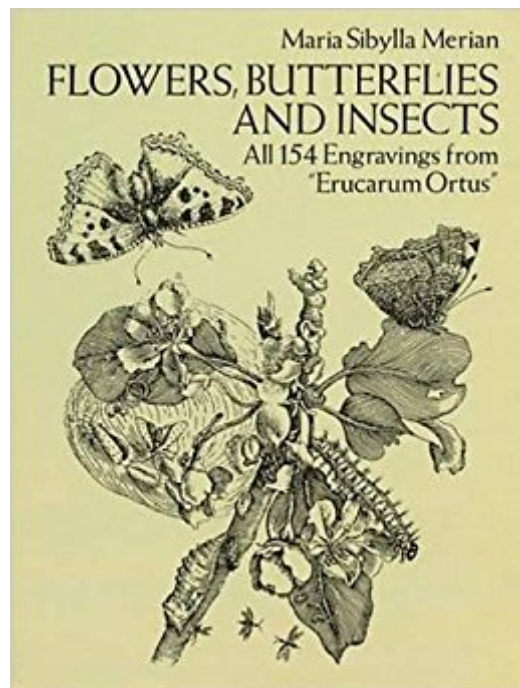




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# Flowers, Butterflies And Insects: All 154 Engravings From "Erucarum Ortus" (Dover Pictorial Archive)



## Synopsis

The splendid engravings in this historic book combine beautiful images of roses, butterflies, tulips, caterpillars, and other specimens of plant and insect life in elegant full-page compositions. Representing a notable achievement from a great age of floral painting and the engraver's art, they reach across the centuries to us with undiminished freshness and appeal, revealing the most delicate nuances of natural forms with a scientist's eye for precise detail. These fine works represent not only a high point in the history of botanical and zoological art but also an important advance in scientific knowledge as well. The artist, Maria Sibylla Merian (1647–1717), was one of the first observers to comprehend and record the metamorphoses of insects, most notably the emergence of the butterfly from its caterpillar and chrysalis phases. Her *Erucarum Ortus*, whose engravings were originally published in the years 1679–1717, was a substantial contribution to the science of entomology and helped lay the foundations for Charles Linnaeus's later work in the classification of plant and animal species. This edition combines all 154 original engravings from her three-volume work on the insects of Europe. Students and lovers of the natural sciences as well as those of the arts and crafts will find these dazzling works a rich source of information and delight. Graphic artists, textile designers, and others will find it a versatile and royalty-free design resource that will earn a treasured place on their library shelves.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The splendid engravings in this historic book combine beautiful images of roses, butterflies, tulips, caterpillars, and other specimens of plant and insect life in elegant full-page compositions. Representing a notable achievement from a great age of floral painting and the engraver's art, they reach across the centuries to us with undiminished freshness and appeal, revealing the most delicate nuances of natural forms with a scientist's eye for precise detail. These fine works represent not only a high point in the history of botanical and zoological art but also an important advance in scientific knowledge as well. The artist, Maria Sibylla Merian (1647–1717), was one of the first observers to comprehend and record the metamorphoses of insects, most notably the emergence of the butterfly from its caterpillar and chrysalis phases. Her *Erucarum Ortus*, whose engravings were originally published in the years 1679–1717, was a substantial contribution to the science of entomology and helped lay the foundations for Charles Linnaeus's later work in the classification of plant and animal species. This edition combines all 154 original engravings from her three-volume work on the insects of Europe. Students and lovers of the natural sciences as well as those of the arts and crafts will find these dazzling works a rich source of information and delight. Graphic artists, textile designers, and others will find it a versatile and royalty-free design resource that will earn a treasured place on their library shelves. Dover (1991) republication of 154 engravings from *Erucarum Ortus*, *Alimentum et Paradoxa Metamorphosis*, 1718.

This book is perfect visual reference resource material for artists, designers, fabricators and illustrators. I order the title for a public art project I'm working now and this made my day. Nice crisp B&W illustrations all stages of the insects set to the blooming plants they feed on.

This is another book by this 16th century woman, Maria Sibylla Merian. Her stunning drawings of flowers and the metamorphosis of caterpillars into their next phase of life is striking. At the age of 52, she went with her daughter from Amsterdam to South America for this expedition. Her work is exquisite.

I was expecting coloured reproductions - you get what you pay for, I guess. Still, I'm disappointed with this product.

The prints look amazing on the book and they are also in good size. I love the details of the art they are very delicate! This is just what I want!

Great reference for art collages and scanning too. The reproduction for this book is very clean.  
Good detail in the shadow areas. Unlike the last book we purchased from Dover.

Beautiful book full of ideas.

Terrific book and it was in excellent condition for a used book.. Great reference book for artists!

Gorgeous illustrations depicting the butterflies and caterpillars in their habitats. A lovely resource for the artist who is learning to illustrate in the old style.

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