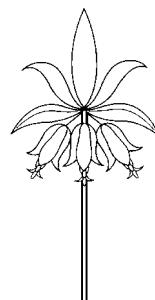


# HUNTIA

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*Huntia* publishes articles on all aspects of the history of botany, including exploration, art, literature, biography, iconography and bibliography. The journal is published irregularly in one or more numbers per volume of approximately 200 pages by the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. External contributions to *Huntia* are welcomed. Page charges have been eliminated. All manuscripts are subject to external peer review. Before submitting manuscripts for consideration, please review the “Guidelines for Contributors” on our Web site. Direct editorial correspondence to the Editor. Send books for announcement or review to the Book Reviews and Announcements Editor. All issues are available as PDFs on our Web site. Hunt Institute Associates may elect to receive *Huntia* as a benefit of membership; contact the Institute for more information.

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## **Contents**

Early evidence of “Erica”: A linguistic and pictorial tracking from antiquity to the mid-16th century Holger Funk	79–94
Wild and cultivated plants in Cambridge, 1656–1657: A re-examination of Samuel Corbyn’s lists C. D. Preston	95–124
The deforestation of the French Alps Roger L. Williams	125–142
Some notes towards a reconstruction of Mark Catesby’s library E. Charles Nelson	143–156
Natural history, medical and economic properties of the <i>Solanum</i> and the genera merged with them: A dissertation by Michel-Félix Dunal Translated and abridged by Roger L. Williams	157–164
Idée fixe: A commentary on the opposition in France to the theory of lichen duality, 1870 to 1900 M. E. Mitchell	165–182
<i>Huntia</i> : History and reincarnation Scarlett T. Townsend, <i>Huntia</i> Editor	183–184
Book Reviews and Announcements	185–190



## *Huntia*: History and reincarnation

Scarlett T. Townsend, *Huntia* Editor

As I write this, the remaining back issues of *Huntia* are being deposited in huge bins as part of the university's annual recycling event. Hopefully the additional poundage will give the university the edge in the printed matter competition. Still it is difficult to watch them go, especially knowing the effort and expense involved in creating and publishing each issue. Now I do understand why Rachel Hunt needed to be away when the Miller house was emptied of her mother's things following her death. We do cling to things to trigger memories of loved ones, and *Huntia* has always been a labor of love.

George H. M. Lawrence (1910–1978), our founding director (1960–1970), established *Huntia* as a yearbook of botanical and horticultural bibliography, with the publication of the first volume in 1964. Venerable institutions had journals, and Lawrence was working to create an organization that would stand among them. He soon learned what all journal editors do—even in botany, journal submissions don't grow on trees. He published two volumes before *Huntia* went on hiatus in 1965. Robert W. Kiger, our third director (1977–2016), revived it in 1979, expanding the scope to include all aspects of the history of botany. As the only peer-reviewed journal dedicated to the history of botany, *Huntia* fills a very specific publication niche. At the

Institute we have a treasure trove of botanical history, and one would assume the articles would write themselves. Kiger published five and a half volumes in 13 issues before taking on a managing editor, Sharon Tomasic, in 1992. Together they published the rest of volume 8 and volume 9. Working solo, Tomasic published the 10(1) in 1996. I joined the Institute in 1998, and as managing editor, I completed volume 10 in 1999 and assumed editorship of *Huntia* with volume 11 in 2000. With the publication of this issue I have published 6 volumes and 13 issues, which does not seem like very much at all until one realizes how very specific is the niche that *Huntia* occupies. I firmly believe every botanist has at least one botanical history article in him or her. Unfortunately, those articles don't emerge with issue-per-year frequency. However, *Huntia* is a tenacious little journal. So far, those seemingly endless submission lulls have always ended in a flurry of new submissions.

*Huntia* authors come from all phases of academic life. Sometimes I publish one of the first citations on a vita while another may be used in the quest for promotion and tenure. More often than not I publish the final citations on an already storied vita. Botanists and historians may retire, but that doesn't mean they cease to research and write. Now they have the time to explore avenues of inquiry that may have been beyond the scope of a previous project or were discarded in pursuit of a bigger idea. Roger L. Williams (1923–2017) was one such author. Sometimes the submissions outlast

the vita. Williams' last two submissions, sent weeks before he passed away, are published here posthumously in this our last printed issue because it is fitting and right.

Have no fear because *Huntia* is not ceasing but simply transitioning. While the old printed issues are being turned into compost, the soul of *Huntia* is being reincarnated as an online journal as part of the overall Institute shift from print to digital publishing. Even those back issues are experiencing a rebirth as PDFs on our Web site. While there are few things as satisfying for authors and editors as holding a printed publication hot off the press, both also appreciate speed. As I will no longer have to hold articles until I have enough submissions to comprise a spine, I will be able to publish as soon as an article clears the peer review and editing processes. Also, I will be able to publish images in color. Between the reduced production time and added color, *Huntia*'s future looks very bright indeed.

Authors and editors work closely together, but in this digital age they rarely meet. It is a curious case of being trusted with someone's words and sometimes their life's work with

only the words on the page and the edits in between to bind us. Through the words and the red ink I like to think we have forged some lasting bonds. Over the last 20 years I have greatly appreciated working with the *Huntia* authors and peer reviewers. It has been a pleasure to take manuscripts from submissions, through the peer review and editing processes, into the page layout and proof stages, and finally to publication and the satisfaction of holding that printed copy. I would like to thank the authors, peer reviewers, previous editors and everyone who has read each issue cover to cover as I do or sampled those articles of particular interest. I hope you have enjoyed these first 16 volumes and this last print issue. As *Huntia* transitions to online publishing, I hope you will stick around for the next 16 volumes. During the last submission lull, I was threatening to expand our scope to a journal of botanical history and botanical historical fiction to keep things interesting, but I doubt we'll see that kind of a submission lull again. Maybe it is time to open that file drawer of ideas and half-finished manuscripts. *Huntia* is always seeking submissions.