

BOOK REVIEW

Histoire Illustré du Caoutchouc. Jean-Baptiste Serier, Antionette Diez, and Anne Van Dyk. France: Montpellier Cedex 1 (CIRAD-CP, BP5035, 34032), 1993. \$27.00 U.S. (167 French Francs). (No ISBN found)

It is almost impossible to “review” this extraordinary and unusual book because it depicts the story of rubber in 96 pages of illustrations. The 450 pictures record the history of rubber from the dinosaur age and that of early man through the use of the product in pre-conquest Mexican times to the “discovery” by Europeans, the early periods of the tapping of *Hevea* through to the beginnings of commercialisation of Amazonian rubber production to the introduction of *Hevea brasiliensis* to Asia and the establishment of the plantations in the Old World tropics.

The book, extremely novel in its approach, should be useful in teaching economic botany courses and will certainly be of interest to general audiences.

The artist-authors are to be congratulated for making available such an interesting detailed illustrated history of rubber, its uses, and commercial aspects of its development.

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