

THE SUMMER RED-BIRD, THE WESTERN PLANE TREE

CREATOR

Catesby, Mark (1683-1749)

TYPE

lithographic print

MATERIALS

paper, ink, watercolor

DATE

1771 (reprint)

DESCRIPTION

Plate 56 from volume I of *The natural history of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands* by Mark Catesby (London, 1731). Reprinted in 1771. This print depicts the “summer red-bird (*Muscicapa rubra*)” and “western plane tree (*Platanus occidentalis*)” known today as the summer tanager (*Piranga rubra*) and American sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*).

THE RED START, THE BLACK WALNUT

CREATOR

Catesby, Mark (1683-1749)

TYPE

lithographic print

MATERIALS

paper, ink, watercolor

DATE

1771 (reprint)

DESCRIPTION

Plate 67 from volume I of *The natural history of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands* by Mark Catesby (London, 1731). Reprinted in 1771. This print depicts the Red-Start (*Ruticilla Americana*) and Black Walnut (*Nux juglans nigra Virginiensis*) known today as the American Restart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) and Eastern Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*).

ABOUT THE MARK CATESBY PRINTS

Prints are courtesy of The Garden Club of Virginia

Mark Catesby (1683-1749) was an English naturalist and Fellow of the Royal Society of London. He arrived in Virginia in 1712 with his sister and her children and, over the next seven years, collected and sent to England a variety of botanical specimens from Virginia and Jamaica before returning to England himself.

In 1722, Catesby again traveled to America, this time landing in South Carolina to begin a botanical expedition. Over the next four years, he gathered specimens and chronicled the flora and fauna of the Carolinas, parts of Georgia, and the Bahamas.

Following this expedition, he again returned to England and spent the next two decades working on his *Natural History of Carolina, Florida, and the Bahama Islands*. Written and illustrated by Catesby, the book was originally published in eleven sections including more than 220 hand-colored etchings. To finance his work, he solicited subscriptions, offering his book in sections of 20 plates every four months. Catesby's *Natural History* is recognized as the earliest published work illustrating and describing North American flora and fauna.

Following Catesby's death in 1749, his work was republished twice in 1754 and 1771. His work predated the classification system developed by Carl Linneaus but the 1771 reprint includes a catalog of the Linnean names for the flora and fauna present in the book.

Sources: Catesby Commemorative Trust, Inc. and University Libraries, University of North Carolina

ABOUT *FLORA VIRGINICA*

Copies of *Flora Virginica* are courtesy of The Flora of Virginia Project

Based on the work on John Clayton (1694-1773), *Flora Virginica* was published in two parts in 1739 and 1743 by Johannes Fredericus Gronovius (Johan Frederik) (Jan Frederik) (1686-1762) with a combined edition published in 1762.

Clayton was born in England and, as of 1720, appeared in colonial records as clerk of Gloucester County, Virginia, a position he held for at least fifty years. He was a plantation owner and had more than 30 slaves. He studied botany as a hobby and provided Mark Catesby with several specimens used for Catesby's *Natural History*.

Gronovius was born in Leiden, Zuid Holland, Nederland and was a Dutch naturalist and friend of Carl Linneaus.

During the 1730s, Clayton traveled Virginia and began compiling for Gronovius a *Catalog of Herbs, Fruits, and Trees Native to Virginia* using the Linnean classification system. In 1739, Gronovius translated the catalog into Latin and published it as *Flora Virginica* without informing Clayton. Debate over proper attribution of authorship continues to this day.

Regardless of the authorship controversies, *Flora Virginica* was the first compilation of Virginia's native plants. It includes a detailed inventory of species and their initial classifications under the Linnean system.

Sources: Encyclopedia Virginia, JSTOR Global Plants, Biodiversity Heritage Library, Stemmler (2004) "A brief note on the authorship of the First *Flora Virginica*" in *Virginia Journal of Science*.

FLORA VIRGINICA

CREATORS

Clayton, John (1694-1773)
Gronovius, Johannes
Fredericus (1686-1762)

MATERIALS

paper, ink

DATE

1762

DESCRIPTION

An original 1762 copy of the combined *Flora Virginica* including their Linnean classifications. Published by Lugduni Batavorum in Leiden, Zuid Holland, Nederland. The display is open to the fold-out map of Virginia, the only illustration in the v o l u m e .

FLORA VIRGINICA

CREATORS

Clayton, John (1694-1773)
Gronovius, Johannes
Fredericus (1686-1762)

MATERIALS

paper, ink

DATE

1946 (reproduction)

DESCRIPTION

A photolithographic reproduction of the combined *Flora Virginica*. Published by The Murray Printing Company in Cambridge, Massachusetts. This reproduction was produced for the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. It is a full-size reproduction including the fold-out map. The display is open to the Monoecia Polyandria section including the entry for the *Nux juglans virginiana nigra* (Black Walnut) depicted in the Catesby print to the left.