

PROSPECTUS

EXOTICUM

TWENTY-FIVE DESERT PLANTS FROM THE HUNTINGTON GARDENS

Wood Engravings by Richard Wagener

Essay by Edwin Dobb

MIXOLYDIAN EDITIONS, 2017



ABOUT THE BOOK

MIXOLYDIAN EDITIONS proudly announces the 2017 publication of *Exoticum, Twenty-five Desert Plants from the Huntington Gardens* featuring wood engravings by Richard Wagener with an accompanying essay by Edwin Dobb. This series of images was created from 1993–2000 after the engraver discovered the wealth of non-native species housed in the desert collection at the Huntington Gardens, San Marino, California. The writer and the engraver first met and started exchanging ideas fifteen years ago. Other projects and life commitments held this project in abeyance for many years. In late 2015 the stars finally aligned and an active collaboration began.

ABOUT THE WRITER

EDWIN DOBB is a fiction writer, essayist, and journalist. A former editor-in-chief of *The Sciences* and contributing writer at *Harper's*, he currently writes for *National Geographic* and teaches at the U.C. Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

RICHARD WAGENER is a California printmaker and book artist specializing in wood engraving, and is the proprietor of Mixolydian Editions where he publishes fine press limited edition books and prints. He is the 2016 co-recipient of the Carl Hertzog Award for Excellence in Book Design from the University of Texas at El Paso and the recipient of the 2016 Oscar Lewis Award for contributions to Book Arts from the Book Club of California.

ABOUT THE EDITION

Exoticum was designed and printed by Richard Wagener at Mixolydian Editions, Petaluma, California, on two types of Zerkall-Büetten paper from the Kall River Valley, in Germany. The book is seventy-two pages and measures 12¼ x 7½ inches. The twenty-five engravings were printed directly from the wood blocks on a Vandercook Universal 1 proof press by the engraver/printer. Patrick Reagh typeset and cast the Monotype Ehrhardt in Sebastopol, California. The binding and enclosures are by John DeMerritt in Emeryville, California, using marbled paper by Pamela Smith of Abiquiu, New Mexico. The edition numbers 60 copies with ten copies reserved as *hors de commerce*.

Deluxe edition /26 copies.

The book is bound in quarter leather with marbled paper over boards housed in a clam-shell box with a paper chemise that holds five signed prints from the edition and a special printing of the bladderpod plant that was the genesis of this suite of engravings. The deluxe prints are on hand-made Twinrocker paper. Each book is foil stamped on the spine, signed by the writer and the artist and lettered A–Z.

Slipcase edition /24 copies.

The book is bound in quarter leather with marbled paper over boards housed in a Japanese cloth slipcase with a printed label on the spine. Each book is foil stamped on the spine, signed by the writer and artist and numbered 1–24.

Pricing available upon request. Orders may be placed through richardwagener.com, or at 818.599.0945. Individual prints may be available.

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