

BECCARI / KEW SYMPOSIUM

Thursday 28 January 2016 - 6 for 6.30 pm

1st Floor, 55 Exhibition Rd

PROGRAMME OF THE BECCARI / KEW SYMPOSIUM



Odoardo Beccari in his 20ies

The Symposium will start with a talk by **Margherita Calderoni**, the journalist and historian who has dedicated much of her time studying the voyages and contribution of the Protagonist of this Symposium, Odoardo Beccari.

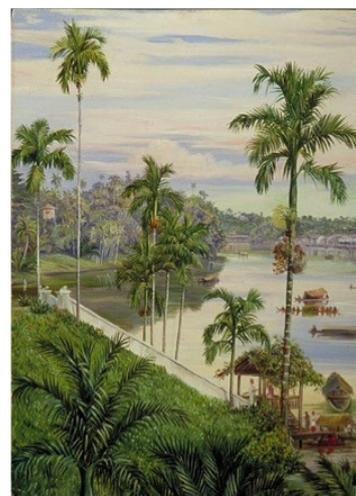
From Chianti to Borneo via England: A Florentine Botanist with the spirit of the explorer and the adventurer whose diaries inspired a legendary hero of Italian literature and whose discoveries enriched Kew Gardens with spectacular exotic specimens.

We are lucky at this point of the evening to have the participation of two illustrious researchers from Kew Gardens. **Dr Dransfield**, former Head of the Palm Section of Kew Gardens and **Dr William Baker**, the present Head of Palm research and Senior Research Leader.

Dr. Dransfield who told us that "when I did the fieldwork for my doctorate on Palms in Sarawak, Beccari's wonderful "Wanderings in the Great Forest of Borneo", was a great source of inspiration in the field" will describe Odoardo Beccari's fundamental contribution to our understanding of the palms of Borneo. His lecture is entitled **Odoardo Beccari at Vallombrosa - discovering the palms of Borneo**. Between 1865 and 1867, Odoardo Beccari conducted seminal fieldwork on the natural history of Borneo, under the patronage of the Second Rajah of Sarawak, Charles Brooke.



Forest of Borneo with a native inhabitant



View of the Matang from Kutching painted by Marianne North

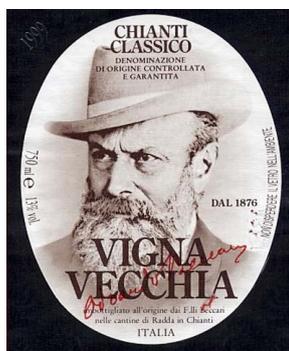


Kew Gardens - Palm Pavilion

He set up a semi-permanent camp on Mount Mattang (today's Gunung Serapi), making many excursions throughout the northern part of Borneo, but always returning to his Vallombrosa on Mattang. His many observations of natural history are of fundamental importance, but, even more importantly, his collections of palms from this, the richest palm flora in the world, have provided base-line data for understanding palm diversity and evolution.

Then **Dr William Baker** will give a talk entitled: **Exploring Beccari's palm discoveries in New Guinea**.

Finally **Mrs Orsola Beccari** will speak about the continuation of the beautiful story in Florence: **An exciting inheritance**: Living the heritage of the past and the challenge of the present, treasuring for the future the family memories of Odoardo Beccari and his beloved Vineyard"



Odoardo Beccari, founder of Vigna Vecchia



Vigna Vecchia estate

The evening will continue with a wine tasting of the wines of the **Vigna Vecchia** introduced by **Mrs. Orsola Beccari**. Canapes and Florentine specialities will be served with the wines.

Under the auspices of the **Consulate General of Italy in London** and the **Fiorentini nel Mondo**.



COST: £25 Members and Friends, £30 Guests

To book contact **Accademia Italiana / Artstur** - Tel: 07720812183 / email: artstur@gmail.com

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