

# All Things Ginger

*A Made in Belgravia Event*

April 2014



# Botanical information

- Ginger is a member of the *Zingiberaceae* family. It is closely related to turmeric and cardamom.
- It is a flowering aromatic perennial herb with creeping horizontal or tuberous rhizomes.
- It is a tropical plant, originating from Asia.
- It is cultivated in Africa, Asia and the Americas for domestic use and export.

# Historical evidence...

Known to have been cultivated in  
China and India.



## ...from the Greeks...

ζιγγίβερι ἴδιον ἐστὶ φυτόν, γεννώμενον ἐν τῇ Τρωγλοδυτικῇ (καὶ) Ἀραβίᾳ πλεῖστον, οὗ χρῶνται τῇ χλόῃ εἰς πολλά, καθάπερ ἡμεῖς τῷ πηγάνῳ, ἔψοντες εἰς προποτισμοὺς καὶ εἰς ἐψήματα μίσγονστες. ἔστι δὲ ῥίζια μικρά, ὥσπερ κυπέρου, ὑπόλευκα, πεπερίζοντα τῇ γεύσει εὐώδη· ἐκλέγου δὲ τὰ ἀτερηδόνιστα.

“**Ginger** is a peculiar plant, growing for the most part in Arabia; the green part of it is used for many purposes, just as we use rue, boiling in drinks and mixing into boiled dishes.”

# ...and the Spanish...

*Traditur etiam alia species cyperi, quae in India nascitur et appellatur lingua eorum **zinziber**.*

There is also said to be another kind of galingale, which grows in India and is called in their language **ginger**.

## ...and the Persians...

*Diet: include pepper, capers, ginger, vinegar of capers, vinegar of garlic, etc. according to measure.*

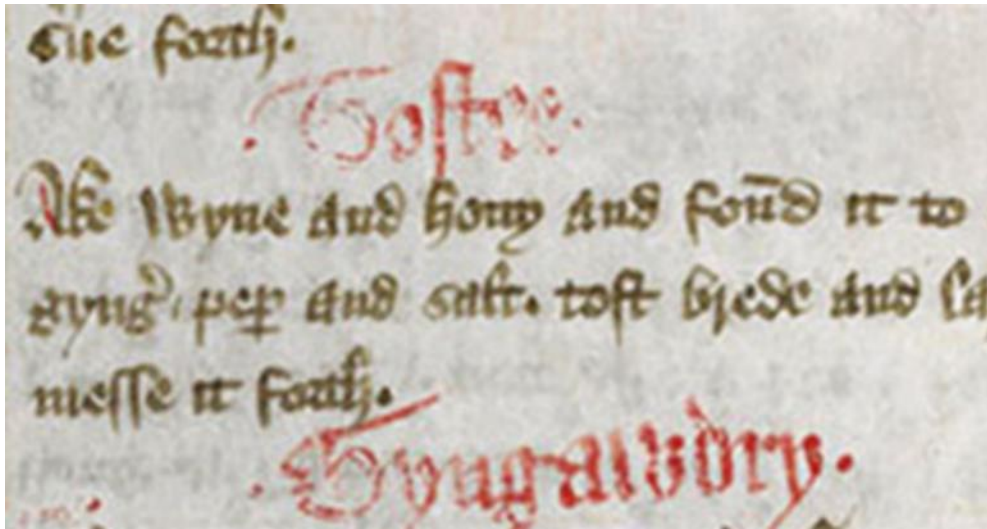
Partial instructions for the remedy of kidney stones.



## ...and the Italians...

*There is great abundance of pepper and also of ginger, besides cinnamon in plenty and other spices, turbit and coconuts. When merchants come here from overseas, they load their ships with ... other such spices that are not produced here.... Goods are exported to many parts.*

## ...and the English...



Take wyne and hony and found it togyder and skym it  
clene. and seep it long, do perto powdour of gyngur. peper  
and salt, tost brede and lay the sew perto. kerue pecys of  
**gyngur** and flour it perwith and messe it forth.



...and the French...

*CHAPpons AUX HERBES OU VEEL.*

*Mettés les cuire en eaue,  
lart, persil, sauge, ysope,  
coq, vin, vertjus, saffran  
et **gingembre**, se vos voulez.*

**L**ecture de détail=  
levent grant cuy-  
sinier du Roy de  
France



# Etymology

ginger (n.) mid-14c., from Old English *gingifer*, from Medieval Latin *gingiber*, from Latin *zingiberi*, from Greek *zingiberis*, from Prakrit (Middle Indic) *singabera*, from Sanskrit *srngaveram*, from *srngam* "horn" + *vera-* "body," so called from the shape of its root.