

**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 in 1832-33] La Trobe sent back sheets of dried plants to Neuchâtel, but also butterflies and other insects...

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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...

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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.

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* **Corrigendum:** The complete herbaria at the University of Neuchâtel comprise 500,000 specimens, and Charles Joseph La Trobe is one of the seven major contributors. At the moment it is not known how many specimens belong to the actual La Trobe Herbarium, as to date nothing has been digitalized and photographed. (Number 91, January 2018, p.74.)

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