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Turnera

Passifloraceae

Turnera commemorates an English clergyman, physician and naturalist, William Turner (c.1510-1568), who is called by many the ‘Father of British botany and ornithology’. In 1536 he became a deacon and, despite his vow of chastity, married in 1540. However from 1541, for fear he might be destined for martyrdom, not least for his controversial Protestant preaching, he travelled abroad for several years (especially in Italy). On the continental mainland he met many of the leading naturalists and he practised medicine. In 1547 he returned to England to take up the position of physician and auxiliary chaplain to the English soldier and statesman, Edward Seymour, 1st Duke of Somerset, (c.1506-1552), who was then Lord Protector of England. He was made dean of Wells in 1551 but 1553 found him living abroad in exile again, this time largely in the German region. Restored to Wells in 1560, he continued writing and preaching in England. He is credited with producing the first original English work on plants and his divers published works include *Names of Herbes*, and *Herball*.