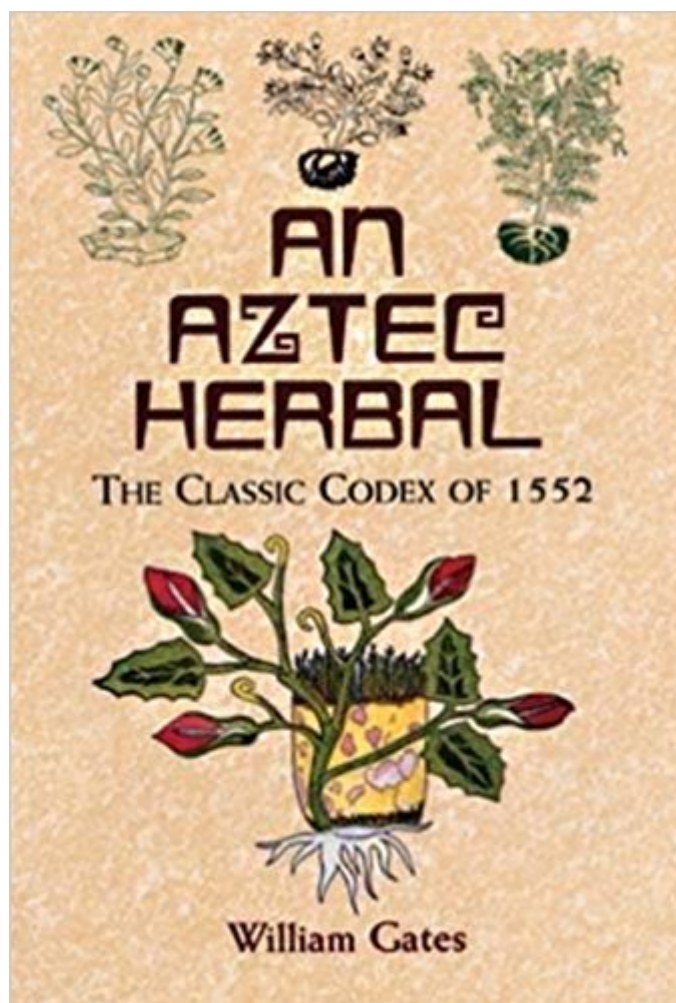


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An Aztec Herbal: The Classic Codex Of 1552



Synopsis

Originally written in the Aztec language, this 16th-century codex was the first herbal and medical text compiled in the New World. It contains ancient remedies for myriad ailments — boils, hair loss, cataracts, insomnia hiccoughs, and gout, to name a few. Analytical Index to Plants. New Introduction. Over 180 black-and-white and 38 color illustrations.

Book Information

Paperback: 144 pages

Publisher: Dover Publications; Unabridged edition (May 31, 2000)

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #518,605 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #63 inÂ Books > History > Ancient Civilizations > Aztec #416 inÂ Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Alternative Medicine > Naturopathy #435 inÂ Books > History > Americas > Mexico

Customer Reviews

This little book has an amazing history. Supposedly, It's one of the only copies that was left behind that documented the medicinal uses of Aztec healers. It was not known to have still existed until it was given back as a gift to Mexico by the Vatican only in our life time. The Aztecs knowledge of herbal remedies are fascinating to read about. Most of the ailments we experience today are mentioned but the extensive set of plants and even animal remains are worth learning about since many of the particular ingredients are also commonly used in Southeast Asia today by a number of healers. For instance the use of the dogs gallbladder, and other species alike in curing skin infections or fractures. Also the use of urine which today is frowned upon but considered an important valuable remedy by many first nations. The codex is valuable in the way it combines many different unrelated ingredients, similar to how we now isolate a particular active chemical from a particular plant. At first glance you might wonder how in the world did they think of combining these plants with a burnt hawks wing for example? But after further examination you will appreciate the reasons behind the complex mix of ingredients and realize the far reaching value of these medicines used by people who survived for thousands of years healing themselves by using only

the very ingredients that existed around them. Since most people today can barely understand the ingredients used in their shampoos, at least the Aztecs used ingredients that we could actually visually imagine.

This paperback was way over my head. I am not familiar with the language and all the plants names were given in Spanish? It's well illustrated and an interesting read if you want to spend a bit of time studying the text. B. Harley

The buyer should note before purchasing not a lot of the book lists plant names in nahuatl. Some of them have been identified and translated through scholarly study, and are listed in the glossary section. However, not all of the plants have been translated. This is a source of study, as well as an incomplete Botanical documentation.

Not at all what I was expecting seeing as this is supposed to be a reproduction of a book written by people who used hieroglyphs. Very few actual images and because this was documents stolen by the roman church the information inside cannot be fully trusted. The translations are more than likely altered and symbolism interpreted by people who sought to convert all minds to think and behave like their own. Still it's a nice book to skim through, just not as image heavy as a reproduction should be' given it was written by a society who used imagery and symbolism to document information. On a side note the romans should have released the original copy as well as the no doubt dozens of literature they have stolen from indigenous people around the world in an effort to erase culture. It's a shameful gift to give back to a country after so much time. We cannot fathom all the other secrets they destroyed.

I purchased this book more for artistic inspiration than content. The color illustrations they speak of are basically a bunch of tiny pictures printed on the inside front and back cover. Unfortunately I had assumed I would get some of the illustrations that you see when you look up "aztec herbal" in a basic google search. I assumed these to be the 38 color illustrations. I should have researched this a bit more. The content of the herbal is interesting for what it is as a historical document.

It's an interesting edition to anyone's library

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