

# Amber Waves of Grain, Seas of Fish, Skies of Fowl, Wildlife for the Taking and Fearsome Cannibals: New World Bounty



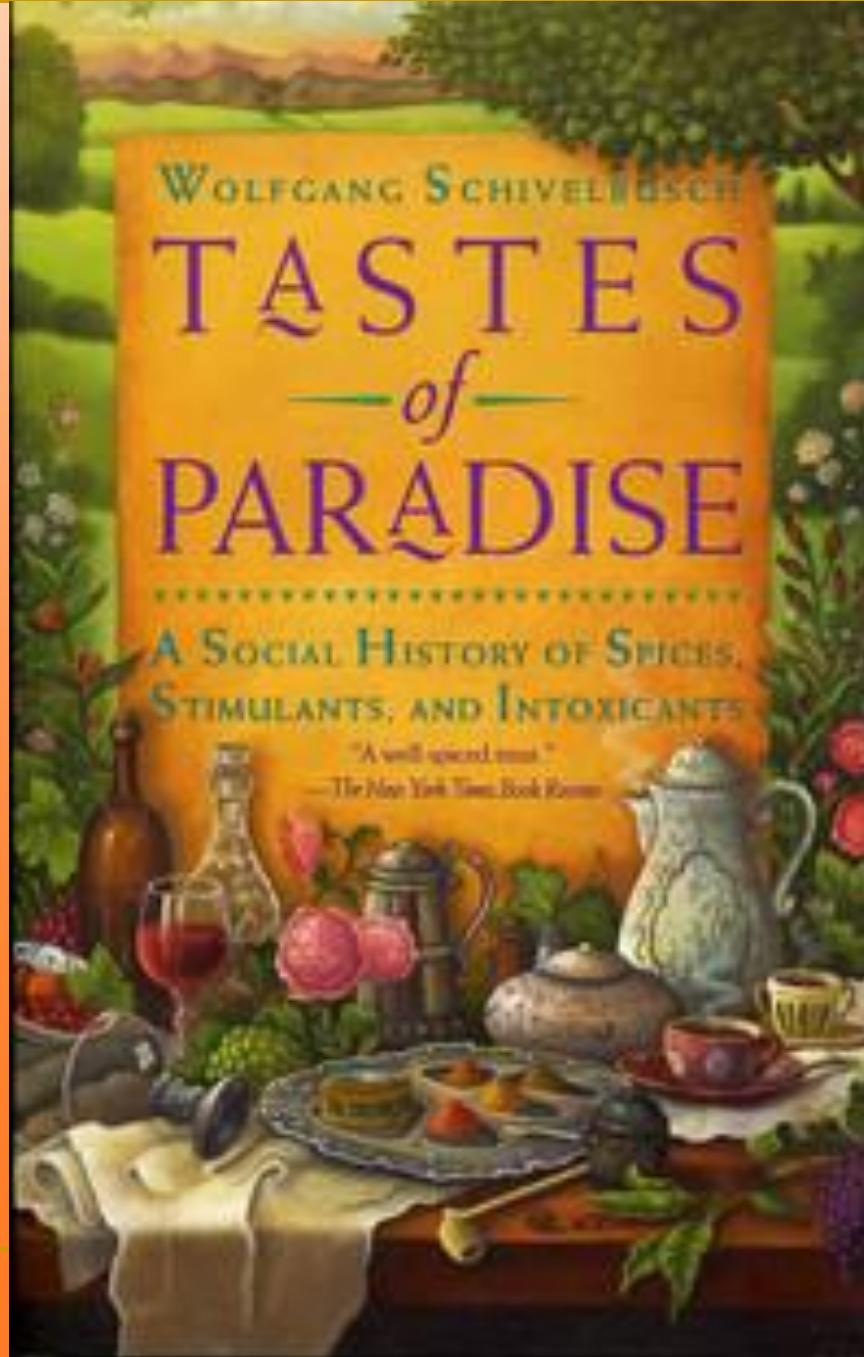
WOLFGANG SCHIVELBACH

# TASTES *of* PARADISE

A SOCIAL HISTORY OF SPICES,  
STIMULANTS, AND INTOXICANTS

"A well-spiced menu."

—The New York Times Book Review



# Reflections of Taste in the architecture of Loire Valley Chateaus



Montreuil-Bellay  
(medieval)

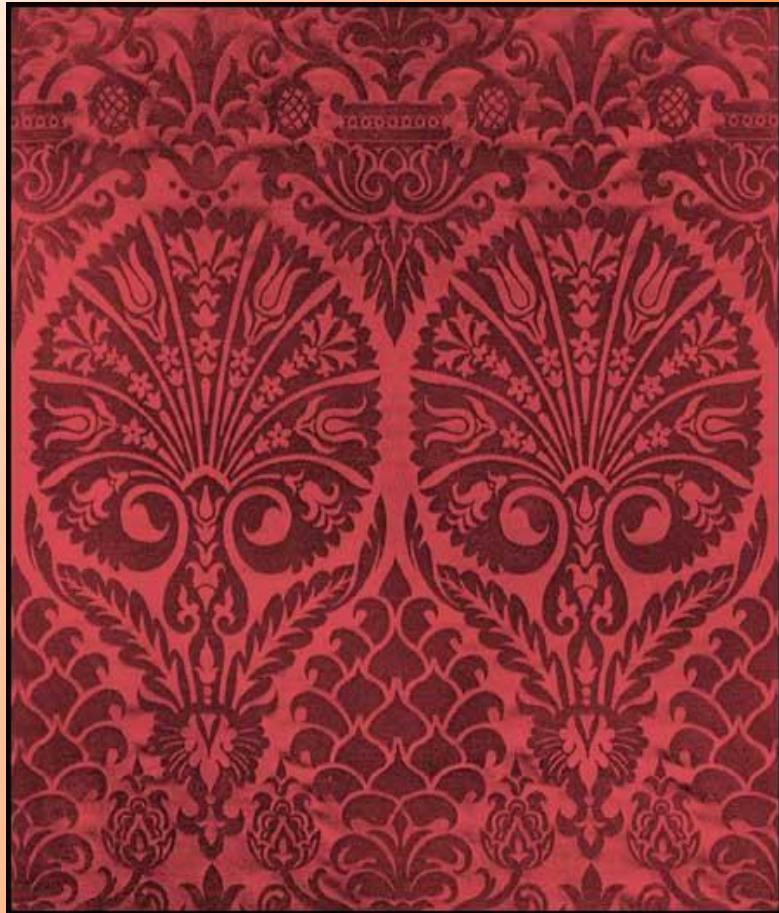


Chateau d'Azay-le-Rideau (16<sup>th</sup> century)

# Persian carpets



# A Taste for the Orient



damask

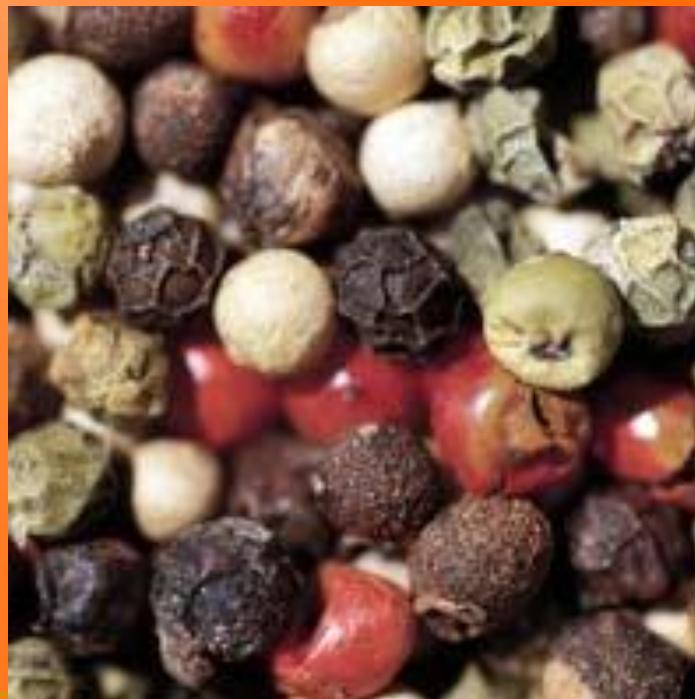


velvet

# Spices



“Whoever controlled pepper would essentially control the pursestrings of a continent” - Shivelbusch



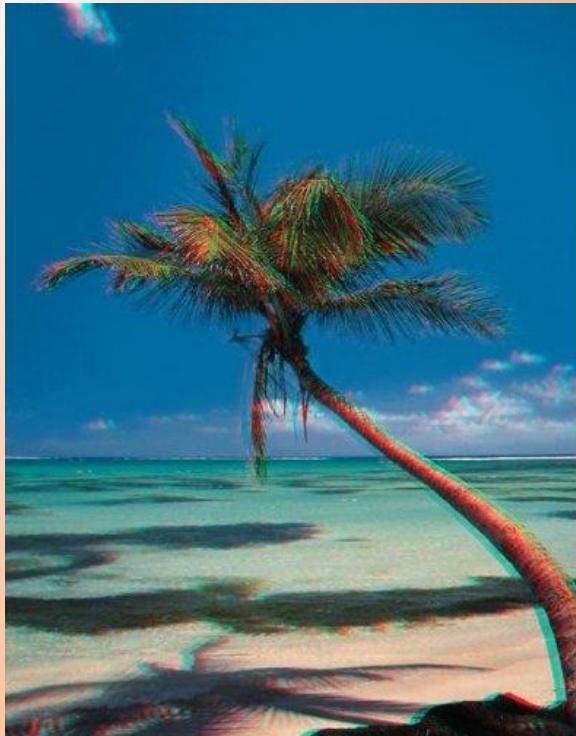
“Nothing is more distorted than the popular idea of medieval notables feasting on crudely spit-roasted carcasses” (Freedman 35)



# Function of spices

- livening up tedious fare
- Summoning gods & driving away demons
- Warding off pestilence
- Status symbol
  - In life
  - In death





# From Paradise to Practicality



# The quest for a sea route through America or a source for mineral wealth



Sebastian Munster's map of the New World (1540)

# Embarrassing reminders of dashed hopes

- Lachine River
- “faux comme les diamants du Québec
- Indians

From the Spanish conquistadores to the propagandists of the American Way of Life, the New World has been hymned as a potential **paradise**.

The paradise that the Middle Ages sought became secularized as the land of unlimited possibilities  
(Schivelbush 13).



Asher Brown Durand's "Kindred Spirits" (1849)



# The New World: Geographical Inconvenience or Land of Plenty?

“America is the providential gift of a “tableau tout neuf” – a wholly new picture – to reanimate our jaded sense of wonder and revivify our adoration of God” – Urbain Chauveton

# The New World



*Vespucci Awakens an Amerindian and Gives Her the Name of America*  
by Theodore Galle, after Stradanus (Jan van der Street), 1521

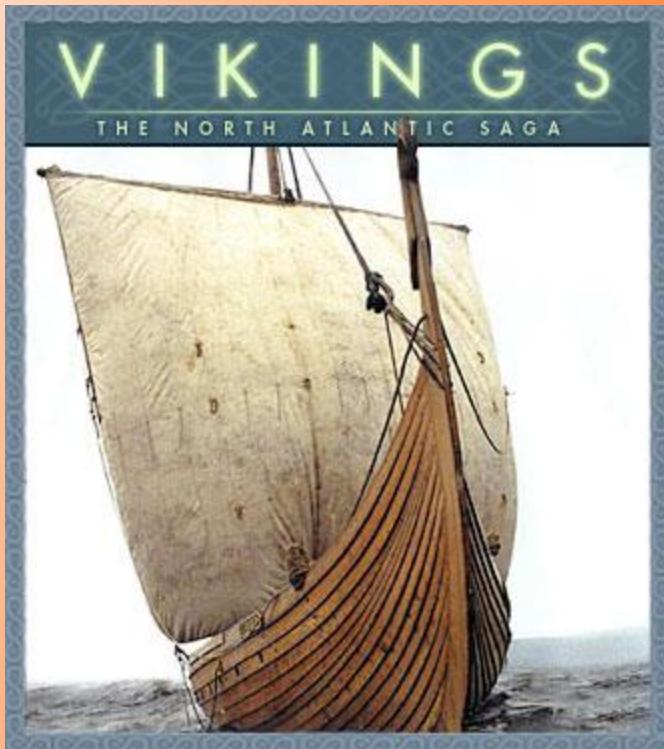
# New World Natural Resources



Who were the first to fish for cod  
in present day Canada?

- The Vikings

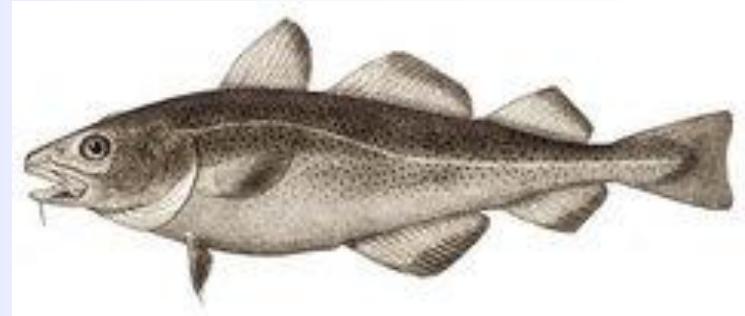
# Five fishing expeditions between 985-1011



# Basque country



# *Cod. The Fish that Changed the World*



"It has been calculated that ...if each [cod] egg reached maturity, it would take Only three years to fill the sea so that you could walk across the Atlantic dryshod On the backs of cod." - Alexandre Dumas, *Le Grand Dictionnaire de Cuisine*, 1873

## Why such a vitally important commodity?

- Easy to catch, preferring shallow water
- Medieval Church forbade the eating of meat  $\frac{1}{2}$  the days of the year.
- Before the age of refrigeration, fish could be preserved by drying or salting. Perfect for taking on trans-Atlantic voyages.

# European Misgivings about New World Foods

- Corn
- Tomatoes
- Lobster

# Other Forms of New World Bounty

Bison



White Tailed Deer



Wapiti (elk) - Shawnee *wa.piti*, literally, *white rump*

# From the woodcuts of André Thevet Whale (*Cosmographie universelle*, Paris 1575)



# Lumber



“... a continent covered with forest, comprised of vast stands of cedar, oak, pine, ash and maple” (*Bitter Feast*, Delage 37)

“Other Wild fruits are found here, such as strawberries, raspberries, cherries, blueberries of exquisite flavor, blackberries, currants, both red and white, and many other small fruits that are unknown in Europe...”

“Birds and wild animals are there without number, and the fishing is excellent.”

(from Father Lalemont, from his journey on the Saint Lawrence River near Montreal in 1663)



# Passenger pigeon

Early American colonist, William Strachey could not count the “manie thousands [that filled the skies] like so many thickned clowdes.”

In 1813, Audubon reported seeing the light of noonday... obscured as by an eclipse” and calculated a single flock at 1.1 billion!

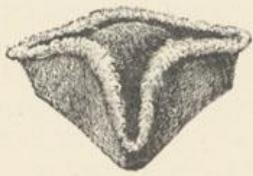


# FROM BEAVER PELT...

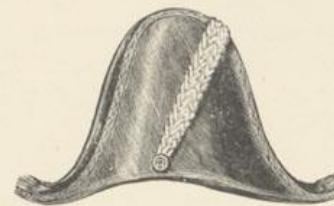


# TO EUROPEAN FASHION REQUIREMENT





"CONTINENTAL"  
COCKED HAT.  
(1776)



"NAVY"  
COCKED HAT.  
(1800)



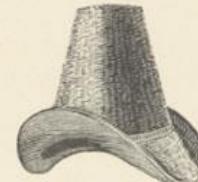
ARMY. (1837)



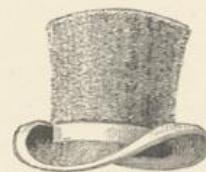
CLERICAL.  
(Eighteenth Century)



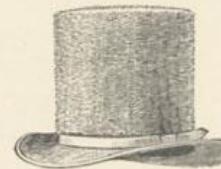
(THE WELLINGTON.)  
(1812)



CIVIL.  
(THE PARIS BEAU.)  
(1815)



(THE D'ORSAY.)  
(1820)



(THE REGENT.)  
(1825)

MODIFICATIONS OF THE BEAVER HAT.

# Describing the Unknown – Putting New World Phenomena into Words

- Jacques Cartier
- Jean de Léry
- Samuel de Champlain
- Gabriel Sagard

# Jean de Léry (1534-1611)



« One of the most detailed and engaging of the reports we have of how the New World looked...rendered by a generous mind, acutely observant man with a story-teller's gift. » - Janet Whatley

# Manioc (caouin)



# From André Thévet's woodcuts of the Tupinamba Indians of Brazil



# Native American Agricultural Innovations



Indian corn yields  
much higher than  
European fields.

Three Sisters: corn, squash, beans

# Stitching together Pangaea's Seams



# The Columbian Exchange

- [Columbus] and his crew did not voyage alone. They were accompanied by a menagerie of insects, plants, mammals, and microorganisms [such as] cattle, sheep, horses, sugarcane, wheat, bananas and coffee. Equally important, creatures the colonists knew nothing about hitchhiked along for the ride. Earthworms, mosquitoes, and cockroaches; honeybees, dandelions, and African grasses; rats of every description – all of them poured from the hulls of Columbus's vessels and those that followed, rushing like eager tourists into lands that had never seen the like before" (Mann 1493)

# Circle of International Trade/Triangular Trade



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