

PRESS RELEASE



INTERMEDIATHEQUE
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March 2018

Intermediatheque Natural History Series <2> Special Exhibition Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of Japan–Sweden Diplomatic Relations “The Art of Natural Science in Sweden — Treasures from Uppsala University”

Main Features of the Exhibition

“Great Figures of Natural History in the 18th century”
“Tracing the history of academism from Sweden to the world, and to Japan”

- This exhibition commemorating the 150th anniversary of Japan-Sweden diplomatic relations is a unique opportunity for the public in Japan to appreciate 66 works of Natural History pertaining to great Swedish scientists: Olof Rudbeck, Carl Linnaeus and Peter Thunberg.
- Rudbeck established an advanced academic system in Uppsala University. Linnaeus, who studied there, implemented a systematic scientific classification that has been adopted long years till now. Thunberg, a student of Linnaeus, visited Japan in 1775 where he interacted with Japanese scientists. Upon his return, he published the book *Flora Japonica*. The finest items emanating from Natural History in Sweden are displayed here, with a focus on their relationship with Japan.
- Items from the Edo period collected by Thunberg or offered to him in Japan are returning for the exhibition. Additional objects related to Thunberg, and kept at the Botanical Gardens, Koishikawa, Graduate School of Science, University of Tokyo, will be also displayed.
- The exhibition is the fruit of a partnership between the University Museum, the University of Tokyo and Uppsala University. It is the second exhibition of the “Intermediatheque Natural History Series.” The Intermediatheque will further develop this exhibition series in the future, with various international academic institutions.

Key Information

[Title] Intermediatheque Natural History Series <2>

Special Exhibition Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of Japan–Sweden Diplomatic Relations
“The Art of Natural Science in Sweden — Treasures from Uppsala University”

[Dates] April 24 – August 26, 2018

[Opening Hours] 11:00 - 18:00 (open until 20:00 on Friday and Saturday; last entry 30 minutes before closing) *Opening hours may change.

[Closed on] Mondays (or the following Tuesday if Monday is a National Holiday). May close irregularly.

[Venue] Intermediatheque 2F [GREY CUBE] + [FIRST SIGHT]

[Organizers] The University Museum, the University of Tokyo (UMUT) + Gustavianum, Uppsala University Museum

[Cooperation] Uppsala University Library + Museum of Evolution, Uppsala University + Swedish Linnaeus Society/Linnaeus Museum, Uppsala + National Museums of World Culture/Museum of Ethnography, Stockholm + Botanical Gardens, Koishikawa, Graduate School of Science, University of Tokyo

[Patronage] Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs

[Support] Märta Christina and Magnus Vahlquist Foundation + Scandinavia-Japan Sasakawa Foundation + The Swedish Embassy in Tokyo + Grimaldi Industri AB + King Gustaf VI Adolf's Foundation for Swedish Culture + The Långman Culture Foundation

[Admission] Free of charge

[Address] KITTE 2-3F, 2-7-2 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, JAPAN

[Access] JR lines and Tokyo Metro Marunouchi line Tokyo Station. Direct access from the Marunouchi Underground Pathway.

Publications

- Exhibition catalogue *The Art of Natural Science in Sweden — Treasures from Uppsala University* (176 pages)
- Card leaflet
- Poster

Main Exhibits

1.

Sundial, made by Philip Jacob Thelott the Elder to Olof Rudbeck the Elder's design (Late 17th century)

Olof Rudbeck the Elder was a polymath with wide-ranging interests involved in various technical projects. This sundial is an example of the collaboration between Rudbeck and the Swiss instrument maker Philip Jacob Thelott. The instrument's skilfully executed details testify to the importance attached to this type of object in the 17th century.

2.

Crane (*Grus grus*) from the additional portfolio belonging to *The Book of Birds* (c. 1693–1710)

As Sweden's first systematic ornithologist, Olof Rudbeck the Younger began the painstaking task of studying and depicting, in life size, numerous Swedish birds. The result was *The Book of Birds*.

3.

***Systema naturæ, sistens regna tria naturæ, in classes et ordines, genera et species redacta, tabulisque æneis illustrata*, ed. 6 (1748)**

A major work published by Carl Linnaeus in 1748. He systematized the taxonomy of animals and plants, and in the tenth edition of this book, he adopted binominal nomenclature, a system which has been in use ever since.

4.

***Flora Svecica*, with engraving of the *Linnaea borealis* (1745)**

The only illustration published in *Flora Svecica*. Linnaeus loved this plant and used its scientific name *Linnaea borealis* as his signature.

5.

***Icones plantarum Japonicarum, quas in insulis Japonicis annis 1775 et 1776 collegit et descripsit...*, T. I-V, *Cypripedium japonicum* (Japanese hardy lady's slipper orchid) (1794–1805)**

Carl Peter Thunberg, who was a student of Linnaeus, collected plant specimens during his stay in Japan and described the species. These achievements were published in epoch-making books such as *Flora Japonica* and *Icones plantarum Japonicarum*.

6.

Letter in Dutch from Dennoshin Shige to Carl Peter Thunberg, written in Nagasaki (c. 1825–1830)

Thunberg came into contact with a Japanese interpreter, Setsuemon Shige, when he visited Japan. Later, Philipp Franz von Siebold, a German physician staying in Nagasaki, conveyed to Thunberg a message of reverence from Shige Setsuemon's son Dennoshin, intended for his father's master. This letter is Dennoshin's reply to Thunberg to show his gratitude for books as well as a letter given by the Swede.

ウルドベック・リンネ・ツユンベルク ウプサラ博物館 学三代の遺産より

1.



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3.



© Gustavianum, Uppsala University Museum, Mikael Wallerstedt

2.



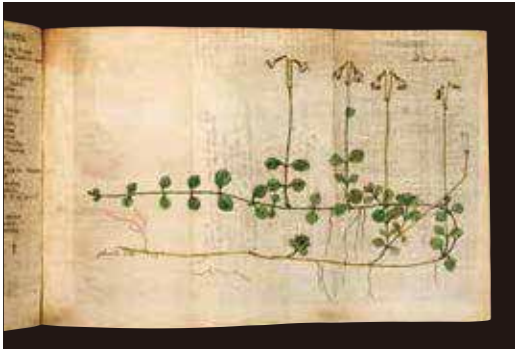
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6.



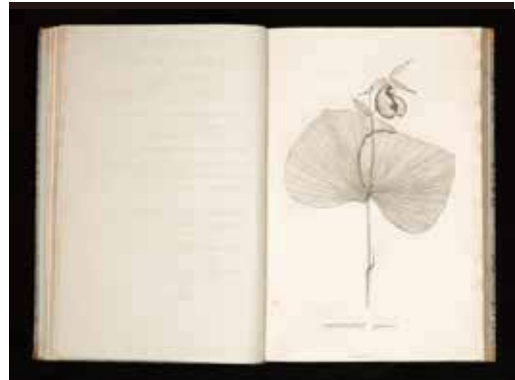
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4.



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5.



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— Treasures from Uppsala University