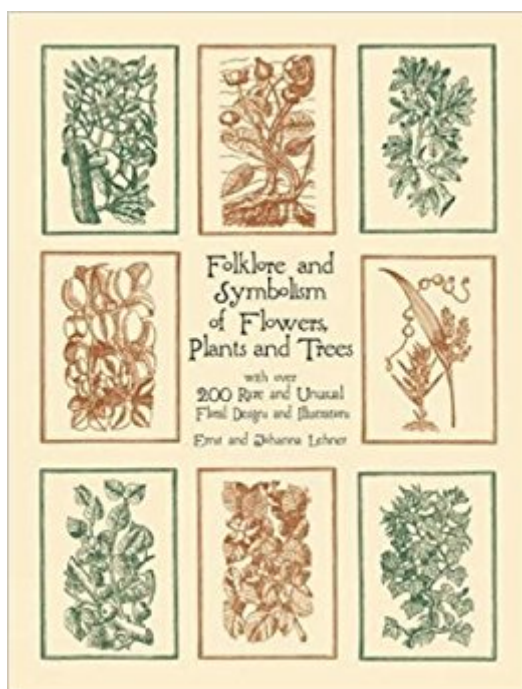


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Folklore And Symbolism Of Flowers, Plants And Trees (Dover Pictorial Archive)



Synopsis

This profusely illustrated archive of more than 200 flowers, plants, and trees was compiled by Ernst and Johanna Lehner — two of the world's foremost collectors of pictorial symbols (who also happen to be devoted flower enthusiasts). Their comprehensive collection, with illustrations selected from rare sources, extends from the image of a pomegranate, the Chinese symbol of fertility, to a basket of flowers in a nineteenth-century Valentine silhouette. A profusion of bouquets, wreaths, flowers of the months, and other floral designs are also included. In examining the symbolism of flora, the authors consider the religious, magical, and legendary significance of plants such as the mandrake, used as an opiate and love potion; the lotus, revered by the Egyptians and the Mayas of Central America; the mistletoe, a plant believed by the ancients to be capable of raising people from the dead; as well as the Bo tree, sunflower, dragon tree, ice plant, and many other botanical specimens. The development of horticultural images in heraldic devices, emblems, and symbols is also discussed, and a concluding section displays a table summarizing the symbolic meanings of every known species of flora — from absinthe to zinnia. A visual treat for flower lovers, this volume of royalty-free illustrations is an essential sourcebook for artists and designers. Of value to botanical experts and gardening specialists, it will also appeal to folklore enthusiasts.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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It's informative, well organized and indexed. Has beautiful art with historical drawings. It's interesting to see the time-honored properties ascribed to flowers.

Such a wonderful book! Lovely images, great info. I thought I'd just flip through and read sections that interested me, but I ended up sitting down and reading it page for page.

This is a fun book which possesses interesting facts, but I wish it had been thicker and included more of the same. What it does do, though, is provide interesting facts regarding old superstitions regarding plants along with information regarding things like which plants traditionally symbolize which months. One rather disappointing fact: some things which I knew on my own were not mentioned: for instance mandrake was in fact used as a fertility drug but it is also (in reality) an effective poison. (It has no real usefulness regarding fertility.) Opium was left out of the book entirely even though as far back as the Romans it was used as a pain killer; it was imported from India. Things like that were left out and that was what I found least satisfying about the book.

This book offers brief passages about many commonly known plants, whether through lore or daily life. It isn't just based off of western Christian lore or western superstitions like Charlotte de la Tour's

"Language of Flowers" (while it is very romantic, it is biased and some of it isn't quite understandable for someone who is not of European extraction). It also includes the beliefs and medicinal uses of middle eastern, northern european, far eastern, and native americans of both continents. It's a very age-friendly book that could probably be read by anyone at least 8-9 years old. As it is written in English, it would probably stimulate interest in other cultures if the reader does not already.

My order arrived well before the estimated delivery date, and it was in great condition. Thank you.

This book is great for anyone looking to learn more about folklore regarding plants. They are divided by a few different categories depending on what you're looking for, or just read the whole thing for an interesting lesson.

I got this book as a gift from my kids and absolutely loved it! It a great casual read for someone who enjoys reading old myths and legends.

can't wait to read this. received today, thanks

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