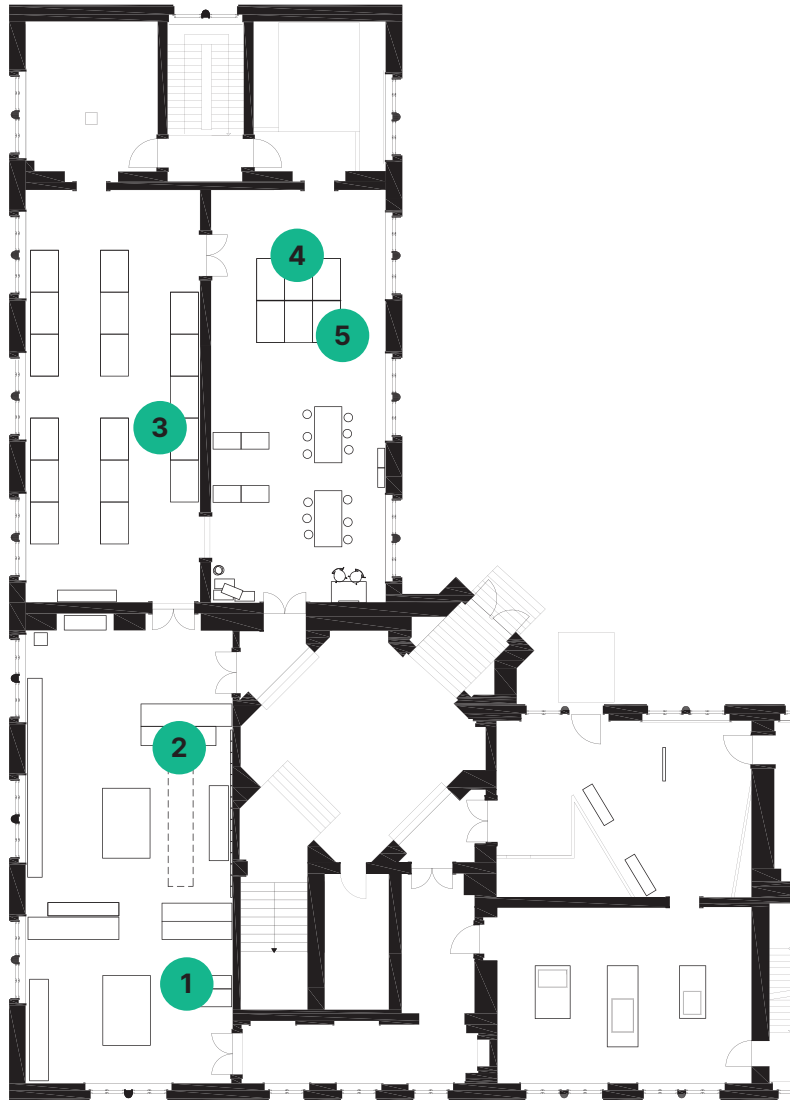


Discover the exhibition

Wild Wonderful World

Royal connections

Throughout history, royal figures have had interests in natural history. In the exhibition, you can find examples showcasing the collection's royal connections to natural history.



Exhibition floor plan

DENMARK
NATURAL HISTORY
MUSEUM

UNIVERSITY OF
COPENHAGEN

1

The Queen's flowers

When Queen Ingrid married the future King Frederik IX in 1935, the couple received Gråsten Palace as a wedding gift. Queen Ingrid created a beautiful flower garden with plants from her homeland, Sweden. Several plants from Gråsten Palace Gardens were later included in various royal bridal bouquets. The daisy in Crown Princess Margrethe's bridal bouquet in 1967 and the meadowsweet in Crown Princess Mary's bridal bouquet in 2004 both came from the Gråsten Palace garden. The plant with the King's lily from Ingrid's own bridal bouquet also became part of the garden.

2

The King's shells

Christian VIII, who was king of Denmark in the first half of the 1800s, was a great nature lover with a particular interest in shells and mussels. Even before he became king, he created his own private collection. When he gained control over the Royal Cabinet of Curiosities, he hired a specialist to manage the shell collection – a so-called conchologist. The conchologist's task was to transform the shells into artworks by engraving and decorating them.

3

The prince's Mongolian dinosaur eggs

In the mid-1920s, the Danish Prince Valdemar visited New York where he met the famous paleontologist Roy Chapman Andrews. Andrews gifted the prince a box containing dinosaur eggshells discovered during an expedition to the Gobi Desert in Mongolia. The prince, deeply interested in natural history, later decided to donate the shells to the Natural History Museum Denmark.

4

Gift from the King

One of the museum's oldest objects is a horse jaw overgrown with wood. It originates from the collection of the physician Ole Worm and was a gift from King Frederik III. Ole Worm served as the royal physician and professor at the University of Copenhagen in the early 17th century, sharing the king's fascination for unique natural specimens. In his will, Worm ordered that his collection should be offered to the royal family. Thus, the horse jaw eventually found its way to the Royal Cabinet of Curiosities and later to the Natural History Museum Denmark.

5

The Kingdom's plants: Flora Danica

King Frederik V, who reigned in the mid-18th century, initiated the monumental work known as Flora Danica. Flora Danica is one of the world's largest botanical projects and served as national propaganda aimed at gathering and disseminating knowledge about botany in the Danish kingdom. The plant illustrations were printed using costly engraved copper plates. The copper plates from Flora Danica are unique and were fortunately saved from Christiansborg Palace when it burned down in 1884.