

Contents

9	Foreword
11	Foreword to the French edition
12	Preliminary remarks
13	Introduction
19	Eighteenth century: from the candle box to the botanical box
19	First mentions in Great Britain and Sweden
21	Progress on the European continent
22	Arrival in the Americas
23	Conquering the world
24	Terminology
29	Nineteenth century: scientific equipment
29	From tinsmith to industrial production and specialised trade
30	In France
37	In Great Britain
41	In Germany
41	In the United States
44	Description of the vasculum
44	Shape and dimensions
47	Closing mechanisms
48	Tinplate or other materials?
51	Colour: unpainted tinplate, varnished or lacquered green or black
52	Prices of vasculums
53	Plant box vs. candle, sandwich or ferret box
55	Other types of collecting containers
58	Advantages and disadvantages of the vasculum

62	Material witnesses and concrete evidence	151	From the late nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century: from professionals to amateurs and children
62	Historical vasculums	155	School equipment
76	Old photos	159	A leisure accessory for schoolchildren
76	Souvenirs of field excursions	160	A toy for toddlers
87	Portraits	165	A common accessory
93	On expeditions	165	In popular imagery
97	The vasculum, a common accessory in nineteenth-century literature and art	165	Children's literature
97	In literature	166	Postcards
98	Educational and popular works	170	Advertising 'chromos' and cut-outs
98	Romanticism, realism, naturalism and modernism	179	Decorated vasculums
101	Fantasy, science fiction, adventure and detective stories	180	In Germany
103	Poetry	190	In France
104	In theatre, film and song	191	In Estonia
105	In art and illustration	191	In the Netherlands
106	Painting and drawing	192	In Sweden
116	Prints and illustrations	192	In Belgium
127	The vasculum: hallmark of the nineteenth-century field botanist	193	Other
130	A sign of recognition	195	From the mid-twentieth to the twenty-first century
132	Symbolic value	195	Substitutes and obsolescence of the vasculum
133	An intriguing, even alarming object	202	Anecdote or metaphor
137	A subject for mockery or self-mockery	203	Vintage accessory and source of artistic inspiration
142	An alibi	208	Collector's item
143	A common accessory for all naturalists	213	Conclusion
147	Secondary uses	217	Notes
		235	Appendices
		241	Bibliography
		259	Index
		267	Thanks