

HUNTIA

A YEARBOOK OF BOTANICAL AND HORTICULTURAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

VOLUME 1

15 APRIL 1964

THE HUNT BOTANICAL LIBRARY

CARNEGIE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

PITTSBURGH PENNSYLVANIA

HUNTIA

Copyright © 1964, by The Hunt Botanical Library

HUNTIA is a yearbook devoted to studies of the literature on systematic botany and horticulture, botanical voyages and explorations, early agriculture, medical botany, and the related subjects of botanical biography, iconography, and bibliography.

While HUNTIA serves primarily as a record of investigations at The Hunt Botanical Library, its pages are open also to papers from scholars of other institutions.

Editor: George H. M. Lawrence

Director, The Hunt Botanical Library

Subscription price: \$7.50 (US) a volume.

Communications regarding subscriptions, exchanges and contributions should be addressed to the Editor, Hunt Botanical Library, Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213.

Genesis and revelations

George H. M. Lawrence

HUNTIA is a yearbook, the official publication of the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library. Its pages will report the research activities of staff members and the details and studies of special collections in the library, and will provide a medium for occasional papers on botanical bibliography by scholars from other institutions.

The library, assembled by Rachel Hunt over a period of sixty years, is one of unusual breadth and is now the nucleus of a new institute for bibliographical research in the literature of botany and horticulture at Carnegie Institute of Technology. The breadth of the library will be reflected in the papers published in this and successive issues of *Huntia*. In addition to bibliographical studies of individual works and accounts of the library program and accomplishments, it is expected that each volume will have sections devoted to botanical art and artists, to autograph letters and manuscripts of botanists, to botanical biography and portraiture, and to recent noteworthy accessions.

So far as is known, the Hunt Botanical Library is the first institution of its kind dedicated and programmed to produce new and analytical studies of plant literature. Its coverage extends from incunabula that treat of early agriculture and primitive materia medica, through the herbals and those later works that clearly fall in the area of medical botany, to the 17th and 18th century volumes on farming, crops, and gardening *sensu latiore*, and includes those later works that are truly botanical and, more strictly, in the field of taxonomic botany—the great monographs of plant genera and families, and the floras.

The program now activated for this library is one of both research and service. The research program is conducted by both staff members and specialists elsewhere engaged for specific projects. The results of these studies will appear in one of four groups of publications.

The catalogue of botanical books in the collection of Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt—commonly known as the Hunt Catalogue—was initiated as a private undertaking in 1953, the first two volumes having been published by The Hunt

Foundation and distributed by the L. H. Bailey Hortorium at Cornell University. Volume I, compiled by Jane Quinby and accounting for holdings published during the period 1150-1700, appeared in 1958. Volume II, compiled by Allan H. Stevenson and treating holdings of the 18th century, appeared in 1961. Volume III, to account for the holdings of the period 1801-1825, is being compiled by Ian MacPhail. The production of *Bibliographia Huntiana* (cf. p. 17) will account for holdings of the period 1826-1840, and no coverage of later holdings is now contemplated. One volume of Supplement is scheduled, and will account for acquisitions of the period of Volume I and acquired after that volume went to press.

Mrs. Hunt maintained standards of high excellence for works she sponsored or published. A pair of privately published volumes, *Soyle for an orchard* and *Husbandry*, based on two 17th century manuscripts in her library, are models of typographic design and fine printing by the late Carl Purington Rollins to which this library may aspire, but never achieve. In the field of hand bookbinding this library possesses more than eighty examples of fine bindings designed and executed by Mrs. Hunt during the period 1903-1918; clear evidence of her insistence on a level of art and craftsmanship which approach perfection. The Catalogue of her own library, designed largely by Stahley Thompson and printed by Fred Anthoensen, is another example of her insistence on quality in all productions associated with her interests. Publications from the Hunt Botanical Library may be expected to maintain these very strong interests in the book as an object of quality craftsmanship and typographic beauty in addition to contents of comparable intrinsic value.

The second publication group of this library is The Hunt Facsimile Series. For this series, the objective is to publish occasionally a facsimile of a rare botanical or horticultural work that has contemporary scientific or historical significance, but which is unlikely to be reproduced commercially as a profitable item. Furthermore, and in contrast with most facsimile works in botany, each reproduction in this series will be accompanied by scholarly introductions or studies based on new research of archival source materials. These accompanying studies will provide historical and bibliographical background to the original work, biographical studies of author, artists, and others involved in its production, and a commentary that brings its findings up to date and especially so when modern nomenclature for the included plants is important. The first volume of the Hunt Facsimile Series was L'Héritier de Brutelle's *Sertum anglicum* (1788), published in April 1963. A second volume is scheduled for publication in late 1964.

The Hunt Monograph Series comprises works primarily new or wholly

new in content. The first volume of this series, *Adanson*, contains the full and illustrated texts of papers given only in summary at the Adanson Bicentennial Symposium, held at the Hunt Botanical Library, August 18-19, 1963. Papers of the first day were published in Part I of *Adanson*, those of the second day will be published in Part II of the same volume.

Currently in press is a new work of this series, which will comprise a reprint of E. L. Greene's *Landmarks of botanical history*, Part I (1909), and the publication of the long "lost" unpublished manuscript of Greene's Part II of this work (completed prior to 1914). This new publication will include also a biographical account of E. L. Greene, himself a controversial figure in American botany, by Dr. Robert McIntosh of Notre Dame University, and an appraisal of Greene's taxonomical work by Prof. Rogers McVaugh of the University of Michigan. The volume will be illustrated with portraits of botanists discussed in the book, reproductions of title-pages, and illustrations of some of the more important works.

Unquestionably, the most significant project now in progress at the Hunt Botanical Library is an encyclopedic work to be a critical bibliographic study of the books on plant taxonomy published during the period 1730-1840. The published work will be known as *Bibliographia Huntiana*. This project, expected to require fifteen years to complete, was conceived and proposed by Dr. Frans A. Stafleu, of the International Association of Plant Taxonomists at Utrecht, Netherlands, a member of this library's Advisory Committee. The project is expected to account for more than 18,000 titles, and will occupy an estimated 16 volumes. A detailed account of this, accompanied by a sample treatment, is given on pp. 17-24.

The Hunt Botanical Library maintains a service program available to all who have need for materials in its collections. These services are directed more towards the advanced student and the scholar engaged in similar research at other institutions than toward the dilettante. Within reasonable limits the staff provides simple bibliographic services based on the library's holdings. Photographs, photocopies, and microfilm records of its holdings not protected by copyright will be supplied at cost. Studies are in progress to determine the desirability of this library's service as a central repository for master microfilms of other botanical works at this and other institutions from which prints may be made on order.

The development of the collection of botanical portraiture is destined to make that collection a central archive of considerable magnitude (*cf.* pp. 174-191). From it copies of portraits may be obtained—subject to certain restrictions—by others for use in their publications. Collateral with this service is the availability of biographical data on persons represented in

this collection; important especially to authors of floristic works seeking such information about the authors of scientific names used in their publications.

The ultimate organization and cataloguing of the collection of botanical prints and paintings, which will include a black and white photograph of every item held, will produce an unparalleled service potential to workers in the fields of fine and graphic arts, and to designers and amateur plantmen seeking plant illustrations for any of a myriad of uses.

The development of this combined program of research and service is expected to make useful to the general plant lover, to the student, and to the scholar as much as possible of the manifold collections that compose the Hunt Botanical Library. The activation of this policy of utility for the present and preservation for the future fulfills the wishes and expectations expressed in behalf of this library many times by Mr. and Mrs. Hunt.