

BULLETIN of the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

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COLLABORATIVE EXHIBITION FEATURES POISONOUS PLANTS

Hunt Institute and Carnegie Museum of Natural History, in cooperation with the Pittsburgh Poison Center and Phipps Conservatory, presented "Pretty Deadly: Poisonous Plants of Forest, Field and Garden" from 9 July to 21 October 1991 in the new Natural History Gallery at the Museum. This comprehensive education project represented the first time these four institutions had collaborated to create an exhibition.

The exhibition examined poisonous plants and mushrooms through over 70 17th- to 20th-century artworks and books from the Hunt Institute collection and also through pressed and live specimens, and featured both native and cultivated species, with special attention paid to flowering plants and fungi that are found in Pittsburgh and surrounding areas. Labels accompanied each plant illustration or specimen and identified the poisonous parts of each plant, described the symptoms and effects of poisoning and discussed the ethnobotanical and medical uses, even cultural legends, that are associated with the plant.

Text panels throughout the exhibit explained why certain plants are poisonous, the history of poison and the connection between poison and medicine. A changing bouquet of poisonous plants was a special feature of the exhibit. Lectures and reading lists, along with poison prevention and treatment information provided by the Pittsburgh Poison Center, complemented the exhibit and promoted an awareness of the occurrence and danger of plant poisonings. Statistics from the American Association of Poison Control Centers show that plants accounted for over 100,700 cases of exposures in 1989.

Our past exhibition, "Orchids from the Hunt Institute Collection," on display from 12 November 1990 until 1 March 1991, offered a sampling of 52 orchid watercolors and illustrations from the 19th and 20th centuries, all drawn from the Institute's collection and chosen for their intrinsic appeal. Nineteenth-century artists included Pierre-Joseph Redouté, Pancrace Bessa and Isaac Sprague. Among the contemporary artists represented were Mary Grierson, Jeanne Holgate, Margaret Stones, Marilena Pistoia and the late Margaret Mee. The exhibition is now traveling to botanical gardens and museums in North America.

The Orchidaceae is one of the largest families of flowering plants, with an estimated 725 genera and about 20,000 species. It includes both terrestrial and epiphytic species and is found on virtually all parts of the globe. Perhaps much of the fascination with this family lies in its intriguing adaptations for attracting insects to achieve cross-pollination.

Selections are well underway for our 7th International Exhibition of Botanical Art & Illustration, scheduled to open in April 1992.



Anonymous 18th century. "Aconitum napellus Linn. Aconit Bleu." Hand-colored engraving. Hunt Institute collection.

LIBRARY RECEIVES DIBNER FUND GRANT

In late 1990 the Dibner Fund, which supports history of science institutions and projects, awarded a grant of \$5,000 to the Library toward conversion of the card catalogue into machine-readable form. This grant enables us to continue work on our retrospective conversion project, the initial phase of which was funded by the State Library of Pennsylvania (see *Bulletin* 7(1)).

The money will be used to purchase an OCLC terminal, facilitating conversion and improving work flow.

The Library continues to seek funding for the continuation and completion of this project.

JOIN US IN LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

In response to rising costs and limited resources, the Library is seeking additional funds for acquisitions, including the purchase of monographs, journals, and serial works acquired through standing orders. We welcome donations to our acquisitions fund, whether designated for specific works or for general purchase. Such gifts can make a significant difference in the growth of the collection over the next few years, strengthening our resources for research and service.

From its inception, Mrs. Hunt's collection of books in the plant sciences has been known for its depth and fine quality, reflecting her expertise and enthusiasm, as well as her interest in plants, gardens, books themselves, and people. Planning for the future, she was determined that her collections be "living" resources—not just preserved, but also curated actively and used productively in the service of science and scholarship. Thus Hunt Institute, which began as an international center for research and service in the history of the plant sciences, continues and expands that role by making the collections available for use by others.

In the early years of the Institute, library development focused on botanical works from the 1730-1840 period, especially monographs, dissertations and floras, and also on works on botanical exploration, travel and voyages, and on horticultural subjects. While the composition of the early collection was divided roughly into thirds among botany, horticulture/herbals/agriculture, and other subjects, by 1970 fully one-half of the titles were botanical. This shift in emphasis toward the development of botany as a science reflected the evolving research needs of the Institute and the interests of its staff, and sharpened the focus of the collection.

In recent years, we have strengthened our collection in current floras and taxonomic monographs, with an emphasis on North America in support of our role as bibliographic center for the Flora of North America project. We also continue to collect primary source material in botanical history, as well as retrospective studies dealing with all aspects of the history of botany, including bibliography, biography, and art and illustration.

It will surprise no one that the cost of current publications has been rising steadily. The rate of increase in the cost of scientific publications, however, has been much greater than that seen in other disciplines. The average price for general technical books has risen from \$47.02 in 1985 to \$54.43 in 1990. Yet the average price for technical books in the natural sciences in the same period has risen from \$49.66 to \$75.57 (*Science* 4989: 96, 1991).

If such price increases restrict our ability to purchase new titles, the prospects for acquiring earlier publications, particularly illustrated works, are even dimmer. A prohibitive factor in the purchase of such material, especially colored plate works, has been a recent change in the marketplace. We have viewed with alarm the long-standing, despicable and ever-growing practice of breaking books that contain botanical illustrations in order to sell plates individually. This not only destroys books but also inflates the market value of similar works so that libraries and research centers can no longer afford to acquire them. Many illustrated botanical books are being lost to science because of book-breaking, making our holdings of such works an increasingly valuable resource.

Gifts to the Library's acquisitions fund will be used directly for the purchase of library materials and can be applied in a number of ways. For example, there are still many works that can be purchased for \$25 or less, including out-of-print monographs and reprints. The common base price for current monographic publications in the sciences has risen to \$50, and many monograph prices are higher. Larger gifts are also gratefully received, and can be applied toward the purchase of specialized reference works and other more costly purchases. Many significant out-of-print titles fall into this latter category. The Library maintains a list of works it would like to acquire.

Donations at any level can also be designated for journal subscriptions or standing orders. Like the costs of monographs, prices for journals and serial works have been rising steadily, but in contrast to individual purchases of monographic publications, journal subscriptions and standing orders represent an ongoing outlay of

funds. Many of our floras are received on standing order, as are a number of important monographic series. Individual parts of some of these works cost over \$100 each.

Donors who would like to participate at a higher level are encouraged to consider giving to the endowment for the Library, providing ongoing support for collection development.

General donations and gifts specifying a type of purchase (such as journal subscriptions) will be added to the acquisitions fund and used as requested; gifts designated for specific works will be used for the purchase of those works. Gifts can be made in honor of or in memory of a loved one, and donor bookplates will be added as appropriate. Donations are, of course, tax-deductible. Please direct gifts and inquiries to the Library.

Donors can make a significant contribution to the growth of the collection over the next few years, adding directly to the library resources that support the Institute and its program. Your gifts will enable us to develop and enhance our resources, continuing the work Mrs. Hunt began with her library.

ART DEPARTMENT

Exhibitions and databases continue to play an integral role in the Institute's Art department. Cataloguing of the collection has been completed and data entry is proceeding. Part 3, *Plant portraits, Artists H* and Part 4, *Plant portraits, Artists I-O* of the *Catalogue of the botanical art collection at the Hunt Institute* are now available in hard copy and Part 5 is in preparation. In regard

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All correspondence regarding subscriptions, institutional exchanges, missing issues, and announcements for publication in the *Bulletin* should be directed to the Editor.

The *Bulletin* does not publish book reviews. Books for review in the Institute's journal, *Huntia*, should be directed to Dr. Robert W. Kiger, its Executive Editor, at the Institute.

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to new projects, we are seeking funds to (1) record the entire collection in full color on videodisc, (2) develop a database of published images of the higher plants of North America (north of Mexico) and their publication citations to complement the *Flora of North America* publication, and (3) record information about watercolors and drawings of botanical artworks in both public and private collections for the purpose of promoting scholarly research in both botany and art, and for identifying artists and sources of botanical illustrations. For the latter project the software has been designed and implemented, and data is being entered on an ongoing basis.

We are pleased to report that Autumn M. Farole joined the department in 1989 as Curatorial Assistant. Ms. Farole graduated from Carnegie Mellon University in 1988 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in intermedia and art history. During her four years of study at Carnegie Mellon University she worked as a reference assistant in the fine arts collection of Hunt Library, where she assisted patrons with art-related research. She also served two years as an intern at the Carnegie Mellon Art Gallery, assisting with many aspects of gallery management, art handling and exhibition preparation. Her prior work experience prepared her to assist Curator of Art James White in developing exhibitions and maintaining the Institute's traveling exhibition program. As a vital part of her job, Ms. Farole works to maintain proper conservation standards in the collection of over 30,000 artworks on paper, using archival materials to maintain the quality and longevity of the artworks while on display or in storage.



James J. White and Autumn M. Farole

NEWS ON THE BIBLIOGRAPHICAL FRONT

B-P-H. *Botanico-Periodicum-Huntianum*, that faithful standby of botanists and librarians, is shortly to be joined by a companion volume titled *B-P-H/S*. *Botanico-Periodicum-Huntianum/Supplementum*. It is both a supplement to and a partial revision of *B-P-H*, which was first published by the Institute in 1968. Designed as a key to the location of periodical titles in both volumes, the new *B-P-H/S* provides information on over 25,000 entries, more than double the coverage of its predecessor.

So don't discard your 1968 *B-P-H*! Although many of its entries have been replaced by revised entries in *B-P-H/S*, the greater majority remain unchanged. With the new volume serving as the key to the whole file, *B-P-H* now serves as a reservoir of older periodical titles. *B-P-H/S* will direct you there for whichever entries remain valid.

The new catalogue is arranged alphabetically by full title instead of by the abbreviated title used in *B-P-H*. Every title in *B-P-H* is cross-referenced in *B-P-H/S*, except for a number that were revised and re-entered in the supplement.

A special effort has been made to improve cross-referencing. The lack of sufficient cross-references in *B-P-H* was a weakness that often led users to conclude that periodicals had been omitted. Every *B-P-H* entry was read and considered for alternative forms of the title, other-language versions of the title and transliteration variants (when the native title is rendered in non-Roman characters).

Citation abbreviations have been provided for all titles in accordance with the principles fully described in *B-P-H*. Since the total number of titles is now more than double the 1968 figure, the thesaurus of title words and their abbreviation equivalents has been revised, corrected and expanded.

Many information sources were consulted for bibliographical information on new periodicals for *B-P-H*. These included the principal botanical bibliographical services, many general bibliographical services, publishers' catalogues, brochures and "fliers," catalogues and accessions of major (especially plant-science) libraries, union lists of periodicals, special bibliographies, lists of special language groups of periodicals and special subject lists of periodicals. For the purposes of *B-P-H*, the editors interpreted "botanical literature" as including periodicals that dealt with agriculture, biology, ecology, floriculture, forestry, fruit growing, genetics and plant breeding, horticulture, hydrobiology and limnology, microbiology, plant pathology and vegetable crops,

with some coverage of agronomy, bacteriology, geography, microscopy, paleobotany, pharmacology and pharmacognosy. New areas of study such as molecular biology, biotechnology, environmental studies and conservation have been added to the spectrum of plant-science coverage. Furthermore, the periodical literature that encompasses the historical, bibliographical and biographical aspects of the plant sciences is also listed. In short, *B-P-H/S* attempts to record every periodical that might reasonably be consulted in the course of a wide spectrum of plant-science activities.

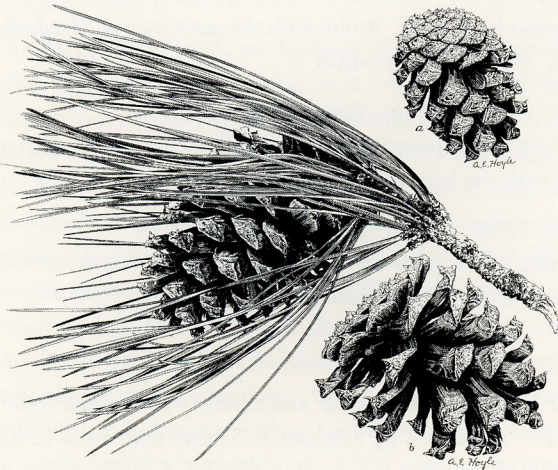
LAWRENCE MEMORIAL AWARD

Chester E. Wilson, at the Department of Ecology and Evolution of the State University of New York at Stony Brook, is the recipient of the 1990 Lawrence Memorial Award. A student of Dr. James Thomson, Mr. Wilson has undertaken a study of secondary sex characteristics in dioecious species of Polytrichaceae. He will use the proceeds of the Award for travel in the United States and Europe for herbarium research.

The Award Committee of the Lawrence Memorial Fund invites nominations for the 1992 Lawrence Memorial Award. Commemorating Dr. George H. M. Lawrence, founding Director of the Hunt Institute, the semi-annual Award of \$1,000 is made to an outstanding doctoral candidate for travel in support of dissertation research in systematic botany or horticulture, or the history of the plant sciences.

Major professors are urged to nominate outstanding doctoral students who have achieved official candidacy for their degrees and will be conducting pertinent dissertation research that would benefit significantly from travel enabled by the Award. The Committee will not entertain direct applications. A student who wishes to be considered should arrange for nomination by his/her major professor; this may take the form of a letter which covers supporting materials prepared by the nominee.

Supporting materials should describe briefly but clearly the candidate's program of research and how it would be significantly enhanced by travel that the Award would support. Letters of nomination and supporting materials, including seconding letters, should be received by the Committee no later than 1 May 1992 and should be directed to: Dr. R. W. Kiger, Hunt Institute, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890 USA.



Ink drawing of "*Pinus ponderosa* Dougl. ex P. Laws et C. Laws" by Taylor and Hoyle, on indefinite loan from USDA Forest Service.

DELECTUS HUNTIANA 13

A collection of over 2800 original artworks was deposited at the Hunt Institute in 1982 by the USDA Forest Service when it closed its herbarium at Fort Collins, Colorado. Contained here are many originals for USDA Forest Service Bulletins, *Common trees of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands* and *Alaska trees and shrubs*.

One rather impressive pen-and-ink drawing from the collection depicts a Ponderosa or Western Yellow Pine. The branch in the center is signed (C. L.) Taylor; the two detached cones pasted at upper and lower right are by A. E. Hoyle. The composite drawing was reproduced as plate 19, "*Pinus ponderosa*: Foliage and single open cone (attached). a, Detached small form of open cone; b, detached large form of open cone" in George B. Sudworth's "The pine trees of the Rocky Mountain region" (*USDA Bulletin* 460:1-46, 26 May 1917).

Over 80 drawings in the USDA collection are by Taylor and 555 are believed to be by Hoyle. Taylor's earliest dated work here is dated 1906, with most drawings done during that and the following year, but with the most recent drawing dated 1933. Most of these are of gymnosperms. Hoyle's drawings date from 1907, with most done during that and the two succeeding years, but with the most recent dated 1928, when she would have been

77 years of age. If the signatures on the originals are true, the long periods of apparent artistic inactivity for both artists are puzzling. Perhaps their career emphasis changed from art to botany, and then in later years they returned to pen and ink to create a few additional works for their papers.

Anne Elizabeth Hoyle (born Chevy Chase, Maryland, 1851; died Charles Town, West Virginia, 1931) studied with Rouzee, S. Jerome Uhl, George H. Story (New York City) and Henry Mosler (Paris), and at the Académie Julian (Paris). A member of the Washington Art Club and the American Federation of Arts, she made the illustrations for a number of articles on forest trees and on range plants. We have found virtually no information about Taylor.

Other artists who have artworks in this collection include B. A. Batts, Mrs. N. W. Brenizer, Miss Casmody, Carmen M. Diaz, Charles Feddema, Hazel M. Hartman, Leta Hughey, Carol Ann Kanter, Suzanne Foster Manley, D. Olszewski, Juliet C. Patten, Edwin Rivera, H. J. Roena, Jane Roller, W. R. Scholl, Marion D. Shoquist, James M. Shull, Sudworth, E. Villalón, W. F. Wight and unidentified artists (M.B.A., BF, Felix, E.L.K., Lino, Pietri, Raúl, F.R.S., GAW, etc.). All of the artworks have been catalogued and will be entered under the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service Collection in a subsequent part of the *Catalogue of the botanical art collection at the Hunt Institute*. We welcome biographical information on any of these artists.

My gratitude to Dr. Vivian Wiser, Historian, Agricultural and Rural History Section, National Economy and History Branch, USDA; Pat Lynagh, Reference Librarian at the Library of the National Museum of American Art and the National Portrait Gallery; and Autumn Farole, our Curatorial Assistant, for their search for information. The reproduction has been cleaned up considerably by our photographer Frank Reynolds.

—James J. White

References

- Falk, Peter Hastings, ed. *Who was who in American art*. Madison, Connecticut, Sound View Press, 1985. P. 296.
- Opitz, Glenn B., ed. *Mantle Fielding's dictionary of American painters, sculptors & engravers*. Poughkeepsie, New York, Apollo, 1983. P. 455-456.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

B-P-H/S. Botanico-Periodicum-Huntianum/Supplementum. Compiled and edited by Gavin Bridson with the assistance of Elizabeth R. Smith. 1991. Approx. 1100 pp. Buckram bound, \$95.00 ISBN 0-913196-54-1 Available February 1992.

A supplement to and partial revision of *B-P-H* that contains over 25,000 title entries arranged alphabetically by full title, designed as a key to entries in both volumes. Features citation abbreviations for all titles, improved cross-referencing and an expanded thesaurus of title words and their abbreviation equivalents. Supplement includes periodicals dealing with molecular biology, biotechnology, environmental studies and conservation.

Catalogue [of the] 6th International Exhibition of Botanical Art & Illustration. By James J. White and Donald E. Wendel. 1988. 142 pp.; 97 figs. Pictorial stiff paper cover, \$15.00 ISBN 0-913196-52-5

Portraits, biographies and bibliographies of 93 artists from 20 countries, with illustrations of works by each. Also includes a cumulative index to the artists represented thus far in the International Exhibition series.

Catalogue [of the] 7th International Exhibition of Botanical Art & Illustration is in preparation and will be available in April 1992. Please call or write for additional information.

Catalogue of portraits of naturalists, mostly botanists, in the collections of the Hunt Institute, The Linnean Society of London, and the Conservatoire et Jardin Botaniques de la Ville de Genève. Compiled by Michael T. Stieber, Anita L. Karg, Margot Walker, Gavin D. R. Bridson, Hervé M. Burdet, Marie M. Chautemps and Tina Moruzzi-Bayo. ISBN 0-913196-50-9

Part 1. 1987. xi, 93 pp. Paper cover, \$6.00

Catalogue of group portraits of naturalists, mostly botanists, held by the three institutions named in the title. Over 650 group portraits are indexed by name of each known individual who appears in the portraits.

Part 2. 1988. 294 pp. Paper cover, \$15.00

Catalogue of portraits of individuals, A-D, mostly botanists, held by the three institutions named in the title. Detailed information on persons whose surnames begin with the letters A through D who are represented in the portrait collection. Includes places and years of birth and death as well as professions and/or botanical or biological specialties.

Catalogue of the botanical art collection at the Hunt Institute. Compiled by James J. White with the assistance of Elizabeth R. Smith. ISBN 0-913196-42-8

Part 3. 1988. 301 pp. Paper cover, \$15.00

Covering plant portraits executed by artists whose surnames begin with the letter H.

Part 4. 1990. 146 pp. Paper cover, \$9.00

Covering plant portraits executed by artists whose surnames begin with the letters I through O.

Guide to the botanical records and papers in the Archives of Hunt Institute. Compiled by Michael T. Stieber and Anita L. Karg. ISBN 0-913196-30-4

Detailed register of botanists' manuscripts and papers, arranged alphabetically by subject surnames, with extensive index.

Part 3. (Gadeceau-Hyland).

1988. 86 pp. Paper cover, \$18.00.

John Lightfoot: His work and travels. With a biographical introduction and a catalogue of the Lightfoot Herbarium. By Jean K. Bowden. 1989. 255 pp.; illus. Published jointly with the Bentham-Moxon Trust at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Cloth bound, \$22.00. ISBN 0-913196-51-7

An account of the life and botanical work of the 18th-century English minister who wrote the first flora of Scotland, including itineraries of his explorations in Scotland, Wales, Devon and Cornwall, and an annotated catalogue of his herbarium, now at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

Register of Pennsylvania biologists. By T. D. Jacobsen. 1989. 73 pp. Paper cover, \$10.00. ISBN 0-913196-53-5

Pennsylvania directory of biologists and their current research/specialties. Descriptive entries indexed by specialty, institution and geographic location within the state.

All Hunt Institute publications are available directly from the Institute. Hunt Institute Associates receive a 20% discount from regular list prices. A brochure describing all Institute publications in print and postage fees is available upon request.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

During 1990 and 1991, the Archives Department received many items that enhanced its value as a research facility for those seeking information about plant scientists. Many letters and papers were added to eight of the collections already deposited in the Institute. Thirteen new items were received, most of which consisted of individual letters and manuscript fragments, but two of the collections obtained are substantial: Dr. Helena Miller and the International Association of Plant Taxonomy-Committee of Fossil Plants (IAPT-CFP) have chosen the Institute as the repository for their papers. The Archives Department also received 338 portraits of plant scientists, 161 of whom were new to the collection. The biographical card collection continues to increase in usefulness as a research tool; 8,368 cards citing sources for biographical information were added to the catalogue.

The Art Department added a total of 563 works to the collection, 535 of which were donations or bequests; many were gifts from the artists. Besides many 19th-century prints by unknown artists, over 50 named artists were represented in these acquisitions and 23 of these artists were new to the collection.

The Library added a total of 138 new titles to the collection last year. Of these, 20 books were purchased, with another 9 obtained through standing orders. The others were acquired in the following manner: 34 books and 29 reprints of articles were received as gifts, 25 books came on exchange, 4 were received as review copies, and 5 were complimentary copies (in connection with publication permission agreements). Also, 13 serials were added, including new subscriptions and several runs acquired through duplicate exchanges.

In addition, a large gift from Helena Miller, comprising roughly 900 volumes and a few serial runs, was donated to the Library in the fiscal year 1990-1991 and currently is being processed. As a botany professor with wide-ranging interests in the sciences and in education, Professor Miller has built up a wonderful collection of books over the years. Those books she gave to the Institute are for the most part botanical and include many classic works and a number of textbooks, as well as works in other life sciences. The gift will significantly enhance the Library's holdings in 20th-century works on systematics and botanical education, among other subjects.

For more specific information about any of these or other Institute acquisitions, please contact the appropriate department. The Institute thanks those institutions and individuals whose generous donations have enriched its collections.

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We invite those individuals who share the Institute's interests, whether professionally or avocationally, to participate in our program as Hunt Institute Associates. The benefits of Associate membership include:

- Subscription to issues of *Huntia* OR exhibition catalogues published during the year. Patrons receive both subscriptions.
- Subscription to the *Bulletin*.
- Discount (20%) on all Institute (sole imprint) publications, and on some works published under joint imprint.
- Discount (20-40%) on Institute cards, reproductions, and other sale items.
- Eligibility for staff volunteer program in curation and research.
- Page-charge waiver (five pages per year) on articles accepted for publication in *Huntia*.
- Invitations to exhibition preview receptions.
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