The Botanic Museum

In 1591, the Grand Duke Ferdinando I de’ Medici established in Pisa a Gallery to host all the works of nature as a pride and incentive for all the academics of the prestigious Grand Duchy’s University. The following Natural Science Museum inherited that sixteenth-century gallery and acquired several interesting collections during the nineteenth-century, including several precious herbaria.

At the end of the twentieth-century the non-botanical portion of the Museum moved to the Pisa Charterhouse in Calci, where the Natural Science Museum of the University is currently found.

Nowadays, the Botanic Museum is hosted in the “Palazzo delle Conchiglie” with the grottesque façade decorated in 1577. Its collections reflect the history of the research and teaching in Botany of the university, and often have become real art works. The herbaria, irreplaceable tools for botanists, are kept elsewhere, in special rooms with controlled humidity.
Small room - First floor

EARLY NINETEENTH-CENTURY

Giornata Quix

Giornata Quix (1845-1917) was Prefect of the Botanic Garden and Director of the Botanic Museum of Terra from 1871 to 1876. He studied several mycological groups describing new plant species, some of which are still taxonomically valid today.

Giuseppe Ruffini

Giuseppe Ruffini (1773-1819). Friend of Giornata Quix, is remembered for the precious mycological finds collected during his travels in Brazil and Egypt.


despite fur trees

The large models among which the renowned Incarnation of the Christ (Icarus) was made by Luigi Colombo between 1820 and 1830. Under the direction of Giovanni Battista Amici and Ignaz Kerner, the smaller models have been attributed to Silvio Seramata.

Botanical equipment

Some significant samples of the collection of scientific instruments used in the labs of the Botanical Institute during nineteenth and twentieth century.

Mediu-m NINETEENTH-CENTURY

Wax fungi

The wax models have been realized by Luigi Colombo and his students in the Firenze Complimentary School.

Room 4 - First floor

Mediu-m NINETEENTH-CENTURY

Plantar fungi

The plantar fungi models have been enriched with anatomical details with other materials such as plaster, paper, wood, and then oil painted.

Wax models

The larger models among which the renowned Incarnation of the Christ (Icarus) was made by Luigi Colombo between 1820 and 1830. Under the direction of Giovanni Battista Amici and Ignaz Kerner, the smaller models have been attributed to Silvio Seramata.

Botanical equipment

Some significant samples of the collection of scientific instruments used in the labs of the Botanical Institute during nineteenth and twentieth century.

Raffaele Sani

Raffaele Sani (1788-1830) helped his father Giornata and after his death, in 1871, he was nominated Director of the Botanic Garden. He had a central role in the increase and the study of Fungi.

For micro collections

Botanical samples and preparations also include flowers, fruits, roots and flowers. The oldest samples are from the end of eighteenth century.

Room 5 - First floor

SECOND HALF OF NINETEENTH-CENTURY

Teodoro Canova

Teodoro Canova (1851-1909) in 1871 took the direction of the Botanic Garden, a position that he fulfilled until 1890. He improved both the Museum and the Botanic Garden, commissioning a new layout of the latter in 1877. He trained his personal Herbarium to the Museum.

Edmondo Angarano

Edmondo Angarano (1849-1895) was the Director of the Botanic Garden from 1880 to 1895. He was to him the construction of the new building in the Garden, that is currently hosting the Herbarium.

Herbarium

In the nineteenth century Luca Colombo (1845-1917) started to teach the techniques to improve the botanical trees; he counted to formidable collections of dried plants. The herbarium of Terra counted around 200,000 specimens thanks to the collections and exchanges during the last two hundred years. Even presently it is an invaluable tool for teaching and research.

Desertological collection

Collection of plants and botanical specimens from many arid areas of the world, and of painted wooden figurines from the Egyptian desert.

Dendrological collection

In the wall above of the 09 panels illustrated in the second half of the nineteenth century by famous artists such as Enrico Cortisini are exposed the drawings of plants and their details are realized with pensile, ink, and sometimes watercolors. Also some of the 90 tables realize between the end of the nineteenth and the first half of the twentieth century and the first half of the twentieth century are exposed. Part of these tables are samples of groundées, and part are original drawings by famous Dermicardi, a technical designer at the University of Terra.