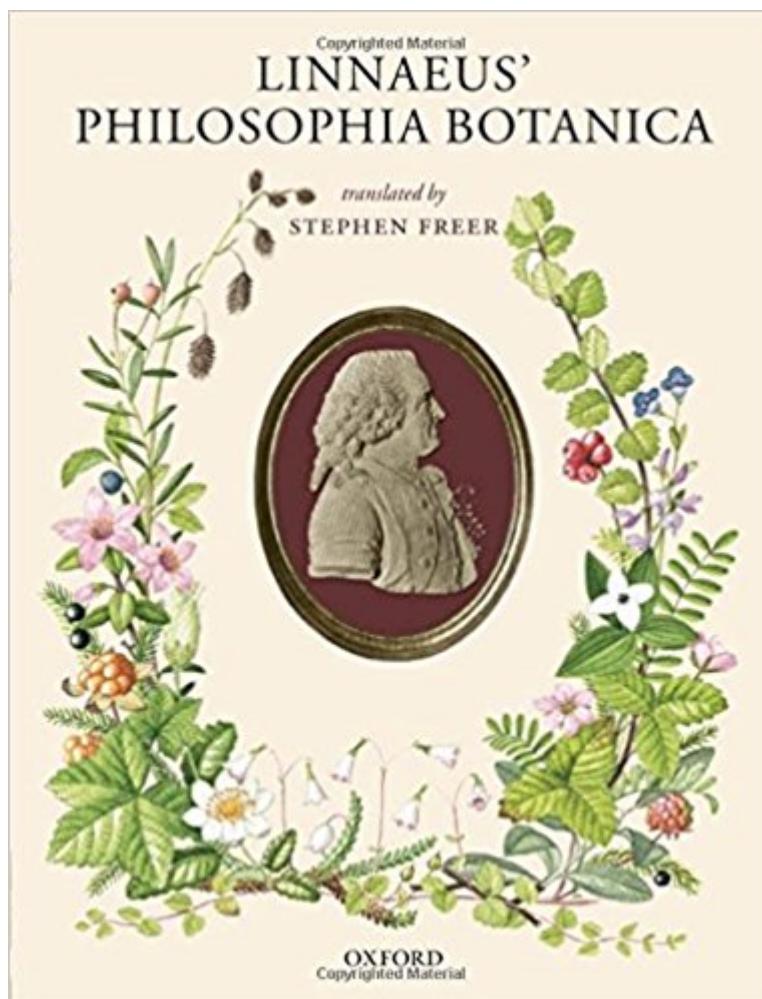


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Linnaeus' *Philosophia Botanica*



Synopsis

Philosophia Botanica (The Science of Botany), by Carl Linnaeus, was originally published in Latin in Stockholm and Amsterdam in 1751. It is a greatly expanded revision of his Fundamenta Botanica (Foundations of Botany) of 1736, summarizing his work on the classification and taxonomy of plants while adding substantial new material. The book represents a critical stage in the evolution of binomial nomenclature, with a single word to describe the genus and another for the species. Special importance is attached to accurate description of the parts of plants, and to the correct use of technical terms. There are also explanations of the effects of soil and climatic conditions on plant growth. The book includes 9 original engravings, with 167 figures showing the shapes of leaves and other parts of the plant, and 6 short memoranda describing Linnaeus' botanical excursions, detailing his ideas for garden and herbarium construction, and outlining what is required of a botanist and his pupils. There are also indexes of technical terms, genera and subjects. The first full English translation of this classic work since 1775, this beautiful book will be highly attractive to botanists and all those interested in the history of science.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Carl Linnaeus (1707 - 1778) is best known for his work on taxonomy of Animals, but he is also did massive work in the taxonomy of Botany and Minerals too. He used to say to himself "God creates, but Linnaeus names." and he saw himself as a person on a mission to establish the order of all creation from animals to plants to minerals. He was searching for a "Natural Method" whereby all

things could be systematically named and classified. As he notes in this book, "If you do not know the names of things, the knowledge of them is lost also." His views of taxonomy (or arrangements) have impacted how we classify species of animals, plants, (and minerals?) to this day. He had to sort out through much of the systems of classifications in his day which were quite cluttered and not as simple or systematic as what he was able to establish. His work impacted many fields such as the biological sciences by providing a system where many could adequately research the diversity of life (even though he was a creationist), paleontology, anthropology, and other fields that use taxonomy to establish an systematic order of entities that constitute Nature. The book at hand, "Philosophia Botanica", is a summarizing work on Botany and classification of plants. The introduction is very enthusiastic and informative on all his botanical works and refers to "Philosophia Botanica" as being like a set of lectures. One can think of it that way. The introduction also sheds light on his cultural heritage. He is one of the most beloved scientists in his native Sweden and was a very good lecturer. Actually, he is best known there for his work as a teacher, not as a botanist or taxonomist of animals.

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