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*Pinellia*

*Araceae*

*Pinellia* commemorates an Italian botanist, humanist, scholar and bibliophile, Gian Vincenzo Pinelli (1535-1601), who is especially remembered for his extensive library. His library was famous in Europe and contained ultimately over 8500 printed works and hundreds of manuscripts (in various languages including Greek, Latin and Arabic) which were acquired over 50 years, many of them via Europe's then new-fangled 'booksellers'. Pinelli encouraged learning and, in the last half of the 1500s, was widely known for offering access to his private library to any serious-minded enquirer, academic and non-academic alike. He maintained a herb garden and, after the death of the Italian physician and botanist, Luca Ghini (1490-1556), who was a professor of medicine at Bologna and created both the first known herbarium and the first botanical garden, Pinelli transcribed some of Ghini's papers which were sought after as Ghini had left no published works. In addition to his library Pinelli also collected mathematical instruments. He was interested too in optics (he lost the sight of one eye after a childhood accident), and he learnt to play a musical instrument. Authorities note he detested travelling yet he established a wide network of eminent correspondents from all over Europe.