

**Edith Haeuser, 'A Herbarium with Australian Plants in Switzerland',
The Mediterranean Garden, Number 90, October 2017, pp.31-34.**

EXTRACTS:

From this expedition [to North America] La Trobe sent back sheets of dried plants to Neuchâtel, but also butterflies and other insects... p.32

During the fourteen years that the La Trobes spent in Melbourne he sent back thousands of sheets of plant specimens, all in impeccable condition, as Professor Jason Grant from the Botanic Institute of the University of Neuchâtel pointed out to us enthusiastically. He showed us three sheets from the precious herbarium: *Tecoma latrobei* (now *Pandorea pandorana*), *Acacia latrobei* (now *A. acinacea*) and *Correa cordifolia* (now *C. reflexa*). He also explained that in order to preserve their colours the plants must be dried within twenty-four hours... La Trobe's Herbarium contains altogether 500,000 sheets.* Professor Grant and his team will need years to catalogue them... p.32

In 1835 Neuchatel inaugurated its Museum of Natural History, which soon became a beacon for international researchers until the early 1960s when the focus of research shifted to other fields. This museum was also the custodian of La Trobe's Herbarium until all the herbaria were transferred to the Botanic Institute of the University in 1918. p.33

* **Note:** The author subsequently clarified that the figure of 500,000 sheets refers to all the herbaria at the University of Neuchâtel, which feature seven main contributors. Until all the herbaria are photographed and digitised it is not possible to provide a figure for the number of specimens in the La Trobe Herbarium, nor for the number of Australian plants it contains.

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