

Citrus Roots

Preserving Citrus Heritage Foundation

The directors of this Foundation are elated and honored in having this opportunity to “showcase” our work through the *Citrograph* magazine. Our “Mission” is to elevate the awareness of California citrus heritage through publications, education, and artistic work. We are delighted to report that our recent university displays at Cal Poly Pomona, Western University, and CSU San Bernardino were very well-received, and now a new and even larger photo collection – a composite from the Huntington, Sherman, and other prominent libraries/museums – is on display at the Cooper Museum in Upland. Through the work of Citrus Roots-Preserving Citrus Heritage Foundation, this display titled “THE CALIFORNIA CITRUS STORY” covers citrus groves from the two acres of Wolfskill to early plantings in San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange counties. The photos are of outstanding quality and have not been shown for decades, if at all. Included are photos of citrus next to the Fox Studios in Hollywood, hundreds of acres of citrus in Alhambra, Pasadena, South Pasadena, etc. The Cooper Museum is located 217 East “A” Street in Upland. Admission is free. For days and hours, call (909) 982-8010. The exhibit will be in place through December. For more information on the Foundation, please visit our website...www.citrusroots.com.

We are proud of our accomplishments as a volunteer organization, which means each donated dollar works for you at 100% [for we have no salaries, wages, rent, etc.]. All donations are tax deductible for income tax purposes to the full extent allowed by law.

Citrus Roots – Preserving Citrus Heritage Foundation

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The views of the writer may not be the same as this foundation.

1646 “The Golden Apple” *The First European Book on Citrus*

Richard H. Barker

In 1646, *Hesperides* (or “Culture and Use of the Golden Apple”) was written and published in Rome by a Jesuit teacher of Hebrew, Johannus Baptista Ferrarius (1584-1655) of Siena. It has been stated by academicians that this book on citrus is considered to be the most scientifically precise botanical work of 17th century Europe. Relative to size, it contains 500 pages, 91 chapters with 101 full-page illustrations printed from copper plates. The pages are of heavy fibrous sheets (34 x 24 cm). The book is divided into four sections. The first deals with mythology of citrus, the second with citron, the next is the lemon, and the fourth and last section covers the orange. The etchings were done by Cornelis Bloemaert and designed by the foremost artists of Europe during the 17th century, including Nicolas Poussin and Guido Reni. Prior to turning his attention to citrus, Ferrarius had published a major work on the culture of flowers.

Mrs H. W. Hawkinson, a Latin teacher at Chaffey High School (Ontario, CA) translated the first and last chapters of this lengthy work to earn her M.A. degree in Classical Studies at what is now Claremont Graduate University.

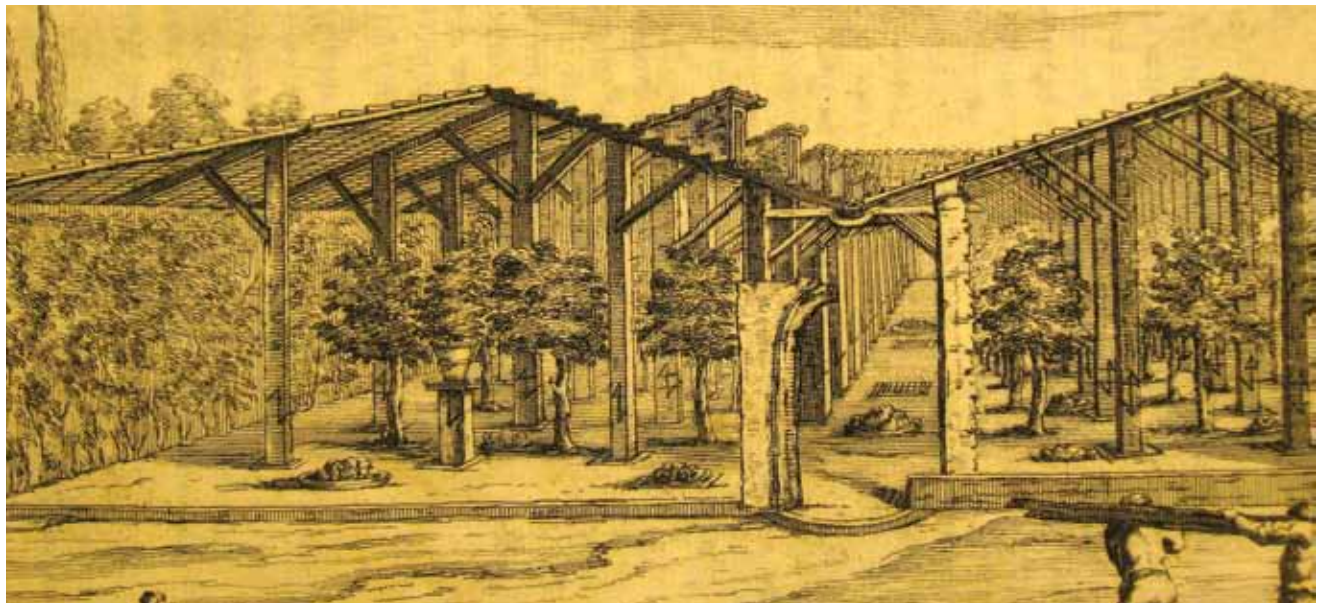
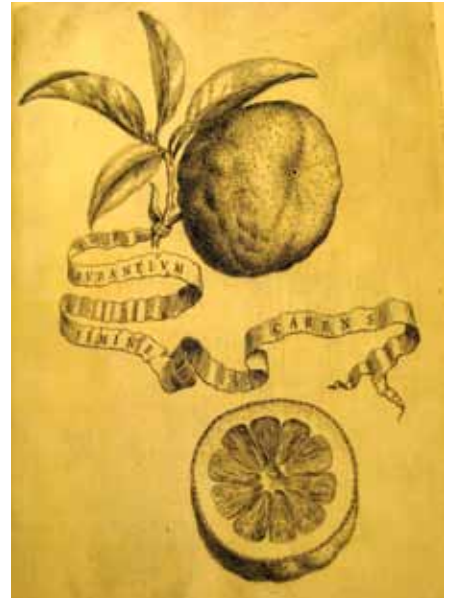
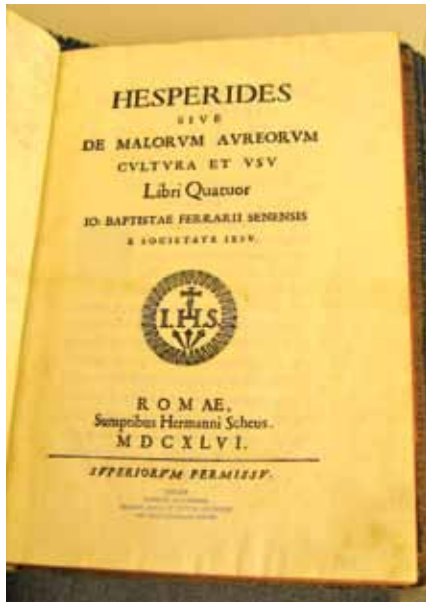
In the issue of *The California Citrograph*, July 1937, Mrs. Hawkinson

stated, “Ferrarius was certainly a poetic writer, and his work had been written in Ciceronian Latin in a more suppressed style than Cicero. The following were translated by her and give one a glimpse of the writer and his creative appreciation of nature.

“But if flowers, ever your true love, have penetrated deep within you with their sweet fragrance, you have in the flowers of these gold-bearing trees concentrated into one blossom all the beauty and fragrance of the flowers of Venus. For this blossom, redolent of the whole springtime, puts life into one. Its little waxy cheek, breaking into spring laughter, rejoices one. And the fact that it mingles usefulness with its



Hawkinson



beauty is most satisfying. Although the blossom is white, it becomes yellow in the fruit, and so by changing silver to gold it enriches one.”

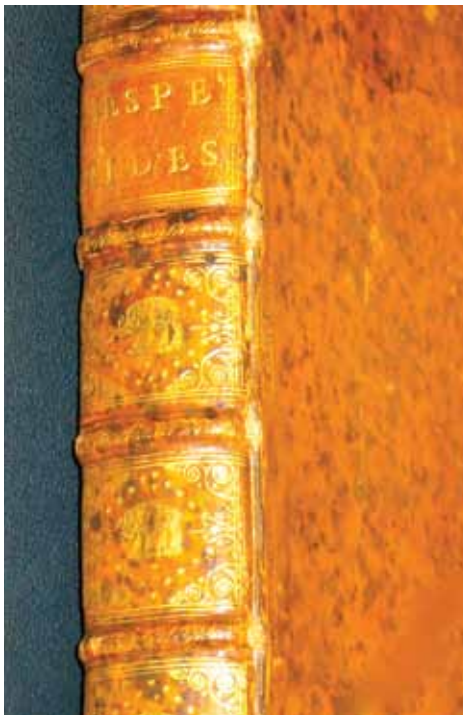
The next squint could be a marketing theme for citrus, “Live long, golden days amid the fruit of gold which prolongs life.”

“If you will approve of this my enthusiasm for the golden apples, if you will pardon with the kindly indulgence of a Maecenas, my feeble attempts at writing, I shall be happy. Farewell. Live long, golden days amid the fruits of gold which prolong life.”

Lastly, Mrs. Hawkinson calls attention to Ferrarius’ great skill in his final paragraphs as to the beauty of the orange.

“Wherefore this fruit, rounded thus by nature’s handiwork, though small in size, yet very great because of its usefulness and beauty, may be called a golden world. To my mind it resembles the sky in its rind which is of a saffron, warm color, and the earth surrounded also with flowing, nourishing water. So I bestow upon this little rounded fruit the merited name of an ornament of the world, for in its golden dress it seems a decoration for the earth. This harmonious blending of the elements furnishes to mortals health and delicious food. The sourness and the bitterness when cooked in honey and sugar is transformed into a heavenly food, and finally the golden season of this fruit is crowned very beautifully by a silver and emerald springtime of its ever green leaves and fragrant flowers... I have finished this book which I have written about golden apples. Nor could I, a Ferrarius, have done it better with an iron pen. Praise be to God and to the Virgin Mary, God’s mother.” 1646

In 1937, upon completing Mrs. Hawkinson’s efforts, Dr. H.J. Webber, former director of the Citrus Experiment Sta-



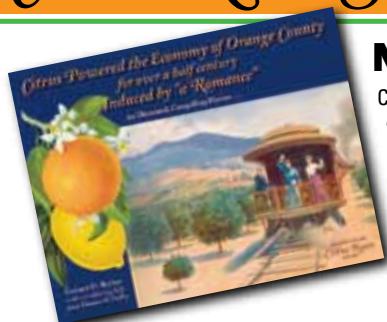
tion at Riverside who had spent more than 40 years in studying citrus, wrote this encomium: “In my judgment it would be difficult to choose any project that would have more influence on any human industry than the translation of this work would have on the citrus industry of the world.”

Today, looking at this volume, to me it was overwhelming and astounding. About three hundred sixty-five years ago Ferrerius and his associates finished this work, and yet today the original book is in fine condition. There are, so far as known, but three copies of this great, voluminous printing. One is held at the University of California at Los Angeles, another at the University of California at Riverside (where the writer of this review paged through the book and took photos as shown), and the other in Florida. To know the production of citrus has this depth of duration generates faith

that a remedy will be found to lessen the present threats. Citrus Roots-Preserving Citrus Heritage Foundation is currently honoring the Ontario Latin teacher, Mrs. H.W. Hawkinson, at Ontario Public Library. Past and present teachers need to be recognized for their exemplary work.

Richard H. Barker founded the Citrus Roots-Preserving Citrus Heritage Foundation and has been leading a drive to bring about a higher awareness of the role citrus played in developing California. Dick is a retired investment banker and was a third generation Sunkist grower. He has published four volumes on citrus heritage, and for the past two years he and his wife Pam have devoted much of their efforts to assembling and setting up traveling exhibits showing at various California colleges, universities and museums. Recently, the City of Pomona honored Dick’s many years of philanthropic and educational contributions by proclaiming Feb. 26, 2010 as “Richard Barker Day”. ●

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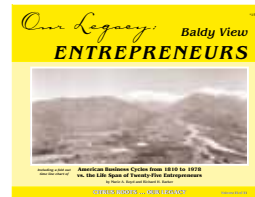
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Preserving Citrus Heritage Foundation

Keeping citrus heritage alive in the minds of those living in California through publications, educational exhibits and artistic works

(Fed. Tax ID # 43-2102497)