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

2005

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**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 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

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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.
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 Ralegh, for example, wrote of “the great abundance of *Pinas*, the princesse 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.

For More Information


