

A detailed botanical illustration serves as the background. It features various plant parts: large green leaves with prominent veins, some with reddish-purple tints; a long, green, ribbed seed pod; clusters of small white and pink flowers; and several types of fruit, including red and yellow berries, a large yellow slice of a fruit (possibly a pineapple), and small round fruits on a branch.

# **Plant Humanities**

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A detailed botanical illustration of a bromeliad plant. The central focus is a large, vibrant pink bromeliad flower with a dense, spiky structure. To its right is a large, circular cross-section of a bromeliad fruit, showing a bright yellow interior with a grid of seeds. Surrounding these are various other elements: long, green, serrated leaves; clusters of small green and yellow fruits; a single red fruit; and several small, round, yellow fruits. The background is a light cream color, and the entire illustration is framed by a blue border.

# **Plant Humanities: In the Classroom**

# Top Chef: Climatron Edition

## Botany Lab Practical

Your assignment is to create a lovely, interesting, 3 course meal using the plants in your assigned Climatron room (Rainforest or Mediterranean). You will be working in groups, and submit one meal per group.

Each group has a chicken, salt, and the “pantry” of your Climatron room. As you explore your plant resources, think about spices, sauces, techniques, etc. that all must come from your plants. Each course must use (in any way) at MINIMUM, 5 plants.

I am the sole judge, so remember your audience. I don't like beets, watermelon and a pile of chopped raw fruit is not sufficient as “dessert”.

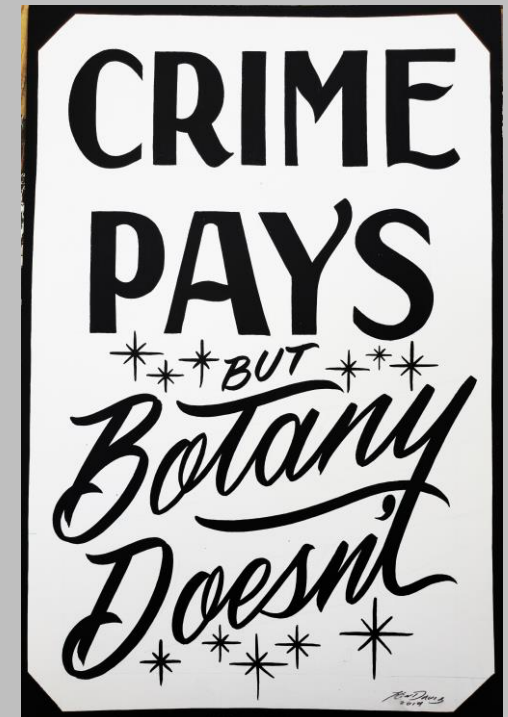
Impress me! In the words of Chef Tom Colicchio  
“Elevate the ingredients!”



- Directly addresses the “Green Wall”!
- Pushes students to active learning.

# Podcasts/YouTube Channels

- In Defense of Plants  
<https://www.indefenseofplants.com/podcast>
- Botany After Dark  
<https://radiopublic.com/botany-after-dark-GObMrO>
- Crime Pays, But Botany Doesn't  
<https://www.youtube.com/c/CrimePaysButBotanyDoesnt/featured>





<https://www.youtube.com/user/PlantsAreCoolToo>



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How to save a species from going EXTINCT | Plants are...

2.2K views • 9 months ago



National Tropical Botanical Garden and rare plant...

2.2K views • 1 year ago

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Allegheny Ice and the Blue False Indigo | Plants are Co...

1.4K views • 1 year ago

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Plants are Cool, Too! | Hawai'i Trailer (2019)

575 views • 2 years ago



Plants are Cool, Too! Theme Song!

1.4K views • 3 years ago



Rappelling Scientists Find Rare Species Hiding for 100...

8.7K views • 3 years ago

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# *Plants are everywhere, and everyone has a story to tell about a plant.*

- **Herbaria 3.0**

<https://herbaria3.org/category/story-garden/>

- **Plant Love Stories**

<https://www.plantlovestories.com/>



# Herbaria 3.0

Everyone has a story to tell about a plant. What's yours?

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## ME AND MY TOMATO PLANT

I was an avid gardener as a kid. I helped out at the local community garden every Sunday from 6th grade up to 9th. While I was there, I would help other people with their plots, as I was too young to have one of [...]

March 15, 2021 ~ 1 Comment



[Cultivars](#) ~ [Edible Plants](#) ~ [Story Garden](#)

## RICE, THAT OLD WHEEL

Oryza Sativa. In other words, rice. While its Latin name is relatively new to me, rice is not, and far from it. For nearly one hundred years, my family has associated with that crop which has sustained us, our nation, and the world. From men [...]

March 8, 2021 ~ 1 Comment

[LOLA'S GARDEN AND CHERRY TOMATOES](#)

## STORY GARDEN

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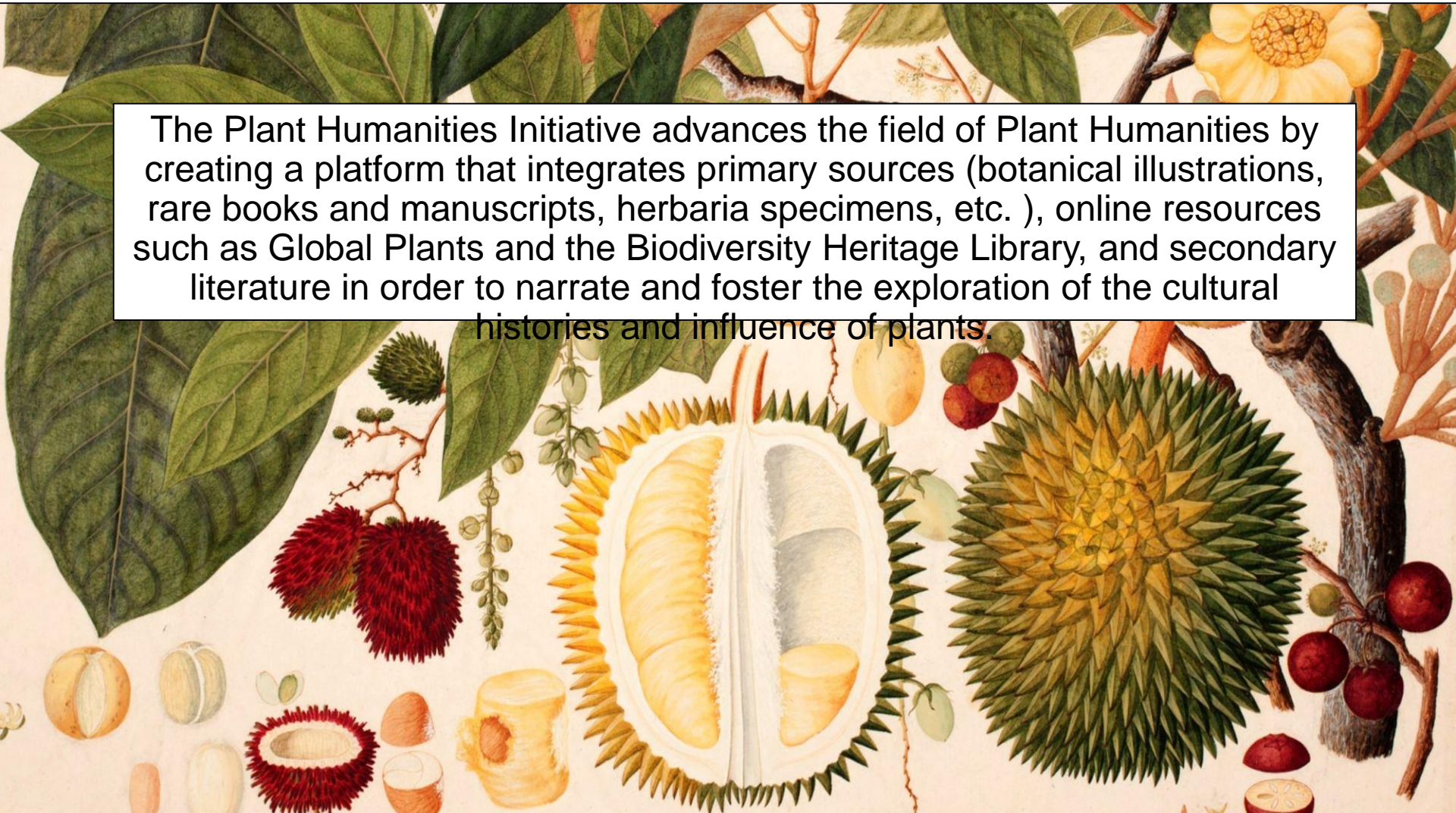
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# Plant Humanities Initiative at Dumbarton Oaks

The Plant Humanities Initiative advances the field of Plant Humanities by creating a platform that integrates primary sources (botanical illustrations, rare books and manuscripts, herbaria specimens, etc. ), online resources such as Global Plants and the Biodiversity Heritage Library, and secondary literature in order to narrate and foster the exploration of the cultural histories and influence of plants.



# Cinnamomum verum: Discovering “True” Cinnamon

Wouter Klein, PhD

cinnamon combines with saliva in the mouth to produce an indigestible clutter at the back of the throat.

Thankfully, this [quite dangerous assignment](#) will only be a marginal footnote to the history of cinnamon. Those who only know cinnamon from an endless number of ridiculous YouTube videos that recorded the challenge, or as a quotidian kitchen spice, will be surprised to learn that the real challenge—to find out what cinnamon actually is, as a plant and as a medicine—has been a centuries-long and ongoing effort.

## Forgotten Knowledge and Fabricated History

Cinnamon had a long history before any European ever saw “true” cinnamon (*Cinnamomum verum* J.Presl), which originally grew only on [Sri Lanka](#). Here lies the key to understanding the history of cinnamon: it is mostly about a plant-based product carrying that name, not about any particular plant species like *C. verum*. This is a crucial point, because a lot of confusion about cinnamon emanates from incorrectly equating *names* with *plants*. To be more precise: in Latin Western Europe, it was assumed for centuries that the plants *cinnamomum* (κιννάμωμον in Greek) and *cassia* (κασία), as described by ancient medical authorities (notably [Dioscorides](#)), are the same plants as those found in the [East Indies](#) in the sixteenth century. A recent reevaluation of archaeological, historical, linguistic, and botanical evidence, however, suggests that the cinnamon of ancient history was probably an East-African plant, *Cassia abbreviata* Oliv., which is not related to the genus *Cinnamomum*.<sup>1</sup>

How could this confusion last so long? One possible explanation for the shift from an East-African to a South-East-Asian plant is linguistic. In medieval Latin, the name for cinnamon from the East Indies was *canella*, which still resounds in many European languages today. For some reason, the names *canella* and *cinnamomum* both began to be associated with the East Indian spice in the Middle Ages.<sup>2</sup> In the wake of the European voyages of discovery in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, European scholars writing about cinnamon would turn to classical, not medieval sources, to understand the spice and its properties. They managed to resolve the discrepancies they found between classical descriptions of the spice and the plant that was found in Sri Lanka. For instance, in his book *Coloquios dos simples, e drogas he cousas medicinais da Indiae* (*Colloquies on the Simples and Drugs and Medical Things of Indiae*) (1563), the Portuguese physician Garcia de Orta, who worked in Goa, explained the differences between his own observations and classical authors’ descriptions of cinnamon by the fact that the latter had only known the processed spice, not the plant itself.<sup>3</sup>

Another, much more surprising reason for the long-lasting confusion over cinnamon, is the fact that the exact same issue still exists today. This is a striking example of forgotten knowledge in modern science. In



Cinnamon, from a medieval Arabian manuscript of Dioscorides's *De Materia medica* (first century CE).  
Bibliothèque nationale de France via BnF Gallica ©



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