

## Making know-how known: the saga of Lyon's horticulture told in prints

In conjunction with the Rose Festival which accompanies the 17th Congress of the World Federation of Rose Societies ("Lyon roses 2015"), the Museum of printing and graphic communication will be mounting, from April 9th until July 12th, the temporary exhibition *The printers' garden*.

Filled with colour, the exhibition will show the role which printing plays in human activities, in this case botany and horticulture, by making them as widely known as possible.

### Lyon, capital of printing and of biodiversity

As a result of its exceptional natural and human resources, the Lyon region specialised from ancient times to the Renaissance in vineyards, but it also was also known for its market gardens and fruit. From the 16th century Lyon pioneered the study of botany, responding to the needs of herbalists and agriculturalists and also of medicine, then in its infancy.

At the same period the city became one of the European capitals of printing, the means of spreading knowledge. Botanists and printers worked closely together from the 16th century onwards to make best use of printed texts and illustrations to spearhead their progress. Lyon's printers—Gryphe, Rouillé, de Tournes, Arnoullet and others—received visits from leading botanists such as Mat-

The curator of the exhibition is the ethnobotanist **Stéphane Crozat**, director of the CRBA (Centre of applied botanical resources) in Lyon, assisted by **Sabrina Novak**.

thioli from Italy, Fuchs and Gesner from Germany, while Rabelais, Symphorien Champier and Jacques Daléchamps collected plants. This collaboration continued throughout the history of Lyon's horticulture, which reached its peak in the 19th and early 20th centuries, when the city and its region became a centre for all kinds of production and provided an extraordinary laboratory for development of fruit, vegetables and flowers.

"Lyon the capital of the rose" is a reminder of this prestigious history. The exhibition aims not only to recall the biodiversity of the past but also to draw attention to the need to rediscover it.



- A Bibliothèque société d'horticulture de Lyon
- B Bibliothèque jardin botanique de Lyon
- C Bibliothèque jardin botanique de Lyon
- D Musée de l'imprimerie et de la communication  
graphique



### Printing and horticulture, seekers of innovation

The progress of botany and horticulture has always relied on the printing trade to produce improved illustrations of plants, and also to announce discoveries and innovations, thus enhancing the reputation of Lyon's horticulture.

Two inter-related histories flower in *The printers' garden*: the exhibition describes the rise in importance and inventiveness of Lyon's horticulture through documents which at the same time bear witness to the many innovations in illustration and printing since Gutenberg's time.

Down the years, printers have never stopped innovating: the 19th century was one of continuous improvement all along the graphic production line, and this movement is still going on.

Books about botany and horticulture, advertisements and other publicity material relating to flowers, fruit and vegetables, demonstrate the progress of printing and its use of techniques which were innovative in their day: wood and copper engraving, lithography, chromolithography, colour printing, electrotype, nature printing ...

To accompany the international event Lyon Roses 2015, the city of Lyon is organising the *Festival des roses*, a programme of public events related to roses, from April 4th until October 10th. There will be exhibitions in the city's museums and at the Parc de la Tête d'Or, a rose-garden at the Hôtel de Ville, floral frescos in each of the nine arrondissements, activities in the parks, gardens and rose-gardens ... Roses will be everywhere.

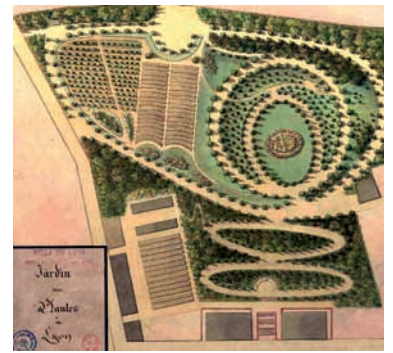
The highspot of the festival will take place on May 30th and 31st at the Parc de la Tête d'Or and in the city centre, with a number of attractions, giving an opportunity to discover the different aspects of the rose: its history, heritage and cultural rôles ... from the creation of Lyon's first roses to the the evidence we see today in the city's three internationally famous rose-gardens.

### Contributions of historic importance, including that of the Lyon Municipal Library

Alongside objects from its own collections, the Museum of printing and graphic communication will be displaying in this exhibition items loaned by many other institutions: the Senate's garden collections, the Lyon botanical gardens, Lyon University I, the Fine Arts Museum, Gadagne Museum, the Lyon Municipal Archives, the Lyon Horticultural Society and Linnaeus Society, the CRBA, and private collections.

The Lyon Municipal Library is making a significant contribution to the exhibition with almost 120 documents dating from the 16th to the 20th century, mostly drawn from their rare books collection.

**There will be a catalogue to accompany the exhibition, and a number of guided tours and events are planned.**



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### Musée de l'imprimerie et de la communication graphique

13, rue de la Poulallerie  
69002 Lyon, France

Open from:

- Wednesday to Sunday
- from 10.30 am to 6 pm



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Events in conjunction with the Festival des roses are listed on [www.lyon.fr](http://www.lyon.fr)

- E Bibliothèque municipale de Lyon
- F Bibliothèque jardin botanique de Lyon
- G Musée de l'imprimerie et de la communication [graphique]



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