

# Jane Colden's Botanic Manuscript

## The Legacy of America's First Woman Botanist

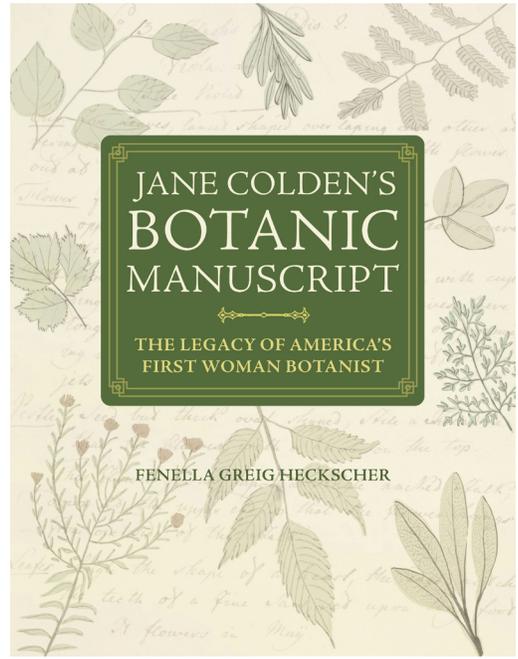
### Fenella Greig Heckscher

Jane Colden (1724–1760) was America's first woman botanist, yet her contributions to the field of early American botany remain little-known and her writings are mostly unpublished. This full account of her life and work comes from her writing, her father's correspondence, and botanic sources of the 18th century.

Richly illustrated with her own sketches and handwriting, this volume presents a full examination of Colden's *Manuscript*, its important contributions to the early study of America's flora, and, three hundred years after her birth, restores Colden's legacy as one of the country's great botanists.

**Fenella Greig Heckscher's** interest in biology stemmed from the study of wildflowers as a child in England. She studied zoology at Oxford University, and then practiced medicine in New York. From there, she and her husband, Morrison Heckscher, moved to a historic house in the Hudson Valley with a landscape of wildflowers. She learned of Jane Colden and her *Botanic Manuscript* at a meeting of the Garden Club of America, and became fascinated. Since her retirement from medical practice, she has devoted much of her time to the study of Jane Colden's contributions to the American botanical Enlightenment.

*"Every so often a book comes along that makes one say, 'I wish I'd written that!' This exceptional piece of scholarship on the unjustly neglected godmother of North American botany is long overdue and will deservedly bring the groundbreaking work of Jane Colden out from under the shadow of John Torrey and Asa Gray."*—Michael Hagen, New York Botanical Garden



The American Philosophical Society Press  
June 2026 | 144 pages | 8.5 x 11 inches

9781606180471  
Hardcover \$60.00

9781606180488  
ebook \$60.00



Pre-order on [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org) by scanning the QR code above

AMERICAN  
PHILOSOPHICAL  
SOCIETY **Press**

Publishing useful knowledge since 1771