

2005

## The Pineapple: The Princess of Fruit and the Symbol of Hospitality, Exhibit Brochure

Tim Bottorff

Tanya Jo Ormseth

Deb Ebster



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## About the Library



The Universal Orlando Foundation Library at UCF's Rosen College of Hospitality Management is devoted to the study of the hospitality and tourism industries. The Library is located at 9907 Universal Blvd., near International Drive

and the heart of central Florida's tourism area. For more information, visit the Universal Orlando Foundation Library's homepage at <http://library.ucf.edu/rosen> or call 407-903-8100.

## About the History Center

The Orange County Regional History Center, which loaned some of the artifacts on display, is located at 65 E. Central Blvd., in downtown Orlando. For more information, visit the History Center online at [www.thehistorycenter.org](http://www.thehistorycenter.org) or call 407-836-8500.



## Special Thanks To

- ◆ **Exhibit Design:** UCF Libraries, Universal Orlando Foundation Library:
  - TJ Ormseth, LTA Supervisor
  - Tim Bottorff, Reference Librarian
  - Deb Ebster, Head Librarian
- ◆ **Contributors of Artifacts:**
  - Orange County Regional History Center
  - UCF Libraries, Special Collections Dept.
  - Peggy Boekhout, Margaret Bolinger, Estell Brickhouse, and Patricia Hall



**Universal Orlando Foundation Library**  
**At the Rosen College of Hospitality Management**  
University of Central Florida  
9907 Universal Boulevard  
Orlando, FL 32819-8701  
407-903-8100  
[rosenlib@mail.ucf.edu](mailto:rosenlib@mail.ucf.edu)  
<http://library.ucf.edu/rosen>

Universal Orlando  
Foundation Library  
At Rosen College



## The Pineapple, “Princess of Fruits” and Symbol of Hospitality



August 15th—October 14th, 2005

A Special Exhibit at:

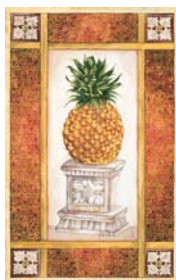
The Universal Orlando Foundation Library  
At the Rosen College of Hospitality Management

With Assistance from:

The Orange County Regional History Center  
and the UCF Libraries Special Collections Dept.

## The Pineapple

Our exhibit pays tribute to the pineapple, the princess of fruits and the symbol of hospitality. Since colonial times, the warm and welcoming pineapple has, quite literally, been put on a pedestal in America. It has been used again and again as a motif in architecture, in furniture, in textiles, in illumination, and, of course, in food!



We hope you enjoy viewing the exhibit and learning about the fascinating story of the pineapple!

## A Curious History...



The pineapple (scientific name *Ananas comosus*) originated centuries ago in South America, probably near present-day Brazil and Paraguay, and indigenous peoples had spread the fruit throughout Central America long before European explorers arrived.

A fateful interaction with Christopher Columbus propelled the pineapple into the European consciousness. Columbus and his crew “discovered” the pineapple in

Guadeloupe in 1493 on their second (less famous) voyage to the New World. They called it the *piña*, due to its resemblance to a pinecone, and brought the “exotic” fruit back to Spain. Later explorers were equally enchanted. Sir Walter Raleigh, for example, wrote of “the great abundance of *Pinas*, the princess of fruits that grow vnder the Sun” in his 1595 travelogue *Discoverie of the Large, Rich, and Bewtiful Empyre of Guiana*.

It took some time for Europeans to learn to grow the prized pineapple, which thrives in tropical climates, but by the mid-1600s it was being produced in “hot-houses” in Holland and England.

## The Symbol of Hospitality

American colonists began importing the pineapple from the Caribbean in the 17th century. Due to its seemingly exotic qualities and rareness, the pineapple soon became a symbol of hospitality in early America. Because trade routes between America and Caribbean islands were often slow and perilous, it was considered a significant achievement for a host to procure a ripe pineapple for guests. Similarly, some accounts tell of New England sea captains who, upon returning from trade routes in the Caribbean or Pacific, would place a pineapple outside their homes as a symbol of a safe return.



Due to its association with warmth and friendliness, pineapples in America were often used as the “crowning” piece in large displays of food. Similarly, the pineapple symbol was used frequently in the 18th and 19th centuries to decorate bed posts, tablecloths, napkins—anything associated with welcoming guests. Today, the pineapple remains a fitting symbol for the hospitality industry, and pineapple-themed products still abound. From lamps to candle holders to salt and pepper shakers and beyond, the pineapple motif says “Welcome!”

## For More Information

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