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**THE TERCENTENARY OF LINNAEUS BIRTH
(1707-2007)**

SÂRBU Anca
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Carl von Linnée – pastel by Gustaf Lundberg 1753

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Carl Linnaeus was born on 23 May 1707 in Råshult in the Swedish country of Småland.

Carl Linnaeus was a pioneer, and a genius in many different fields, a great inspiration for scientists which came after.

Many of his ideas and discoveries have inspired and continue to inspire researchers from different countries, of Europe and all over the World.

Carl Linnaeus is known also by his noble name which he was granted in 1757 – Carl von Linné. He was a very intelligent, curious and educated person.

As a professor, he published a large number of books on botany, zoology, medicine and the use of natural resources.

Linnaeus was the world's first ecologist, long before the concept was discovered. He used terms such as “budget” and “the economics of nature”.

He described the significance of the cycle of resources, and compost formation, and he described how all organisms had a place in the natural world, their functions and contributions to the well work of the Nature.

Linnaeus ideas inspired Charles Darwin when he was developing the theory of evolution. Linnaeus had described the order and the hierarchy of species in his books and he gave the name to many species of plants and animals.

The contributions made by Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778) to systematic botany made him the best-known Swede in the world. His system of classifying plants gained him a great reputation in the international community of scientists.

The system was first presented in 1735 in his famous work *Systema naturae*.

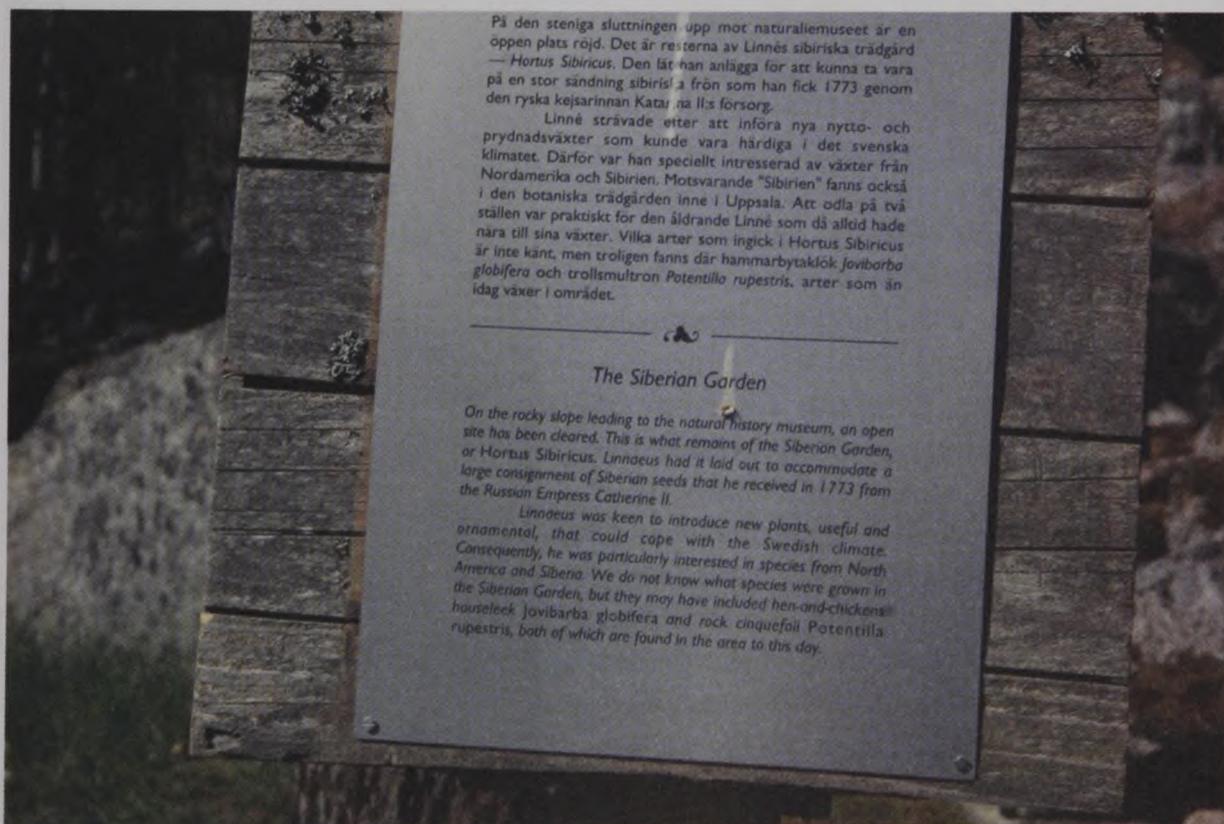
For many years Linnaeus was involved in the works related to his summer house and garden from Hammarby, which is now a museum visited by thousands of people all over the world.

In the garden was also built a special house (stone made) for the herbarium, which was kept there for many years.

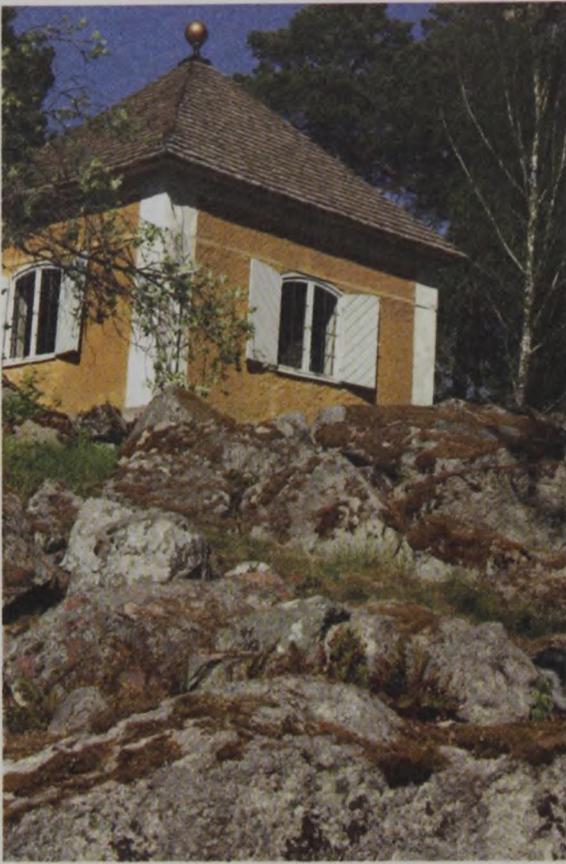
From 1741 Carl Linnaeus was professor of medicine and botany at Uppsala University and the head of the botanical garden.



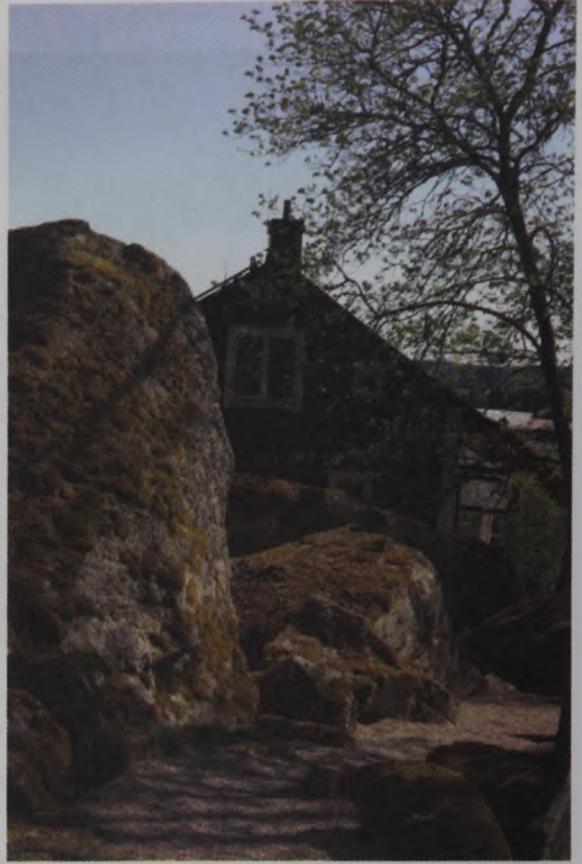
Linnaeus summer house – Hammarby (Foto: Anca Sârbu)



The Siberian Garden – a part of the Linnaeus garden from Hammarby (Foto: Anca Sârbu)

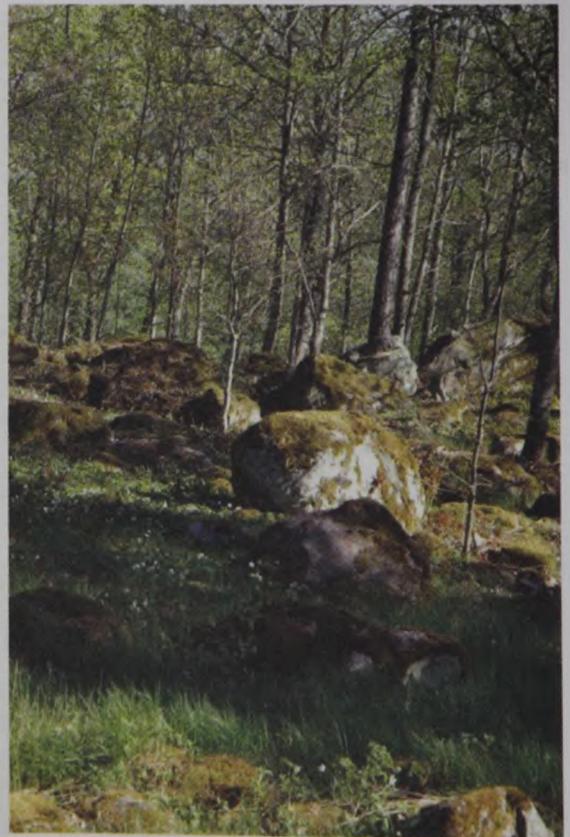


The herbarium house inside the Linnaeus garden from Hammarby (Foto: Anca Sârbu)



The Linnaeus garden from Hammarby (Foto: Anca Sârbu)

Shortly after becoming director Linnaeus embarked on improving and developing according his vision, the existing botanical garden in Uppsala, the present Linnaean Garden. To preserve the less hardy plants a beautiful orangery was built as well as various greenhouses and hotbeds. By means of his international contacts Linnaeus succeeded in extending the selection of exotic plants carefully protected inside the green-houses. Linnaeus and his family lived in the present museum because he wanted to be near the plants which he loved very much. From 1743 to 1778 the Directors Lodge at the south east corner of the garden was Linnaeus official residence. This allowed him to remain close to the garden night and day, all year round, and with ardent curiosity he observed the plants and the animals of the garden in close detail.



The Linnaeus garden from Hammarby (Foto: Anca Sârbu)

Every part of the garden was well thought out and had a specific education purpose addressed to students, children and normal visitors. Linnaeus emphasized that successful horticulture was built on the knowledge of the natural environment of plants. For this reason each specie from the garden was cultivated in special condition according its natural requirements. At most, between 3,000 and 4,000 different species were grown in the garden.



Hepatica nobilis in the Linnaeus garden from Hammarby (Foto: Anca Sârbu)

Linnaeus favorite plant was *Linnea borealis*, described in *Flora Svecica* as growing here and there in very old forests, among mosses and in shadowy, bare, dewy and stony places. The plant was named after Linnaeus.

Carl Linnaeus developed a new classification of the plants based on the sexual system and introduced the binary nomenclature for plants and animals.

The Linnaean sexual system first divided plants into 24 classes according to the number and arrangement of stamens and into orders according to the number of pistils. The orders are divided into genera and the genera into species. A species, therefore, has a double name in Latin a binary nomenclature; the first part denotes the genus, the second the species. Each genus may have several species, but each species is always unique.

Even though Linnaeus sexual system does not entirely correspond to the current knowledge about the relationship between plants, binary nomenclature is still used.

Thousand of genus and species were named by Linnaeus. Many of the names given by Linnaeus to the species he described are still valid.

Linnaeus was 70 when he died. He left behind a total of 70 books, hundreds of theses and correspondence with many leading people throughout the world, but the most important Linnaeus books are *Systema Nature* (1735) and *Species plantarum* (1753).

In order to celebrate the tercentenary of Linnaeus birth, in 2007 at the 5th European Conference on Conservation of Wild Plant PLANTA EUROPA, three “Linnaeus” award were offered to remarkable taxonomist of Europe Mr. Dr. Vernon Heywood (United Kingdom), Mr. Dr. Gavril Negrean (Romania) and Mr. Dr. Ion Sarbu (Romania).



PLANTA EUROPA Conference – Linnaeus awards (Foto: Anca Sârbu)