

In 1981, over 460 letters sent to Endlicher by almost 100 correspondents worldwide that had been bequeathed to the national library in 1915, but never catalogued and subsequently mislaid, were rediscovered in an old chest under blankets, papers and gas masks. Riedl-Dorn, head archivist (now retired) of Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, to which they were subsequently transferred, has now produced an exemplarily edited and annotated volume of Endlicher's surviving correspondence in German, English, French, Italian and Latin. Beginning with a brief, well-written biography, the book is divided into sections devoted to Endlicher's many fields of interest. Each section begins with a succinct introduction to the history of the relevant subject: botany in Austria, East Asian studies in Austria, natural history cabinets and museums, the Austrian academy of sciences (of which he was co-founder), even politics in the year of revolution, 1848. It is a model for what a volume of scientific correspondence should look like.

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RIEDL-DORN, Christa. *Botânica Imperial no Brasil / Imperial botany in Brazil*. Kapa Editorial/Editora Index, Rio de Janeiro, Petrópolis, São Paulo: 2019. 320 pp.; illustrations. Price €39.00 (hardback). ISBN 9786581403027.

FERRÃO, Cristina and MONTEIRO SOARES, José Paulo (editors). *Natterer – on the Austrian expedition to Brazil (1817–1835)*. Kapa Editorial/Editora Index, Rio de Janeiro, Petrópolis, São Paulo: 2019. 299 pp.; illustrations. Price €49.00 (hardback). ISBN 9786581403010.

Both these books have excellent editing quality, and both capture our immediate attention by being beautifully illustrated. The bilingual book *Imperial botany in Brazil* (in Portuguese and English) pays particular attention to botanical landscapes, illustrations mostly produced in watercolour and pencil during the scientific expedition to Lusitanian America organized by the scientist Karl von Schreibers (1775–1852). Von Schreibers, besides promoting and managing the Austrian mission, was entrusted by the Prince of Metternich to accompany Carolina Josefa Leopoldina, Archduchess of Austria (1797–1826). The Archduchess was devoted to natural history and was particularly interested in scientific studies and practices. While the negotiations between Portugal and Austria took place, as well as the marriage agreement with Pedro I, first Emperor of Brazil, Archduchess Leopoldina also reorganized her mineralogical collection. The Portuguese vessel, *D. João VI*, arrived on November 1817 in Rio de Janeiro with the long-expected Archduchess Leopoldina on board.

The main objectives of this mission were “to contribute as much as possible to research and knowledge” as well as the creation of a Brazilian museum in Vienna. Several scientists were included in this expedition – the botanist Karl Friedrich Philipp von Martius (1794–1868), the zoologist Johann Baptist Natterer (1787–1843) and the artist Thomas Ender (1793–1875). Essential to the operation of any exploration, the invisible agents, such as guides, slaves, indigenous people and assistants must not be forgotten. The individual itineraries of these travellers were remarkably diverse. After the mission, the scientists who returned to Europe brought thousands of specimens of fauna and flora, samples of minerals, and ethnographic artefacts which together represent “the most expressive set preserved outside Brazil”. Taking into consideration that Natterer was the scientist who stayed the longest, exploring most of Brazil, his collections are undoubtedly the most extensive.

*Imperial Botany in Brazil* consists mostly of reproductions of attractive illustrations. However, the text is intensely descriptive, and the emphasis is placed on European naturalists and their biography. *Imperial Botany in Brazil* is an important record; nevertheless, scant attention is paid to the group of invisible agents although they appear in the images reproduced. With such a richness of drawings and archive materials, this publication could be much more than a straightforward narrative of the hero scientist, an approach that has long been outdated. A final point – as it is a bilingual edition, it deserved a more careful translation into Portuguese.

*Natterer – on the Austrian expedition to Brazil (1817–1835)* complements Riedl-Dorn’s previous work *Johann Natterer e a Missão Austríaca* [Johann Natterer and the Austrian Mission] (1999). It is a magnificent book with a remarkable range of reproductions of illustrations, objects, manuscripts, herbarium specimens and other archival sources from different authors.

Although both books emphasize the scientific discourse, the publication on *Natterer* gives a glimpse of the “Other” by describing how the naturalist obtained particular ethnological objects, how the locals used the items, descriptions of festivities, as well as the exchanges between the locals and the Europeans. One example to note is the child’s shirt, which “shows that the women of Baré used European techniques” or the section on “encounters with ‘native people’”. Natterer’s interest in ethnic groups led him not only to collect objects but also to study their cultures in more detail, and the indigenous glossaries are an example of that. When reading *Natterer*, it is almost impossible not to remember Richard Spruce (1817–1893) and his expedition to the Amazon (1849–1864). In addition to the botanical collections and the ethnological objects, Spruce also made numerous notes on the different ethnicities and learned 21 indigenous languages.

*Natterer* is delightful to read, and I reinforce what was mentioned by Marianne Feldmann in the Foreword “I would like very much to see an exhibition with a large amount of material collected by Natterer.”