



Image from the collection

The curator's tastes

With a new curator in charge, Special Collections is looking to connect with people.

Chef's Special, a taste of the collections is the title of the new exhibition that starts next week in the library. The poster advertising the exhibition shows a table laid for a meal. The six 'dishes' are unusual books and artworks from the library's collection.

'I also want the collection to be used a lot more'

Chef Anneke Groen sits at the table. She has been the Special Collections curator in charge of WUR's treasures

for a year now.

Groen says the exhibition was designed as a 'renewed acquaintance'. The collection has largely remained out of sight for the past two years due to Covid. As a result, many new employees and students have no idea of the unusual scientific and cultural heritage that WUR has in house.

Apple cakes

Groen: 'We are serving the dishes as a team of six people. Each person chose one theme, which we use to showcase the collection.' The themes range from the drawings of the botanical artists who worked for WUR to farm

mechanization and the Vroom family of garden designers.

If you look closely at the poster, you will also see a plate of cakes on the table. The cakes refer to the theme of apple varieties through the centuries. Groen: 'Lotte Kniest chose that theme. She baked the cakes herself using a recipe from the 18th century. You can see the recipe in the exhibition. It is for a kind of apple fritter.' WUR has long done a lot of research on new apple varieties.

It is good to be visible, but Groen plans to go further than that. 'I also want the collection to be used a lot more. Special Collections should be about making connections: connecting researchers to the library, connecting students to education, and connecting WUR people to people outside WUR. For example, we are collaborating with the Garden Design and Landscape Architecture group to let first-year students work with the collection next year in their project week.' RK

Chef's Special can be seen from 12 April to 30 September at the library. More info: wur.nl/en/show/Library-SPECCOL.htm