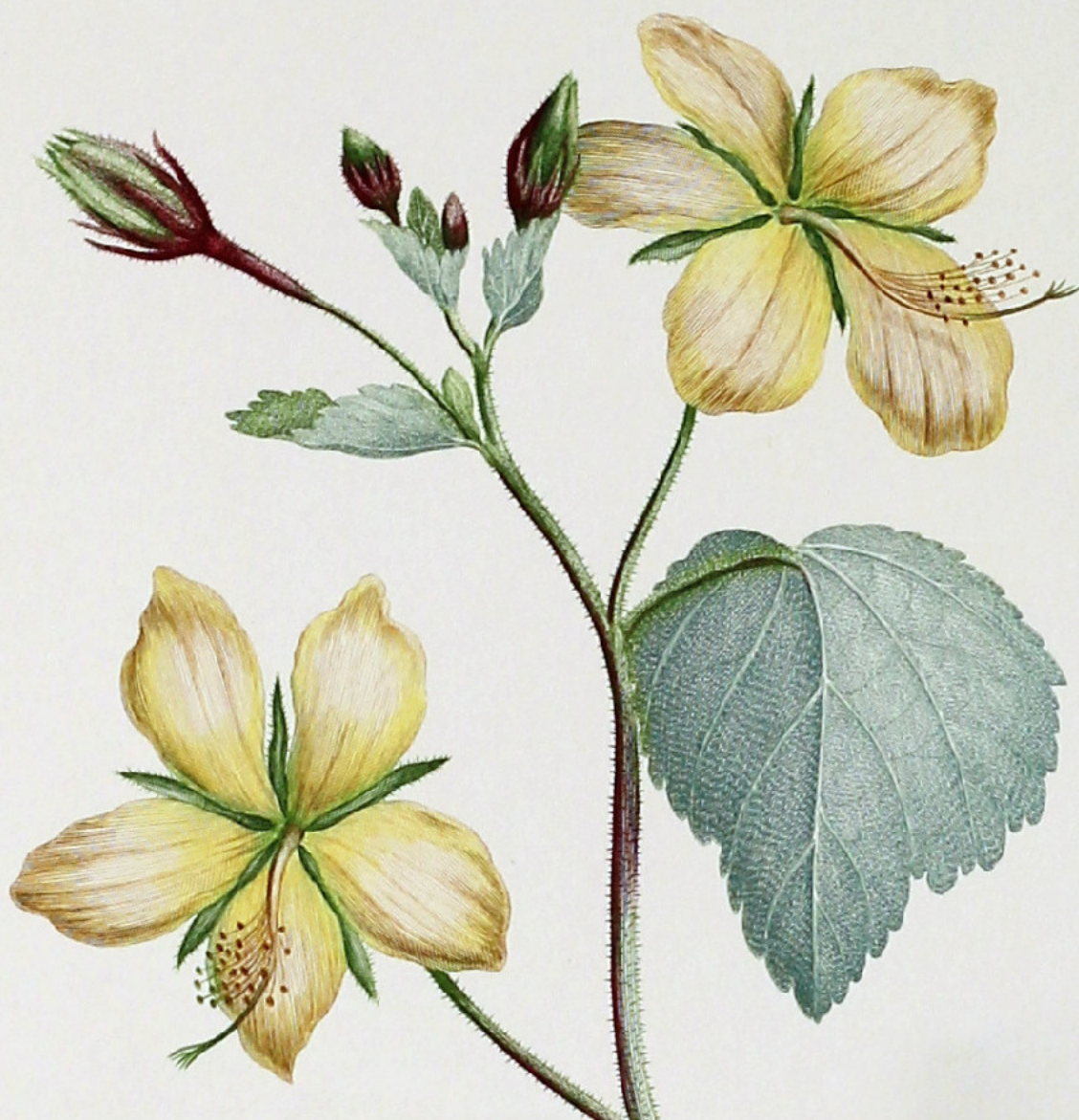


Joseph Banks' *Florilegium*

FINE LIMITED EDITION ENGRAVINGS



TYPE & FORME . RARE BOOKS & MANUSCRIPTS

MMXIX

SIR JOSEPH BANKS BT (1743-1820) first dedicated himself to the study of the sciences, especially botany, while a student at Christ Church, Oxford. Upon inheriting Revesby Abbey, Lincolnshire in 1761 he focused his research on collections of the Chelsea Physic Garden and the British Museum, where he met Daniel Solander, one of Linnaeus' students. In 1766 the young Banks 'served his apprenticeship as a scientifically trained Linnaean naturalist – as opposed to an indiscriminating virtuoso gentleman collector – by accompanying his old Etonian friend, the naval officer and future MP and lord of the Admiralty, Constantine Phipps, on an expedition [...] to Labrador and Newfoundland. Though Banks was the sole naturalist on board, Solander assisted him in his choice of equipment and reference works' (ODNB). This 'apprenticeship' with Phipps 'served as a virtual rehearsal for the great *Endeavour* voyage of 1768 to 1771' through which Banks became 'a figure of international scientific significance [...]. The *Endeavour* expedition made it possible for Banks to explore a whole portion of the globe hitherto largely unexposed to European gaze' (*loc. cit.*).

THE SEEDS FOR BANKS' *FLORILEGIUM* had been planted with his earliest expedition: on his return to London from Labrador and Newfoundland, Banks had commissioned the young Scottish natural history artist Sydney Parkinson to draw some of the natural history specimens from the expedition on HMS *Niger*. For Captain Cook's first voyage, Banks took both Solander and Parkinson (who sadly died at sea in January 1771) with him on the *Endeavour* as members of his scientific party. Upon his return to England Banks planned an account of the expedition's botanical discoveries, and employed a team of engravers to produce copper plates of Parkinson's drawings. 743 plates were engraved under Banks' supervision by 18 engravers over a period of 13 years, at a cost of more than £7,000. Manuscript descriptions of the specimens were prepared by Daniel Solander, but (apart from some small groups of proof plates) the long-anticipated work remained unpublished at Banks' death in 1820, nearly fifty years after he had returned from the *Endeavour* expedition.



ON BANKS' DEATH, the engraved copper plates were bequeathed to the British Museum, where they remained in storage until 1900-1905, when monochrome lithographic plates of the Australian flora were made after the original plates (British Museum, *Illustrations of Australian Plants*, reproducing 320 of the 743 images). The 1973 limited edition (100 copies) of *Captain Cook's Florilegium*, edited by Wilfrid Blunt and W.T. Stearn included a small number of engravings printed from the original copper plates in black ink only.

IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1979, following successful trial printings of the plates in colour, that Alecto Historical Editions and the British Museum (Natural History) agreed to jointly publish the full set of 738 plates (five of the original 743 had been stolen), printed in colour *à la poupée* (i.e. by applying the colour to the plate with a cotton ball, and then adding further colour if necessary with a brush). Only 100 sets of *Banks' Florilegium*, which appeared between 1980 and 1990, were printed for sale (of which all were subscribed), together with sixteen further sets, comprising three printers' proof sets (of which number 1 is at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew); three sets printed for exhibition purposes; and ten *hors commerce* sets (120 plates from set no. VII were sold by Sotheby's, London in 1988 to benefit the Banks Alecto Endeavour Fellowship, and sets IX and X went to The British Museum, Natural History).



THE RECEPTION WAS ENTHUSIASTIC: *The Book Collector* (vol. XXXVIII, 1989) considered the Alecto edition 'a triumph on many scores: a triumph of imagination, to conceive such an enterprise; a triumph of aesthetic sensibility, to realize that plates originally intended to be printed in black could be rendered in colour with such magical beauty, yet true to nature; a triumph of technical skill, to restore the tarnished plates and print them with unerring precision, maintaining the same high standard from first to last [...]; a triumph, above all of tenacity to bring such a colossal enterprise [...] to a final successful conclusion' (p. 9).

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BRAZIL



1. **PARKINSON, Sydney (artist).** 'Stigmaphyllon ciliatum (Lamarck), Adr. Jussieu in A. Saint-Hilaire, *Banisteria ciliata* (Malpighiaceae). Brazil. Plate 341'. London: Alecto Historical Editions in association with the British Museum (Natural History), 1980-1990. Engraving by Gabriel Smith, printed *à la poupée* by Alecto Historical Editions.

£630

Limited to 116 impressions, this no. 3 of 3 for exhibition and numbered 'EP 3/3'. After setting off from Plymouth, barring a stop for supplies, South America offered the first opportunity for exploration to the crew onboard the *Endeavour*. But although Banks and Solander had been looking forward to reaching South America, landings on the continent were few, and that at Rio de Janeiro in November/December 1768 was particularly disappointing. The viceroy confined most of the expedition members to their ship and generally obstructed forays into the country by shifting the boundaries of forbidden areas on a daily basis. Cook complained that it was impossible for him to take full observations from the ship for an accurate survey of the coastline.

This climbing plant, which Joseph Banks and his party saw at Rio de Janeiro between 13 November and 7 December 1768, grows to 8m tall, and is also known as the 'Butterfly Vine' or 'Golden Orchid Vine'. It was first described from plants collected in Brazil by Jean-Baptiste Lamarck (1744-1829) and named (for its regularly and persistently ciliate leaf margins) by Adrien-Henri de Jussieu (1797-1853). It is native to the Americas from Belize to Uruguay, and now also found in Barbados and even the coastal areas of Queensland, Australia.

Gooding, Mabberley, and Studholme, *Joseph Banks' Florilegium*, 5.





2. PARKINSON, S. (artist). 'Rodriguezia rigida (Lindley), Reichenbach f. Epidendrum corniculatum (Orchidaceae). Brazil. Plate 357'. London: Alecto Historical Editions in association with the British Museum (Natural History), 1980-1990. Engraving by Daniel MacKenzie, printed *à la poupée* by Alecto Historical Editions.

£510

Limited to 116 impressions, this no. 3 of 3 for exhibition and numbered 'EP 3/3'. This plant was observed during excursions into Brazil which were limited by the viceroy's prohibitions, especially for the passengers (including Banks and Parkinson). While Banks' servants were allowed brief forays into the country, at first he spent time 'hoping that by and by when things were more quiet I might have an opportunity of smuggling myself ashore'. Eventually he managed to explore the coastal areas, observing in his journal that the country 'abounded with vast variety of Plants and animals, mostly such as have not been describd by our naturalists as so few have had an opportunity of coming here' (Banks, *The Endeavour Journal*, 21 and 26 November 1768). Among them was this species, seen by Joseph Banks and his party at Rio de Janeiro between 13 November and 7 December 1768.



A native to Brazil, and also known as 'Burlingtonia rigida', this delicate orchid is distinguished by its 'purple ears' and the fact that it 'breathes the delicious fragrance of the violet' (John Lindley, *Edwards's Botanical Register...* vol. X (London, 1837), item 1927). In Britain, orchids would soon be among the most popular flowers brought back from the new world: the first orchid to bloom in Kew gardens would do so in 1787, and the early 1800s saw an epidemic of 'orchidelirium' or 'orchid mania'.



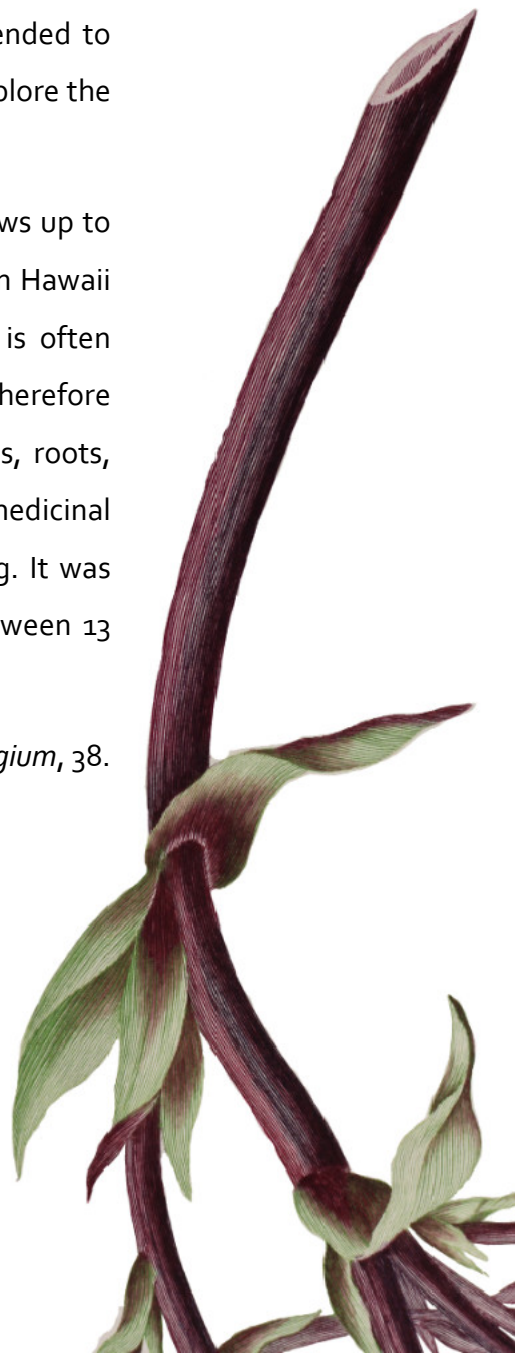
3. **PARKINSON, S. (artist).** 'Cordyline fruticosa (Linnaeus), Chevalier, Dracaena terminalis (Agaraleae). Society Islands. Plate 671'. London: Alecto Historical Editions in association with the British Museum (Natural History), 1980-1990. Engraving by Gerald Sibelius, printed à la poupée by Alecto Historical Editions.

£630

Limited to 116 impressions, this no. 2 of 3 for exhibition and numbered 'EP 2/3'. In the decade prior to HMB *Endeavour's* circumnavigation the British had sent several Royal Navy vessels to the Pacific to explore the territories and trade opportunities. The first European to visit Tahiti in 1767, Samuel Wallis, returned to England with news of 'King George the Third's Island' (as he named it), before the *Endeavour* departed, and Cook would select Matavai Bay as the location for his observation of the transit of Venus in 1769. While Cook and the astronomer Charles Green attended to the transit of Venus, Banks utilised much of the time to explore the local vegetation.

The 'Cordyline fruticosa' is a thick-stemmed tree that grows up to 4m tall, is native to the Western Pacific but also present in Hawaii and New Zealand, and is known as 'Ti' in Polynesia. It is often cultivated for ornament and associated with luck, and therefore planted at all four corners of houses in Hawaii. Its leaves, roots, scented flowers, and fruit have a variety of culinary and medicinal uses. The leaves are also used in traditional dress making. It was observed at Otaheite (Tahiti) by Banks and his party between 13 April and 1 June, and 4 June to 13 July 1769.

Gooding, Mabberley, and Studholme, *Joseph Banks' Florilegium*, 38.





4. PARKINSON, S. (artist). 'Pavonia papilionacea, Cavanilles, Hibiscus papilionaceus (Malvaceae). Society Islands. Plate 590'. London: Alecto Historical Editions in association with the British Museum (Natural History), 1980-1990. Engraving by Gerald Sibelius printed *à la poupée* by Alecto Historical Editions.

£510

Limited to 116 impressions, this no. 2 of 3 for exhibition and numbered 'EP 2/3'. As Sydney Parkinson recounts in his journal, during the party's stay on Tahiti ('Otaheite'), 'Mr. Banks and Dr. Solander were very assiduous in collecting whatever they thought might contribute to the advancement of Natural History; and, by their directions, I made drawings of a great many curious trees, and other plants; fish, birds, and of such natural bodies as could not be conveniently preserved entire, to be brought home' (Parkinson, *A Journal of a Voyage*, p. 36). Among them was this species, which they saw at Otaheite between 13 April and 1 June, and 4 June to 13 July 1769.

This attractive yellow-flowered shrub is probably extinct, as it has not been collected since the 1850s. It is a 'member of the pantropical genus Pavonia, named in the genus Hibiscus by Solander but this name was not published. Cavanilles recognised it as a member of his genus Pavonia, taking up Solander's specific epithet' (Carr, *Sydney Parkinson*, p. 82).



5. PARKINSON, S. and Frederick Polydore NODDER (artists). 'Olearia paniculata (Forster & G. Forster), Druce, Solidago undulata (Compositae). New Zealand. Plate 479'. London: Alecto Historical Editions in association with the British Museum (Natural History), 1980-1990. Engraving by Gerald Sibelius, printed à la poupée by Alecto Historical Editions.

£510

Limited to 116 impressions, this no. 2 of 3 for exhibition and numbered 'EP 2/3'. After observing the transit of Venus from the Society Islands, Cook had instructions to search for a conjectured southern continent. The *Endeavour* reached New Zealand, but due to difficult coastal conditions and unpredictably hostile encounters with the Maori a limited number of landings were made. Banks recorded in his journal: '[a]s we were resolv'd to stay no longer here we all went ashore, the boats to get as much Celery and Oysters as possible, Dr Solander and myself to get as many green plants as possible of sea stock for finishing scetches &c, so an enormous number of all these articles came on board' (Banks, *The Endeavour Journal*, 14 November 1769).

The 'Olearia paniculata' would have been among them. It is a common hedge plant in New Zealand and grows to up to 8m high, with fragrant flowers. Banks and his party saw this species at Opoorage between 5 and 15 November 1769, and on Cook's second voyage it was also collected by Johann Reinhold and Georg Forster. Its name derives the 'Olearia' from the Latinised name of the 17th-century German botanist Johann Gottfried Ölschläger (1635-1711), but Banks had collected it as 'Solidago undulata', and the Forsters had named it 'Shawia paniculata' after the Oxford traveller and plant collector Thomas Shaw (1694-1751).

Gooding, Mabberley, and Studholme, *Joseph Banks' Florilegium*, 58.





6. PARKINSON, S. and John Frederick MILLER (artists). 'Corynocarpus laevigatus, Forster & G. Forster, Merretia lucida (Corynocarpaceae). New Zealand. Plate 427'. London: Alecto Historical Editions in association with the British Museum (Natural History), 1980-1990. Engraving by Gabriel Smith, printed *à la poupée* by Alecto Historical Editions.

£510



Limited to 116 impressions, this no. 3 of 3 for exhibition and numbered 'EP 3/3'. While at Opoorage, New Zealand, Banks and the astronomer Charles Green observed the passage of Mercury and named Mercury Bay in its honour. Banks and his party also gathered plants, including this species, which they saw at Teoneroa, Tegadu Bay, Tolaga Bay, Opoorage, Motu aro Island, and Totara nui between 8 October 1769 and 31 March 1770. At the time, Parkinson prepared a pencil sketch and carefully noted the details of the plant's colouring: 'the petalae of the flower white. the fruit a shining grass green the Pedunculi pale tawny brown' (Gooding, Mabberley, and Studholme); John Miller then prepared a full drawing as a basis for the copper plate from Parkinson's sketch in 1774.

The 'Corynocarpus laevigatus' (now commonly known as karaka) is a tree that grows up to 15m tall. Its name derives from the Greek *kyrone* ('club') and *karpos* ('fruit'), and was first published in Johann Reinhold Forster and Georg Forster's *Characteres generum plantarum* (1776). The fruit, which is edible for humans (but toxic to dogs), turns orange when ripe, and weighs slightly less than an almond. In 1823, 'Corynocarpus laevigatus' trees were introduced to England.

Gooding, Mabberley, and Studholme, *Joseph Banks' Florilegium*, 44.



7. PARKINSON, S. and John CLEVELEY (artists). 'Boronia parviflora, J.E. Smith, Gauroides purpurea (Rutaceae). Australia. Plate 30.' London: Alecto Historical Editions in association with the British Museum (Natural History), 1980-1990. Engraving by Edward Walker, printed à la poupée by Alecto Historical Editions.

£330

Limited to 116 impressions, this no. 3 of 3 for exhibition and numbered 'EP 3/3'. At the end of April 1770 Cook's first landing in Australia took place near modern-day Sydney, and while he first named the place 'Stingray Harbour', he later changed the name to 'Botany Bay' because of the variety of new plants found there by Banks. The reception was not entirely friendly, and Banks and his party had to proceed with caution. On the day before their departure, Banks records that 'Dr Solander and myself were employd the whole day in collecting specimens of as many things as we possibly could to be examind at sea' (Banks, *The Endeavour Journal*, 5 May 1770).

The 'Boronia parviflora', was gathered by Banks and his party at Botany Bay between 28 April and 6 May 1770. It is native to the area around Sydney, and is now commonly known as 'Swamp Boronia'. It is unique amongst Boronia in eastern Australia in having 4, 6 or 8 stamens.





8. PARKINSON, S. and F.P. NODDER (artists). 'Eucalyptus alba, Reinwardt ex Blume, Metrosideros populifolia (Myrtaceae). Australia. Plate 120'. London: Alecto Historical Editions in association with the British Museum (Natural History), 1980-1990. Engraving by Robert Blyth, printed *à la poupée* by Alecto Historical Editions.

£510

Limited to 116 impressions, this no. 3 of 3 for exhibition and numbered 'EP 3/3'. The *Endeavour's* voyage along the coast of what Cook would name New South Wales began on 19 April 1770, and extended over the course of four months, much of it spent surveying, and with occasional stops for supplies. Banks and his party 'went ashore and found several Plants which we had not before seen; among them were however still more East Indian plants than in the last harbour. One kind of Grass which we had also seen there was very troublesome to us: its sharp seeds were bearded backwards and whenever they stuck into our cloths were by these beards pushd forward till they got into the flesh: this grass was so plentiful that it was hardly possible to avoid it and with the Musketo that likewise innumerable made walking almost intolerable. We were not however to be repulsd but proceeded into the countrey' (Banks, *The Endeavour Journal*, 29 May 1770). It was during one of these perilous excursions that they collected a specimen of 'Eucalyptus alba'.

The 'Eucalyptus alba', now commonly known as white gum or khaki gum, is an evergreen tree with a smooth powdery bark, to which the 'alba' (white) in its name refers. An extract from its leaves is used in cosmetics today, and in West Timor beekeepers climb the trees (which can reach heights of up to 80m in their region) to retrieve their honey. Banks and his party found this species at Thirsty Sound, on the east coast of Australia (29 to 31 May 1770).



9. PARKINSON, S. and F.P. NODDER (artists). 'Clerodendrum paniculatum, Linnaeus (Verbenaceae). Java. Plate 380'. London: Alecto Historical Editions in association with the British Museum (Natural History), 1980-1990. Engraving by Daniel MacKenzie, printed à la poupée by Alecto Historical Editions.

£1,050

Limited to 116 impressions, this no. 3 of 3 for exhibition and numbered 'EP 3/3'. In 1770, after discovering Endeavour Strait and following a close encounter with the Great Barrier Reef, the *Endeavour* required major repairs to her keel in preparation for the long voyage back to England. The Dutch colony of Batavia (now Jakarta) on the island of Java had the provisions the expedition required, but this necessary stop would prove fatal for many of the crew, who contracted diseases including malarial fever, and were already in low spirits. 'The greatest part of them were now pretty far gone with the longing for home which the Physicians have gone so far as to esteem a disease under the name of Nostalgia', wrote Banks; 'indeed I can find hardly any body in the ship clear of its effects but the Captn[,] Dr Solander and myself, indeed we three have pretty constant employment for our minds which I beleive to be the best if not the only remedy for it' (Banks, *The Endeavour Journal*, 3 September 1770). The return journey began on 26 December and reached England on 12 July 1771.

The 'Clerodendrum paniculatum', a shrub now commonly called 'Pagoda Flower' and known to attract butterflies with its nectar, was first described by Carl Linnaeus in 1767, and is widespread in subtropical and tropical eastern Asia. It grows up to 3m tall, rarely

produces its dark fruits, and the red, orange, lemon-to-cream coloured flowers can be up to 45cm long and wide. In the early 19th century it was introduced into England from Penang. It was observed by Banks and his party at 'Batavia' (Jakarta) between 11 October and 24 December 1770.

Gooding, Mabblerley, and Studholme, *Joseph Banks' Florilegium*, 141.





10. PARKINSON, S. and F.P. NODDER (artists). 'Calophyllum soulattri, Burman f. Calophyllym soulattri (Guttiferae). Java. Plate 362'. London: Alecto Historical Editions in association with the British Museum (Natural History), 1980-1990. Engraving by Gerald Sibelius printed *à la poupée* by Alecto Historical Editions.

£510



Limited to 116 impressions, this no. VII of 10 *hors de commerce* and numbered 'HC VII/X'. Joseph Banks and his party saw this species between 11 October and 24 December 1770 at 'Batavia' (now Jakarta), Java. Sydney Parkinson's account of the city provides some context: 'Batavia [...] is walled round, and has many canals cut through it, supplied by a river [...]. The roads [...] are so many avenues, planted with Tamarind, Cocoa, Pisang, Bread-fruit, Jacca, Duriam, and Allango, trees, which render them very pleasant. [...] In brief, the whole country looks like a garden, divided into different plantations by hedge-rows of trees and canals' (Parkinson, *A Journal of a Voyage*, p. 173).

This tall flowering evergreen tree was first described, as native to Java, by the Dutch botanist Nicolaas Laurens Burman (*Flora indica cui accedit series zoophytorum indicorum, nec non prodromus florum capensis* (Amsterdam, 1768), p. 121). Today recorded to be growing across Southeast Asia and northern Australia, its wood is used for building purposes, and the bark, roots, and latex in medicines.



THE ENGRAVINGS ARE ALL OF A VERY SIMILAR SIZE, with platemarks of *circa* 457 x 305mm, and are printed on acid-free Somerset mould-made 300gsm paper manufactured by the Inveresk Paper Company. Each sheet is watermarked 'AHE', measures 724 x 556mm, and bears blind embossed stamps incorporating the publishers' and printer's chops, the copyright symbol, and date of publication; the initials of the individual printer, the plate number, and the edition number are recorded in pencil. The engravings are protected by a bifolium of acid-free Somerset mould-made 300gsm paper, cut to form a window mount on which are recorded the modern and Banksian names of the plant, the location and date of its collection and the name(s) of the artist and engraver.



- [Joseph Banks]. J.C. Beaglehole (ed.), *The Endeavour Journal of Joseph Banks, 1768-1771* (Sydney, 1962).
- Sydney Parkinson, *A Journal of a Voyage to the South Seas...* (London, 1773).
- [James Cook]. J.C. Beaglehole, *The Life of Captain James Cook* (Stanford, CA, 1974).
- Denis J. Carr, *Sydney Parkinson: Artist of Cook's Endeavour Voyage* (London, 1983).
- Neil Chambers, *Endeavouring Banks: Exploring Collections from the Endeavour Voyage 1768-1771* (London, 2016).
- Mel Gooding, David Mabberley, and Joe Studholme, *Joseph Banks' Florilegium: Botanical Treasures from Cook's First Voyage* (London, 2017).



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