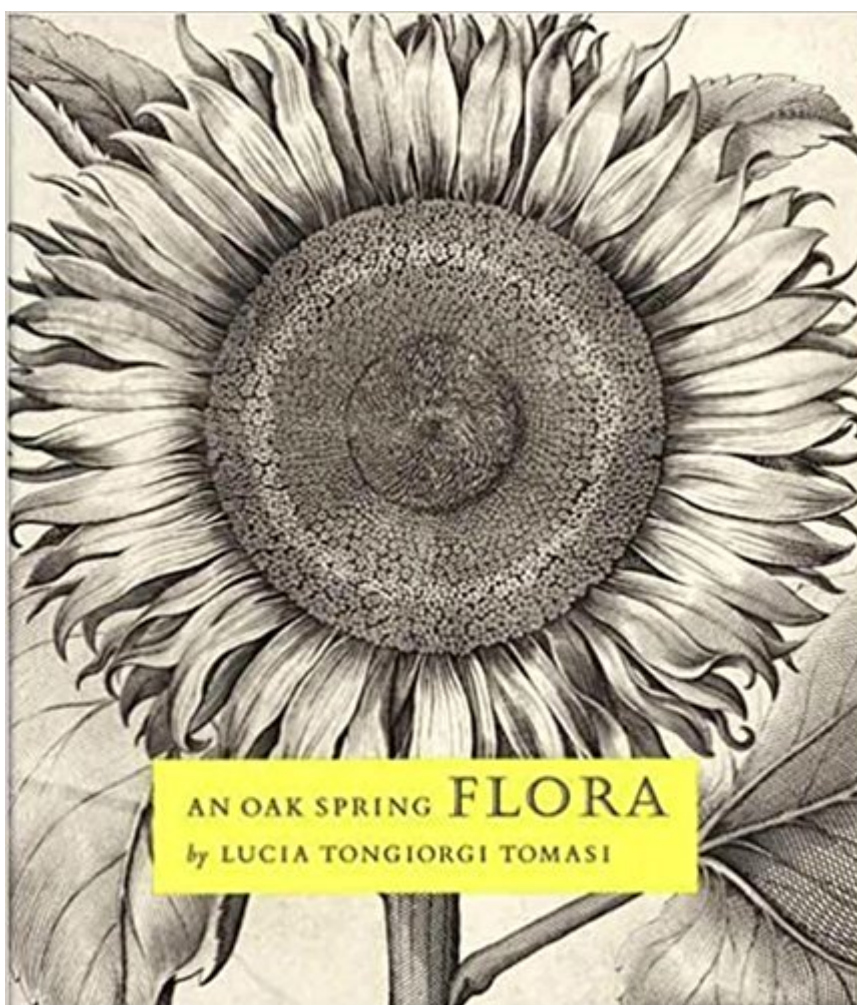


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# An Oak Spring Flora: Flower Illustration From The Fifteenth Century To The Present Time- A Selection Of The Rare Books, Manuscripts And Works Of Art In The Collection Of Rachel Lambert Mellon (Vol 3)





## Synopsis

This is the latest volume in a major series that describes selections of the rare books, manuscripts, and other works of art held at Oak Spring Garden Library, a collection formed by Rachel Lambert Mellon. The 111 items chosen for this volume on floral illustration since the later Middle Ages include Books of Hours, still-life and vanitas paintings, botanical prints, and books of instruction of every kind, from planting a garden to making flowers using colored papers or wax. Lucia Tongiorgi Tomasi groups the works into chapters on such topics as florilegia, women artists, tulipomania, Dutch and Flemish painting, and exotic flowers from distant lands, providing an introduction to each chapter that gives the contextual background necessary for a real understanding and appreciation of floral illustration past and present. The sheer beauty as well as extraordinary skills encountered, for example, in manuscript florilegia by Jacob Marrel and Maria Sibylla Merian, in hand-colored books by Jacques Le Moyne de Morgues and G.B. Ferrari, and in flower studies painted by John Constable, Margaret Mee, and others, are testament to the high status accorded floral illustration over the centuries. This handsome, richly illustrated volume will attract all those with an interest in rare books and the history of art as well as horticulturalists, botanists, and garden historians.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Oak Spring Garden Library comprises Rachel Lambert Mellon's celebrated collection of rare books, manuscripts, works of art, and related artifacts concerning gardens, gardening, landscape design, horticulture, and botany. Conserved at Upperville, Virginia, in a striking library designed by Edward

Larrabee Barnes in consultation with Rachel Mellon, the collection is both a unique historical archive and a day-to-day working resource. Among Rachel Mellon's own contributions to the art of garden design are the Rose Garden and Jacqueline Kennedy Garden at the White House in Washington, D.C. Her honors include the Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, the Royal Horticultural Society's Veitch Gold Medal, and the American Horticultural Society Landscape Design Award, and recently she has been recognized for her assistance during the restoration of the Potager du Roi at Versailles. The cloth-bound catalogues that describe the holdings of the Oak Spring Garden Library are printed on acid-free paper and are designed, printed, and bound to the highest standards. Each volume is richly illustrated with duotone and color images. An Oak Spring Sylva: A Selection of the Rare Books on Trees (1989) An Oak Spring Pomona: A Selection of the Rare Books on Fruit (1990) An Oak Spring Flora: Flower Illustration from the Fifteenth Century to the Present Time (1997) An Oak Spring Hortus: Garden Design in the West since the Renaissance (forthcoming) An Oak Spring Flora Mundi: Regional Floras and Travels (forthcoming) An Oak Spring Herbaria: Herbs and Herbals in Western Culture (forthcoming)

Lucia Tongiorgi Tomasi is a professor of art history at the University of Siena.

Great care was taken by the author and the publishers--and by their sponsor, Oak Spring Foundation--to publish this wonderful partial inventory of the great books of botanic illustration in the Library at Oak Spring, an estate that was gifted to posterity by Rachel Lambert Mellon. This review of the extraordinary Oak Spring Library of original florilegium (books on flowers by the greatest botanic illustrators of history) is done magnificently using fine papers and inks. Thus the production of this book on books is carefully and thoughtfully done. The book reviews are well written and thorough, and the Reader will be pleased to find excellent reproductions of select prints from these important books in color. This reader, knowledgeable on this subject, saw reproductions in this book that are from books he has only read about but not seen. This was a most pleasant surprise, and for this, we are grateful. Clearly, Rachel Lambert Mellon has assembled a magnificent legacy--obtaining what I thought were the unobtainable in the botanic literature. This book is a testament and is a must have for those who are assembling their own library. By combining this book with the fine Taschen publication, THE GARDEN OF EDEN--the inventory of the botanic collection in the Austrian National Library--the collector of botanic illustration will have an excellent survey of the primary sources in this field. I should note that the Garden of Eden is by the noted Professor Doctor H. Walter Lack of Berlin.

Informative and brilliant illustrations.

A beautiful book on the amazing library of Mrs. Paul Mellon.

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