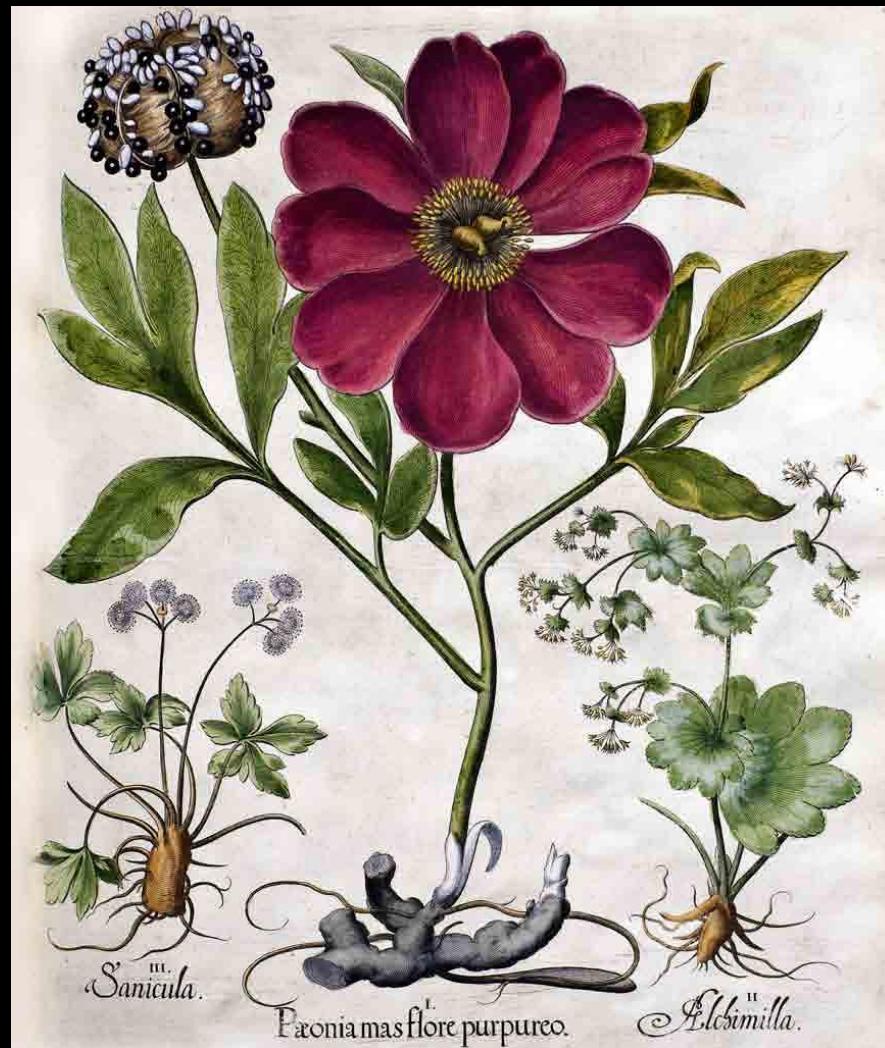
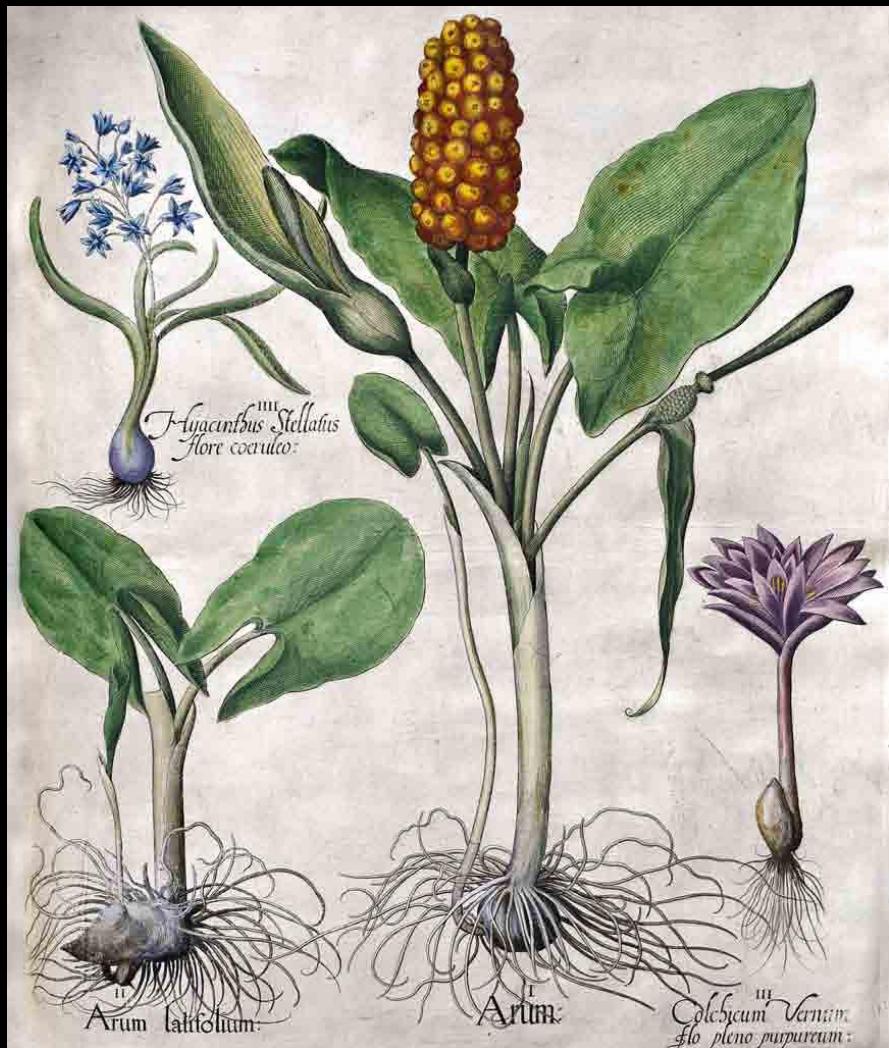
CIPRI MARQVARDO, cuius Decoae Meritorum plautibus etiam, quam quos hic  
Leges FLORIBVS Coronauit.

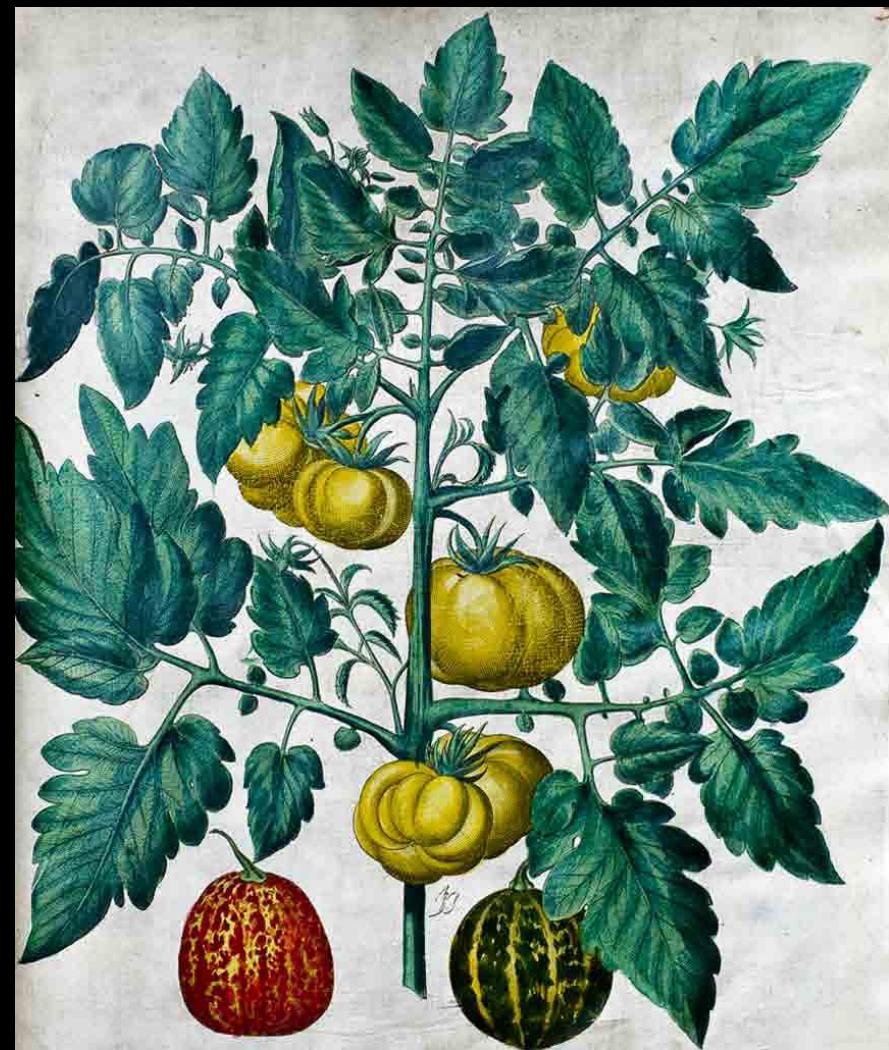


## CVRIS SECUNDIS.

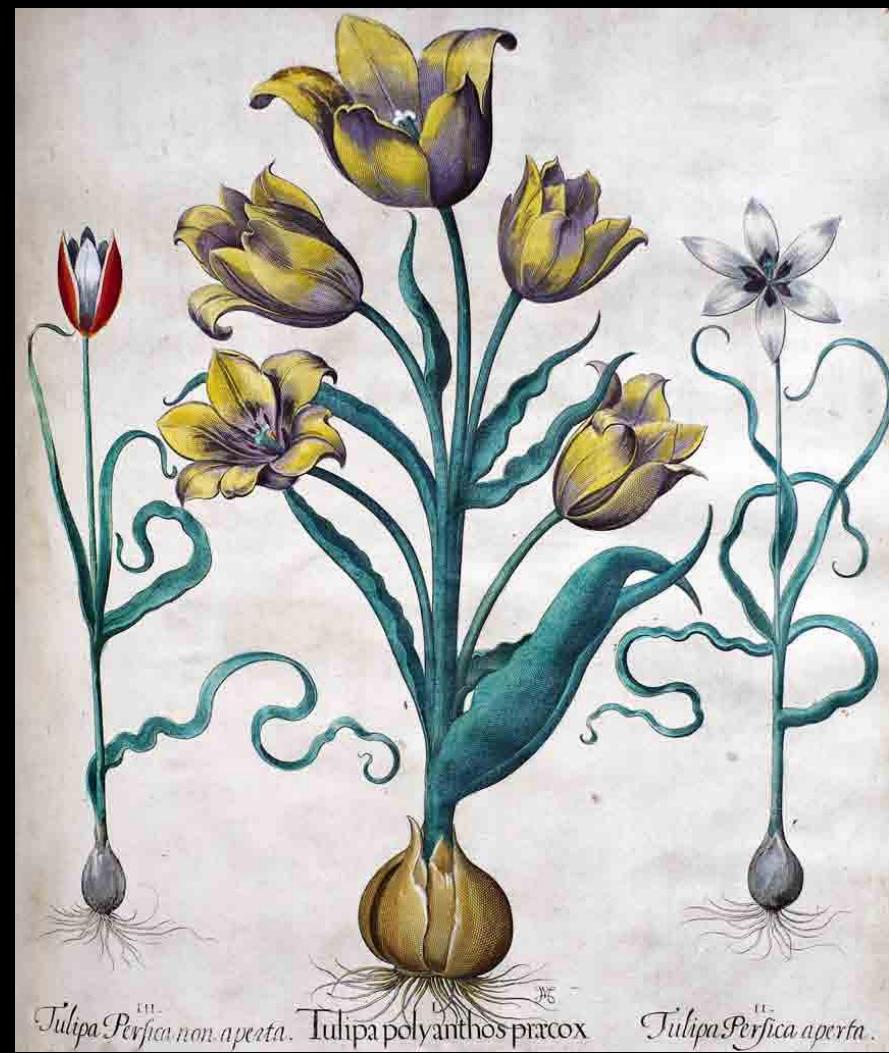
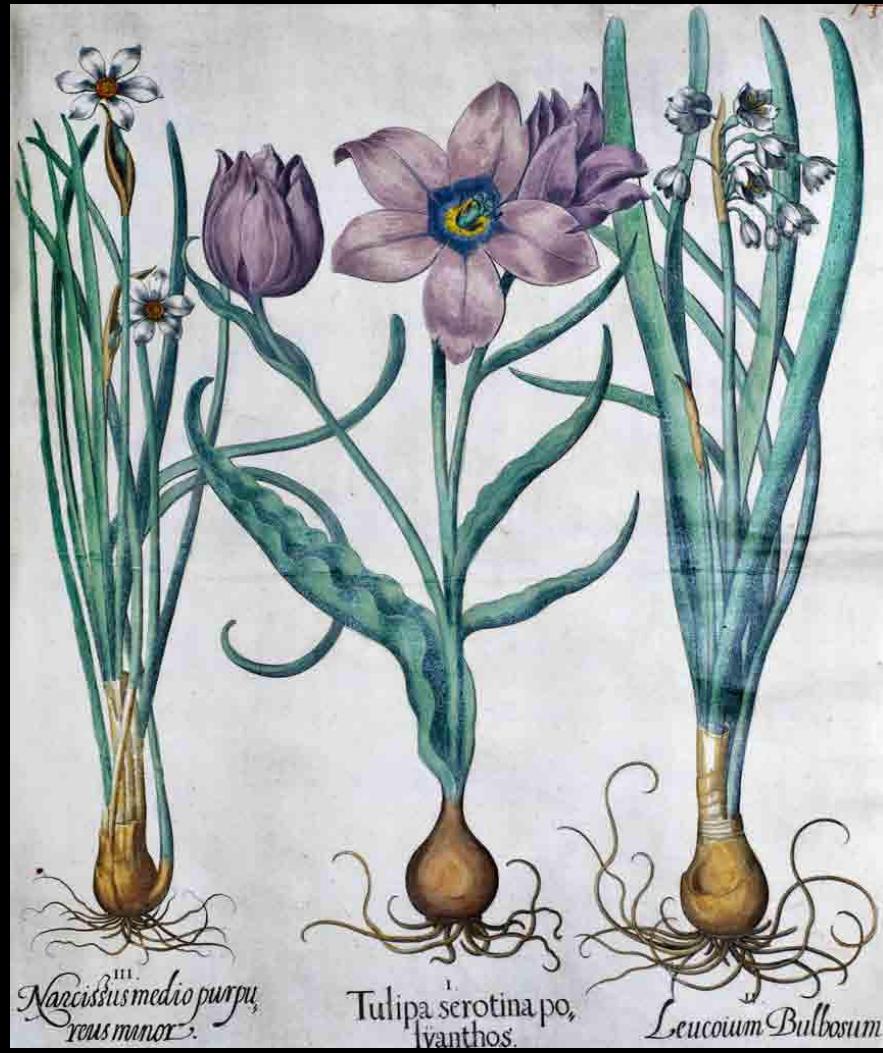
HESPERIOS PVLIS SERVASSE DRACONIBVS HORTOS,  
PAR FVIT HERCVLEO CREDITVS ESSE LABOR.  
HOS QVOQVE GERMANIS EXCOCTOS SOLIBVS HORTOS  
(QVOS NOVVS ARTIFICI DEDICAT AERE LIBER)  
ERIPVIT GOTHIKO MARQVARIDI CVRA FVRORI:  
QVAM FVIT HERCVLEO DIGNIOR ISTE LABOR!

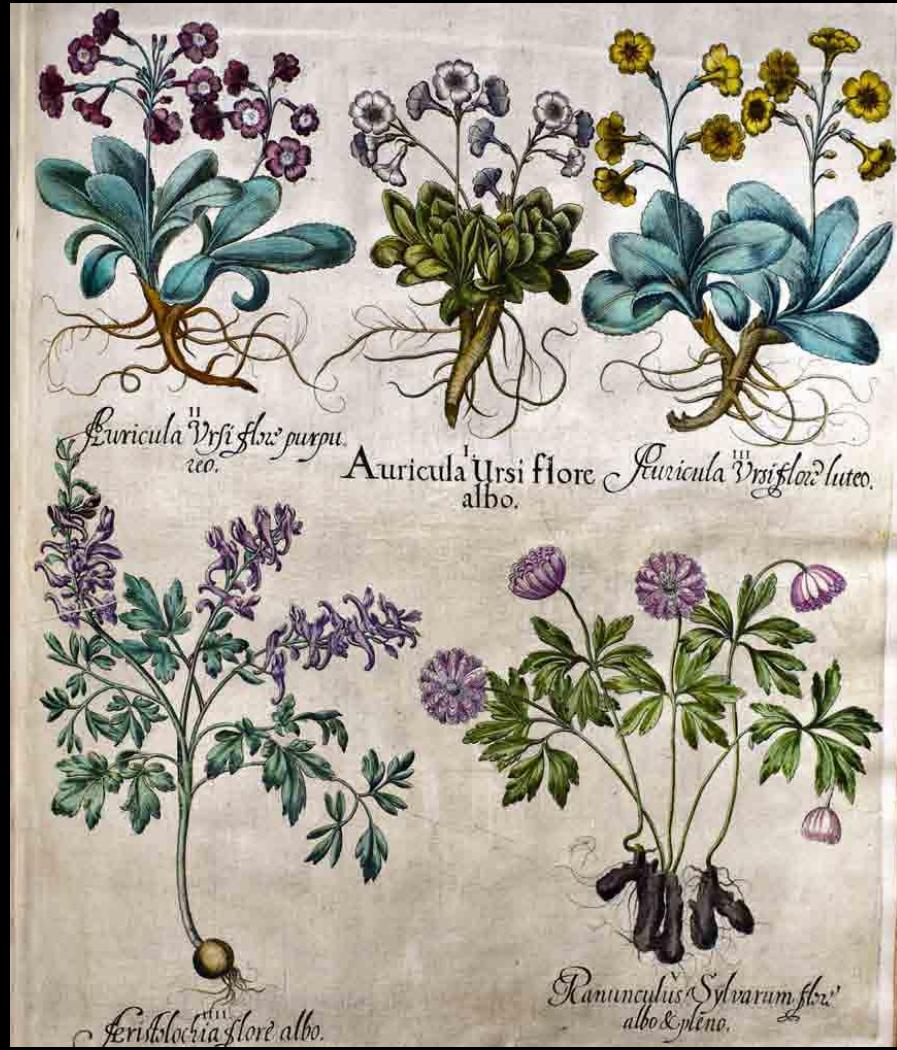
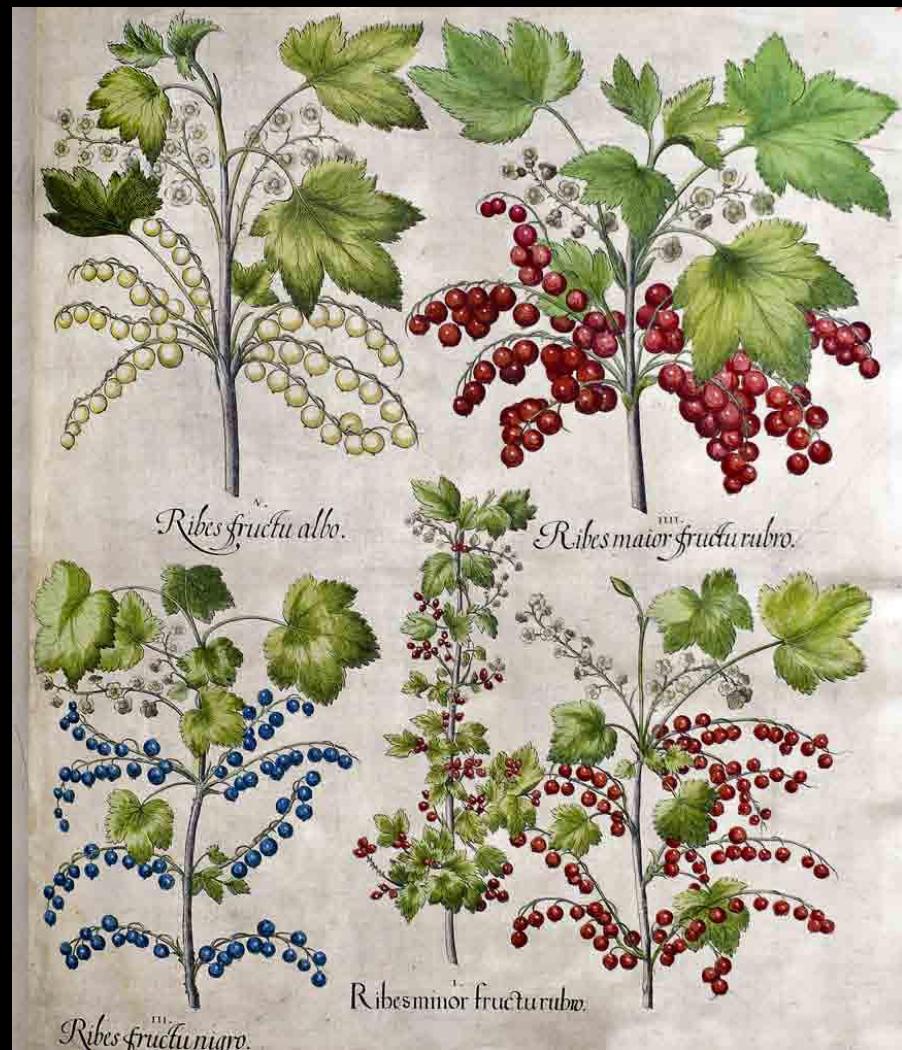


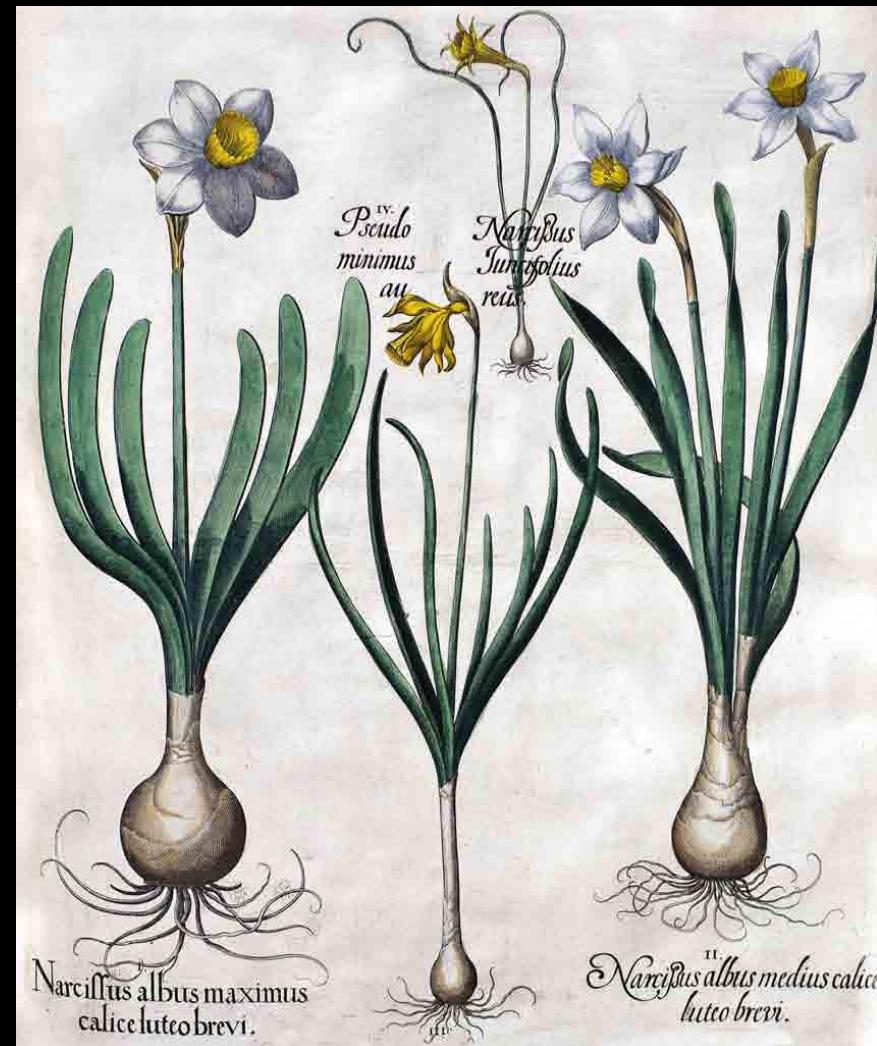
















*Lychnis coronaria* flor<sup>m</sup> in-  
carnato punctata

*Lychnis coronaria* flore  
rubro pleno.

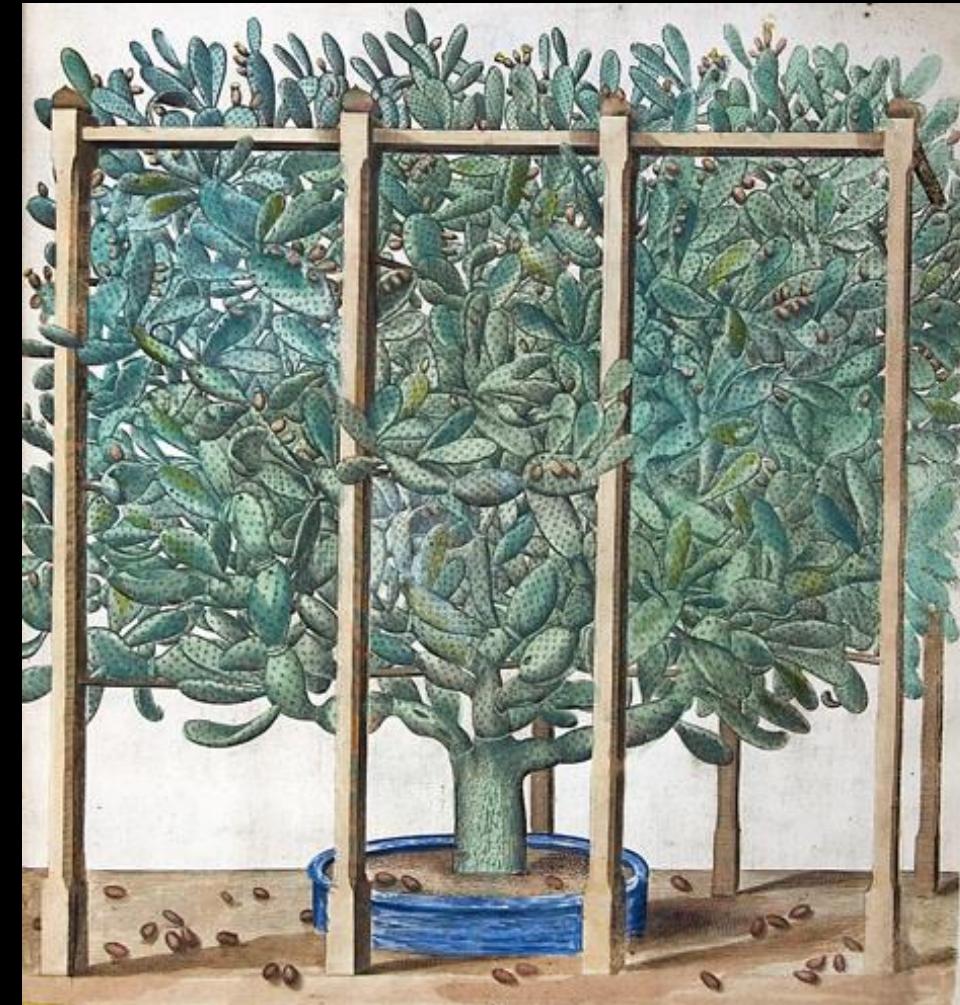
*Lychnis coronaria* flor<sup>m</sup> in-  
carnato non punctata.



*Syringa* flor<sup>m</sup> lacteo.

Buxus.

*Syringa* flor<sup>m</sup> caeruleo.



Ficus Indica Eystetten  
sis ex uno folio enata lu.  
xurians.



Melo Saccharinus variegatus Poma amoris fructu luteo.  
Per. xanthiis Pomiformis.





*Caryophyllus Indicus flore luteo  
simplici minor.*

*Caryophyllus Indicus flore  
multiplici luteopleno maior.*

*Caryophyllus Indicus flore auro.  
simplici menor.*



*Melo Saccharinus variegatus Poma amoris fructu luteo.*

*Periclymenis Pomiformis.*





