



What Makes the Reindeer Fly?

Rare Books Exhibit

at the

Lloyd Library and Museum

Exhibition Dates:

December 3, 2012

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February 28, 2013

Exhibit Catalog

Lloyd Library and Museum
917 Plum Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
513 | 721-3707
www.lloydlibrary.org
M-F 8:30 am—4:00 pm and
3rd Saturdays, 9:00 am—4:00 pm
September—May



Exhibit curated by:

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and

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Books on Display

(in order of appearance—31 titles)

Introductory Texts

1. A. Schmierer. *Unsere Wichtigsten Essbaren Pilze nebst einer Abbildung des Giftigen Fliegenschwammes für Schule und Haus.* Stuttgart: C. Hoffman'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung (A. Bleil), 1889.

This illustrated 19th century German publication was designed to help readers identify edible and poisonous mushrooms. There are lovely color lithographs within, but perhaps the most interesting illustration is that on the cover, depicting tiny gnomes collecting mushrooms and dancing about the forest with mushroom garlands.



2. Curtis G. Lloyd. Unprocessed materials. Lloyd Library and Museum.

Depiction of the local variety of *Amanita muscaria* (which is yellow/orange instead of the more familiar red), comes from a notebook of collected notes that Lloyd used to publish an article on *Amanita* in his *Mycological Notes*.

3. M.C. Cooke. *A Plain and Easy Account of British Fungi: with especial reference to the esculent and economic species.* London: W.H. Allen, 1884.

Shown is the frontispiece of this 5th edition of Mordecai Cubitt Cooke's publication, depicting the *Amanita muscaria*, or Fly Agaric. Cooke, 1825-1914, was an English botanist and prolific author, who wrote hundreds of books and articles about fungi.

Though he worked as an apprentice to a fabric merchant before becoming a clerk in a law firm, his primary interest was in botany. He founded the Society of Amateur Botanists in 1862, taught natural history at Holy Trinity National School, Lambeth, and worked as a curator at the India Museum at the India Office from 1860 to 1879. In 1879 when the botanical collections from the India Museum were transferred to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Cooke went with them. In 1902, he received the Victoria Medal of Honour from the Royal Horticultural Society and the Linnean Medal from the Linnean Society of London in 1903.



Overview of Hallucinogenic Mushrooms

4. Valentina Pavlovna and Robert Gordon Wasson. *Mushrooms, Russia, and History.* New York: Pantheon Books, [1957]. [On loan from University of Cincinnati, Archives & Rare Books Library]

R. Gordon (1898-1986) and Valentina Pavlovna (1901-1958) Wasson married in 1926, and their collaborative work on mushrooms began on their honeymoon in the Catskills in 1927, when Valentina, a Russian-born pediatrician, picked some wild mushrooms for the couple to consume. *Mushrooms, Russia, and History* was their first published volume on the topic of mushrooms, with which from the time of that 1927 event, Gordon Wasson became obsessed. He was initially intrigued by the fact that Russians (and others from Eastern Europe) were much more knowledgeable and daring when it came to wild mushroom picking

and consumption, at least in comparison to Americans and some Western Europeans.

Eventually, their studies took the Wassons to Mexico, where they met the healer María Sabina, who allowed Wasson to participate in a Mazatec mushroom ritual and who taught him about the uses and effects of the mushroom. Sabina, let him take her picture because he promised to keep it for personal uses only, but Wasson ultimately published the photo, Sabina's name, and the name of her community, opening their culture up to wide public scrutiny and “gawking.” In May 1957 they published a *Life* magazine article titled “Seeking the Magic Mushroom,” which brought knowledge of the existence of psychoactive mushrooms to a wide audience for the first time. It was this article that drew the interest of the growing American counterculture to the Mazatec ritual practice, an interest that proved disastrous for the Mazatec community and for María Sabina in particular.

Despite his behavior in relation to Sabina, Wasson made many positive contributions to our knowledge of hallucinogenic mushrooms, and can at least be credited with inspiring research into the field. He collected the specimens that were used by Albert Hofmann to identify the chemical structure of the active compounds, psilocybin and psilocin. Two species of mushroom, *Psilocybe wassonii heim* and *Psilocybe wassonorum guzman*, were named in honor of Wasson along with two other scientists and mushroom experts. Wasson also studied the ancient Vedic intoxicant soma, which he believed was the psychoactive fly agaric mushroom. He published this work in 1967 under the title *Soma: Divine Mushroom of Immortality*. Additionally, Wasson proposed that the special potion "kykeon", a pivotal component of an ancient Greek ceremony, contained psychoactive ergoline alkaloids from the ergot fungus (*Claviceps*).



5. John Uri Lloyd. *Etidorhpa, or, The End of the Earth*. Cincinnati: J. U. Lloyd, 1895. With illustrations by J. Augustus Knapp.

John Uri Lloyd spent most of his life in the pharmaceutical laboratory doing medicinal plant research and creating medicines based on that research. However, later in his adult life, Lloyd took up a second career as a novelist. Most of his novels were realistic fiction and based on the people and places he knew growing up in northern Kentucky. One novel, however, stands apart. *Etidorhpa* is a work of science fiction fantasy similar to other such works, like Jules Verne, with a focus on hollow earth, hidden worlds, and mysterious beings. The illustrations were done by J. Augustus Knapp, a friend of the Lloyds', who also did illustrations of plants for John's *Drugs and Medicines of North America*, as well as doing watercolor paintings of mushrooms, which were commissioned by Curtis Gates Lloyd.

One chapter in particular, chapter 17 "The Fungal Forest.—Enchantment," makes remarkable use of fungi and is beautifully illustrated. Llewellyn Drury, the story's protagonist, is led through a strange land by a mysterious creature. "...I was in a forest of colossal fungi....[and was] acquainted with this order of vegetation under the most unfavorable conditions; out of their native elements these plants degenerate and become then abnormal, often evolving into the poisonous earth fungi known...to woods and fields. Here they grow to perfection. This is their chosen habitat....They flourish in a region of perfect tranquility, and...exist for ages."



"I WAS IN A FOREST OF COLOSSAL FUNGI."

There is all manner of speculation as to where Lloyd's inspiration for this story originated. Some believe he was perhaps under the influence of some hallucinogenic drug himself, though there is no hard evidence to support this. Nonetheless, it presents an interesting picture, not out of line with other 19th century works of fantasy, and a realm which Lloyd never addressed again in his writings, despite the books resounding popularity, even in Lloyd's own time.

Psilocybe Mushrooms

6. María Sabina. *María Sabina and Her Mazatec Mushroom Velada*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, c1974.

María Sabina (ca. 1894? - November 23, 1985) was a Mazatec curandera (healer/shaman) who lived her entire life in a modest dwelling in the Sierra Mazateca of southern Mexico. Her practice was based on the use of the various species of native psilocybe mushrooms, such as *Psilocybe mexicana*.

María Sabina was the first contemporary Mexican curandera to allow Westerners to participate in the healing vigil that became known as the velada, where all participants partake of the psilocybin mushroom as a sacrament to open the gates of the mind. As the community was eventually besieged by Westerners wanting to experience the mushroom induced hallucinations, Sabina attracted attention of the Mexican police who thought that she sold drugs to the foreigners. The unwanted attention completely altered the social dynamics of the Mazatec community and threatened to terminate the Mazatec custom. The community blamed Sabina, and she was ostracized and had her house burned down. Sabina later regretted having introduced Wasson to the practice, but Wasson defended himself by saying that the loss experienced by Sabina and the community was justified by the value of the study for science.

7. Various titles by and for R. Gordon Wasson (See item #4)

Soma: divine mushroom of immortality. [New York]: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, [1971]

Persephone's quest: entheogens and the origins of religion. New Haven: Yale University Press, c1986.

The sacred mushroom seeker: essays for R. Gordon Wasson. Portland, Or.: Dioscorides Press, c1990.



8. M.C. Cooke (see item #3)

Illustrations of British Fungi (Hymenomycetes)... London Williams and Norgate, 1881-1891. (Illustration of Liberty Caps at right)

Edible and poisonous mushrooms: what to eat and what to avoid. With eighteen coloured plates illustrating forty-eight species. London, Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge; New York, E. & J. B. Young, 1894.

Cooke with M.J. Berkeley, editor. *Fungi: Their Nature and Uses.* London: K. Paul, Trench, Trübner, 1894.



This book was owned by a Lindley Jones(?), who used the book extensively and took notes and made drawings on several different kinds of mushrooms inside its pages.

Cooke's text recounts all manner of uses of fungi, including medicinal use, where he mentions potential narcotic effects of some mushrooms, poisonous attributes of others, and so on. The value of mushrooms was being explored, but little was yet known.

9. Jakob E. Lange. *Flora Agaricina Danica.* Copenhagen: Printed by Recato, 1935-1940.

Lange (1864-1941) was a Danish mycologist who studied the systematics of primarily gilled mushrooms. The five-volume *Flora Agaricina Danica* is his best known work.



10. Nicholas P. Money. *Mushroom*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011

Money is a world-recognized expert on mycology. Born in Oxford, England, he is now Professor of Botany and Western Program Director at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

Amanita Mushrooms

11. Giuseppe Inzenga. *Funghi siciliani studii*. Palermo: Francesco Lao, 1865-1869.

Giuseppe Inzenga (1815-1887) was an Italian botanist, agronomist, and mycologist. He was a professor of agriculture at the University of Palermo and was especially interested in Sicilian mycology.

Inzenga described about 200 Sicilian mushroom species, some of which are illustrated in this volume. Plate 9 is shown, depicting the *Boletus satana*.



12. Curtis G. Lloyd. Unprocessed materials. Lloyd Library and Museum.

Curtis G. Lloyd, the youngest of the Lloyd brothers, was a founder of the Lloyd Library and Museum and a noted early 20th century mycologist. He collected specimens from around the world, wrote extensively on fungi, and formed working relationships with just about every prominent mycologist of his day. He maintained a collection of notebooks, like the one seen here, on a variety of fungi. These notes were the basis for articles in his mycological publications, such as *Mycological Notes*. The volume has a lengthy section on *Amanita*.

13. Carlo Vittadini. *Descrizione dei Funghi Mangerecci più Comuni dell'Italia e de' Velenosi che Possono co' Medesimi Confondersi*. Milano, [Italy]: Rusconi, 1835

Carlo Vittadini (1800-1865) was a physician and mycologist in Milan. He obtained his degree with a thesis describing 14 species of *Amanita*. He went on to write several important works on Italian mushrooms.

14. M.E. Descourtilz. *Des Champignons Comestibles...* Paris: Chapron [et] Cornillon, 1827.

Michel Étienne Descourtilz (1775-1835) was a French physician and botanist. He collected a variety of natural history specimens while in Haiti in 1799-1803, though he lost most of them during the successful Haitian slave revolution which occurred in those years. He returned to France in 1804, working as a physician. Descourtilz served a term as President of the Paris Linnean Society.

15. Robert Kaye Greville. *Scottish cryptogamic flora, or, Coloured figures and descriptions of cryptogamic plants, belonging chiefly to the order Fungi...* Edinburgh: Printed for Maclachan and Stewart, 1823-1828.

Greville (1794-1866) was a Scottish mycologist, as well as artist and natural history illustrator. He earned a doctorate from the University of Glasgow. Greville was president of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh both in 1836 and 1866, and an active member of several learned societies. In addition, he was politically active and supported causes such as abolition and the suspension of capital punishment.

16. Edmund Michael. *Führer für Pilzfreunde*. Zwickau i. S.: Förster & Borries, 1898-1901.

This loose leaf illustrated guide to edible and poisonous mushrooms is the work of Edmund Michael (1849-1920). Michael studied agriculture at Leipzig and took up teaching agriculture in 1884 at the Academy in Auerbach. His field guide became something of an institution in and of itself, like the Peterson field guides, continuing to bear his name long

after he was involved in its publication.

17. Guillaume Sicard. *Histoire naturelle des Champignons Comestibles et Vénéneux*. Paris: Ch. Delagrave, 1883.

Nothing is known of Guillaume Sicard (1829-1886) except that he published this work on edible and poisonous mushrooms. Shown is plate 50, *Boletus edulis*.



Edible and Poisonous Mushrooms



18. René Dujarric de la Rivière. *Les Poisons des Amanites Mortelles*. Paris: Masson, 1933.

Dujarric (1885-1969) was a French physician and biologist, who created the antidote to the poisonous *Amanita phalloides*. He is also well-known for his work in filtering the influenza virus during the Spanish Flu outbreak of 1918, which would help lead to isolation of human strains in the following decades.

Shown here is an illustration of *Amanita phalloides*.

19. Orazio Ceruti. *I funghi mortali spiegati al popolo*. Torino: Casa Editrice Palamidessi, 1941.

Ceruti (d. 1949) penned a handful of titles dealing with medicinal plants and fungi. This volume was written to explain the cause of death by mushrooms to the general populace.

20. Julius A. Palmer. *Mushrooms of America: Edible and Poisonous*. Boston: L. Prang & Co., [1885].

Julius Aubeineau Palmer (1840-1899) wrote several books, many about Hawai'i, but at least two on mushrooms, including this volume.

21. W.P.K. Findlay. *Wayside and Woodland Fungi*. London; New York: F. Warne, 1967.

Findlay wrote on a number of topics, including fungi, decay, and brewing. This book is of note because it makes use of several illustrations by Beatrix Potter, an amateur mycologist, largely ignored in her day by the serious scientific community, and a beloved children's author and illustrator.

22. W. Hamilton Gibson. *Our Edible Toadstools and Mushrooms and How to Distinguish Them...* Hew York: Harper & Brothers, 1895.

The Connecticut-born Gibson (1850-1896) was an American illustrator, author, and naturalist. He initially took up the life insurance business as an adult, but quickly put that aside to study natural history and illustration, a lifelong passion of his. He became an accomplished engraver (both wood and stone) and produced illustrations for many publications. Gibson also wrote his own works on natural history, including this one on fungi.

23. Charles McIlvaine. *...One Thousand American Fungi...* Indianapolis: The Bowen-Merrill Company, c. 1900.

From Pennsylvania, Charles McIlvaine (1840-1909) was a Civil War veteran who retired to West Virginia and took up writing and mycology. He is most famous for having at least tried 100s of species of mushrooms, some of which are generally considered poisonous, and living to tell the tale, a feat which earned him the nickname "Ole Ironguts." He was always cautious and tried mushrooms in small amounts, but consequently, he could give a fairly accurate descriptions of side effects, edibility, and preparation tips for practically any known mushroom growing in the United States.

Aside from this, little else is known of McIlvaine, but it is enough to know he was a “character.” Shown here is plate 6 from this first edition of his great work, depicting the deadly *Amanitas*, illustration complete with skull and devilish sprite.



24. René Dujarric de la Rivière. *Les champignons toxiques...* Paris: Encyclopédie Médico-Chirurgicale, [1938]. (See item #18)

Significant Historical Works

25. Carolus Clusius. *Caroli Clusi Atrebatis ... Rariorum plantarum historia: quæ accesserint, proxima pagina docebit.* Antverpiæ: Ex officina Plantiniana, apud Ioannem Moretum, 1601

Clusius (1526-1609), also known as Charles de L'Écluse, was a well-known botanist of the 16th century. He wrote several herbals and included fungi, which was not always done. His *Fungorum Historia* was an appendix to *Rariorum* and describes over 100 fungi, the most to be found in any publication at this time. In mycology, he is best known for his woodcut of a stinkhorn mushroom that was lifted by John Gerard for his *Herball* (uncredited) and which Gerard inserted upside-down, to avoid offense.

Clusius has been credited with introducing the peony, tulip, hyacinth, and potato to Western Europe, and with establishing the Netherlands as the tulip center of the world.

26. Franciscus van Sterbeeck. *Theatrum Fungorum oft het Toonsel der Campernoelien...* Antwerpen: Joseph Jacobs, 1675.

Johannes Franciscus van Sterbeeck (1630-1693) was a Flemish priest, botanist, and apothecary. His *Theatrum* is the first work written solely devoted to fungi, and was designed to aid in the identification of mushrooms for edibility. The title page is shown, depicting a marketplace filled with mushroom sellers, mushroom garlands, and more.



27. Giovanni Antonio Battarra. *Fungorum agri Ariminensis Historia.* Faventiae: Typis Ballantiania, 1755

Giovanni Battarra (1714-1789) was an Italian ordained priest with a special interest in natural history and mycology. This work describes the variety of fungi growing around Rimini, his birthplace. The language on the title page banner, shown here, states, “We study fungi, we do not eat them.” Battarra was revolutionary for suggesting that fungi were plants growing from spores, rather than just decaying matter, as had been previously supposed.



28. Pier Antonio Micheli. *Nova Plantarum Genera*. Florentiae: Typis Bernardi Paperinii, 1729.



Italian born Micheli (1679-1737) was a priest and botanist and professor of botany in Pisa. In 1706 he became the botanist to Cosimo III de' Medici and the curator of the Orto Botanico di Firenze.

Micheli is significant in mycology as he discovered the spores of mushrooms and espoused their role in fungal reproduction, though no one at the time agreed with him. In the *Nova Plantarum*, he describes 1900 species, of which 1400 had not been previously described. Out of these, about 900 were fungi and lichens, with illustrations of over 70. Shown is plate 73.

29. James Bolton. *An History of Fungesses: Growing about Halifax*. [Huddersfield, Eng.]: Printed for the author and sold in Halifax by him, 1788-1791.

The English-born Bolton (1735/7-1799) was a self-taught naturalist, botanist, mycologist, and illustrator, who became interested in fungi while working on a project in Yorkshire listing the plants there. He documented 55 species of fungi growing in the Halifax area. Bolton wrote the descriptions and etched the illustrations, which were then hand-colored. Some of the species he described were new, though many were familiar.

Bolton collected many specimens in his life, and a few survived and are part of the mycological herbarium at Kew Gardens, as well as a select few other institutions.



30. Oscar Brefeld. *Botanische Untersuchungen über Schimmelpilze*. Leipzig: A. Felix, 1872-1912.

Brefeld (1839-1925) started his career as an assistant to Anton de Bary (considered a father of modern mycology), though the two parted ways when Brefeld mistakenly disagreed with de Bary concerning fungal sexuality. Brefeld's strengths lay in his observational skills, as well as his invention of better methods of fungal cultivation, namely the use of agar instead of gelatin. For many, his skills were overshadowed by his rather unpleasant personality, and one colleague named a fairly unattractive slime mold after him to commemorate Brefeld's personality.



31. Pierre Bulliard. *Histoire des champignons de la France, ...* Paris: Chez L'auteur, Barrois, Belin, Croullebois, Bazan, 1791.

Pierre Bulliard (1752-1793) was a French physician and botanist. He discovered several well-known mushrooms, including *Boletus edulis*, *Coprinopsis atramentaria*, and *Entoloma sinuatum*, a poisonous mushroom known commonly as the livid pinkgill. His work in both this volume and his earlier *Dictionnaire Élémentaire de Botanique* helped forward the consolidation of the Linnean system, as well as standardizing botanical terminology.

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