



Folklore and Symbolism of Flowers, Plants and Trees

Ernst Lehner , Johanna Lehner

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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.

Folklore and Symbolism of Flowers, Plants and Trees Details

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From Reader Review Folklore and Symbolism of Flowers, Plants and Trees for online ebook

Lia says

Great compilation of stories, including myth, Biblical, and historical references. The illustrations included in the book might have been my favorite part - all credited. The symbolism index included in the last part of the book is also invaluable and extensive.

Monica says

Some books get five stars for general quality of writing, photography, and printing; some art history books get five stars for writing although the plates may be b/w (Antal's Classicism and Romanticism <http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/27...>); some books get five stars for outstanding production and writing (Hirst's The Sistine Chapel: A Glorious Restoration); <http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/16...> some get five stars like this one for an endearing subject, even if it's not produced like the Heritage Book Club Arabian Nights. (<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/26...>).

Diane says

I have used this book in conjunction with The Language and Sentiment of Flowers to create my own mix of flowers to give people conveying my true thoughts.

Reese Lightning says

"The night-blooming tree of sorrow (Arbor tristis) was believed to be a native South American tree, whose trunk grew in the shape of a female body. An ancient Amerindian fable tells that the young and beautiful daughter of the mighty chief and warrior, Parizataco, fell in love with the sun. But when the sun rejected her love and scorned her she withdrew from all human companionship into the wilderness. In her grief she slew herself. When her body was found by her people, it was brought back to her native village and put on a funeral pyre according to the custom of her tribe and cremated. From the ashes of her body sprang the Tree of Sorrow whose beautiful blossoms never opened in daytime in the presence of the sun. Its flowers unfolded their petals only at night under the cool light of the moon and the stars, filling the night air with a fragrant, sweet-heavy perfume. And when the sun rose in the morning the blossoms of this tree closed, its leaves withered and the tree looked dead and barren, only to rejuvenate and unfold again under the rays of the moon. Whenever a human hand touched the blooming tree the blossoms of this sensitive plant closed up and their sweet scent vanished."

Hapzydeco says

Ink drawing and woodcut - illustrations. Good historical facts, lore & legend. Flower calendar included.

