

Botanical Linocuts by Henry Evans

An Exhibition of Botanical Linocuts by Henry Evans

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THE HUNT BOTANICAL LIBRARY

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No. 98-B Henry Evans cutting block

Photo by Bruce Harlow

Foreword

BOTANICAL PRINTS AND PAINTINGS of the twentieth century continue to provide the focal point of this Library's art acquisition program. For the last few years the linocuts of Henry Evans have attracted our interest, and have commanded our esteem as perhaps the best work in this medium. The Hunt Botanical Library is pleased to sponsor and present at this time an exhibition of a selection from an extensive suite of our holdings of his work. All materials in the exhibition, except as noted, are from our permanent collection.

Henry Evans has demonstrated that as an art medium the linocut is expressive for the artist who has the skills in block-cutting and printing. Through his use of burin, gouge, and knife blade he has achieved a fusion of botanical accuracy and artistic beauty rarely found in the linocut. His ingenious technique in handling successive "cuts" and multiple inkings, together with his careful selection of paper textures and colors, have enabled him to produce two-, three-, and four-color prints of charm,

grace, and delicacy.

For the many who would themselves wish to advance beyond the crude greeting card level of proficiency, it is of special interest to know of Mr. Evans' technique, as related to me.

The first step is to make a drawing from the actual plant in pencil directly on the piece of unmounted linoleum. The drawing is made life size with

about the same amount of detail as appears in the print.

The second step is to cut the block. This is done with wood cutting and wood engraving tools of many different sizes . . . the blades must be kept very sharp. The fine details and outlining are cut first and then the areas which do not print are cleared away. The linoleum is then mounted on a block of wood and put in the hand press.

The printing is the final step. The ink is rolled on the block with a large two-handled ink-roller called a brayer. The paper is placed in position and the print is pulled. The inking must be done anew for each impression.

The multiple color print is often made by Mr. Evans by over-

printing each successive color, using a single block—cutting away that portion of the preceding inking that is not to be printed with the next color. For others, separate blocks may be used. Sometimes the technique is a combination of the two.

Evans' linocuts are sought by collectors here and abroad, and may be acquired individually from his studio in San Francisco.¹ A few collectors and institutions have endeavored to acquire a set of all his albums, numbers 1-18, in which these linocuts have been published.

Henry Herman Evans, born in Superior, Wisconsin, 16 May 1918, has been successively a bookseller, printer, and printmaker. He sold his first book in his home town at the age of 13, bought and sold books to earn his B.A. at the University of Arizona, Tucson (Class of 1942), opening his first bookstore there in 1942. He moved to and opened the Porpoise Bookshop in San Franiscco in 1944, maintaining a retail bookshop there until June, 1964.

Without formal training in printing or typography, Henry Evans acquired a 100-year-old Washington Hand Press with a 14½" ×19½" platen in January 1949 and established the Peregrine Press. Several other hand and power presses were added to his "stable" later, and his fonts of types increased as the business grew. A bibliography of productions from the Press through 1961 numbers 52 items. Notable among them, to horticulturists and botanists, is *A modern herbal* (1961) with text by Patricia Healy Evans and hand set by his daughter Judith, with 41 linocuts by Rick Barton. (The manuscript, lino-blocks, and proof sheets are in the Hunt Botanical Library). The work was printed by Henry Evans.

As a printmaker, Evans began with landscapes, followed by a portfolio of nudes. His first book, illustrated with 28 of his own linocuts, was *Visions and memories* published by the Porpoise Bookshop in 1961. Financial success did not follow his book publishing ventures. From the sale of his first linocut print for \$2, a local clientele for prints was soon established. A policy was set to make only 100 prints from a lino-block—then to destroy it. Since the day when a hand-in-hand young couple bought that first print, ¹Mr. Evans' current address is 555 Sutter St., San Francisco, Calif. 94102.

Evans has produced linocuts of some 500 subjects.

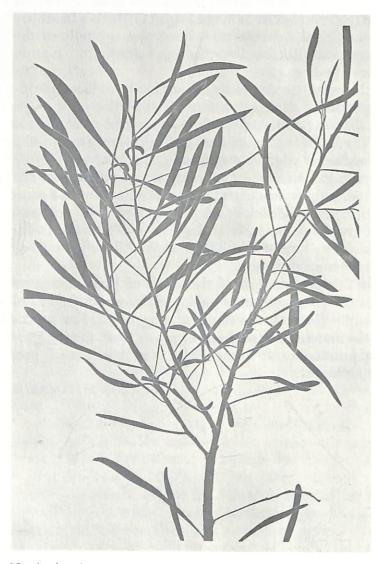
Long a lover of the out-of-doors and of nature unspoiled, he early turned to botanical subjects for the fruits of his press. Although he lacks formal botanical training his prints have brought him acclaim from a wide and critical audience. For his subjects he has travelled from Puget Sound to Maine's Boothbay Harbor, south to the deserts of Arizona and throughout the alpine valleys of the Rockies. Every subject is drawn from nature, just as his eye finds and interprets it.

Always the experimenter, Henry Evans has introduced multicolor techniques of charming artistry. The 3-color print of his Flowering Cherry (#44) would at first scarcely be recognized as a linocut. The brilliant green of the Dahlia (#35) may not readily be recognized as an additive color, and the subtlety of his redtoned grays in the Anemone (#2) creep up on one slowly. The tonal qualities, suggestions of texture and shading, and the occasional introduction of clouds in a sky (#80) attest to his skill with tools, inks, and linoleum surfaces. Perhaps he is at his best with the 4-color production of a fruiting branch of Eucalyptus (#40)

where six colors meet the eye.

Through this presentation of the work of Henry Evans we believe that the print-collecting public will be well informed of an opportunity that otherwise might be bypassed. Few practitioners of the linocut have so ably set in their work the stamp of the master printmaker. It is our pleasure to have a small part in promoting his art.

G. H. M. Lawrence



No. 1 Acacia

The Linocuts

The sequence of the prints in this catalogue is alphabetical by common name (sometimes at variance with that written on the print). For each there is given (1) the Latin name of the plant, when identifiable, and sometimes queried when identity is questioned, (2) the colors of the print and paper, with overprinting noted, (3) the size of the sheet (in inches, vertical dimension × horizontal), and (4) parenthetically, the Hunt Botanical Library accession number for the print exhibited.

- 1 Acacia (Acacia sp.) Green, on white $24'' \times 16\frac{3}{4}''$ (#1296)
- 2 Anemone (Anemone coronaria?)

 Red-purple and gray, on white 18½"×12¼" (#2379)

 Note: the gray color of stem and foliage is produced by green overprinted with red-purple.
- 3 Arrowheads (Sagittaria latifolia)
 Green, blue, black on white 19"×13" (#2383)
 Shown below: (A) original chalk drawing, (B-D) color separation proofs, (E) proof of B+C, (F) trial proof of the 3 colors.
- 4 Bamboo (*Dendrocalamus* sp.)

 Dark brown, on white 18¾" ×13¼" (#1403)
- 5 Bamboo (*Phyllostachys strictus*)

 Dark brown, on Kasuiri paper 18½"×12¼" (#2377)

 Shown also from same block:

 green, on Kasuiri 18½"×12¼" (#2375)

 dark brown, on white 19"×13" (#2376)
- 6 Beach Grass (Ammophila arenaria?) Yellow-green, on white $18\frac{3}{4}" \times 13\frac{1}{2}"$ (#1402)

- 7 Brook Trillium (*Trillium rivale*) (much enlarged) Red-purple, on white 19"×12\frac{3}{4}" (#2355)
- 8 Bull Thistle (Cirsium lanceolatum)
 Black, on white 20½"×13½" (#2360)
- 9 Bush Lupine (Lupinus sp.)
 Pale green, on blue-gray 19"×12\frac{1}{4}" (#1404)
- 10 Calendula (Calendula officinalis)
 Yellow-green, on white 13"×104" (#1274)



No. 15 Camellia

- 11 California-Laurel and Madroño leaves (Umbellularia californica and Arbutus menziesii)

 Brown and yellow, on white 24¼"×16¾" (#1322)

 Shown also, separate linoprints from same blocks, of—

 Madroño leaves (Arbutus menziesii)

 Brown on white 24½"×16¾" (#1324)

 California-Laurel leaves (Umbellularia californica)

 Yellow on white 24½"×16¾" (#1326)
- 12 California Pepper-Tree (Schinus molle)

 Dark green, on white 17½" ×12¾" (#1273)
- 13 California-Poppy (Eschscholzia californica) Vermilion, on yellow 9"×12" (#2356)
- 14 California-Poppy (Eschscholzia californica)
 Vermilion and green, on natural 10½"×14¼" (#2438)
- 15 Camellia (Camellia reticulata)
 Cerise, on white 20½"×13" (#1285)
- 16 Carnations (Dianthus caryophyllus)
 Pink and green, on white 19"×13" (#2420)
- 17 Carnations (Dianthus caryophyllus) Red, on white $18\frac{1}{4}'' \times 12\frac{1}{4}''$ (#1280)
- 18 Celery (Apium graveolens)
 Green, on white 18½"×12" (#2457)
 Signed proof as reproduced, in reduced form, in the Hunt Botanical
 Library edition of Walahfrid Strabo Hortulus (1966).
- 19 Christmas-Rose (Helleborus hybrid) Pale rose, on white 18¾"×12½" (#1369)
- 20 Chrysanthemum (Chrysanthemum morifolium) Green, on white $24\frac{1}{4}" \times 16\frac{3}{4}"$ (#1293)

- 21 Chrysanthemum (Chrysanthemum morifolium)
 Olive green (yellow ink), on blue-black 18\frac{3}{4}" \times 12\frac{3}{4}" \ (#2388)
- 22 Chrysanthemum (Chrysanthemum morifolium)
 Orange, on white 1834" ×124" (#2391)
- 23 Chrysanthemum (Chrysanthemum morifolium)
 Pale blue-gray (white ink), on blue-black $18\frac{1}{2}" \times 12\frac{3}{4}"$ (#2370)
- 24 Chrysanthemum (Chrysanthemum morifolium) Reddish-brown, on white 18½"×12½" (#2390)
- 25 Chrysanthemum (Chrysanthemum morifolium)
 Yellow-green, on white 19¼"×13½" (#1413)
 From the same block, two color variants:
 black on white (#1407)
 yellow-green on gray-blue (#1406)
- 26 Clintonia (Clintonia andrewsii) (in bud)
 Black, on ivory 20"×12½" (#1370)
- 27 Coulter Poppy (Romneya coulteri)
 Light green, on gray-blue 19"×12½" (#1386)
- 28 Cow-Parsnip (Heracleum mantegazzianum)
 Dull olive green, on white 24"×16¾" (#1329)
- 29 Cyclamen (Cyclamen indicum) Cerise, on white 18½"×12½" (#1398)
- 30 Cymbidium Orchid (Cymbidium insigne?)
 Yellow-green, brown, pink, and blue, on white 23"×17½" (#1338)
- 31 Cymbidium Orchid (Cymbidium insigne?) Yellow-orange, on white $24\frac{1}{4}" \times 16\frac{3}{4}"$ (#1362)



No. 25 Chrysanthemum

- 32 Cypripedium (*Paphiopedalum insigne*) Light green, on white 24"×16¾" (#1301)
- 33 Daffodils (Narcissus pseudo-narcissus) Yellow, on white 24"×16\frac{3}{4}" (#1299)
- 34 Dahlia (Dahlia juarezii)

 Bright yellow, blue, and black, on white 19¼"×13" (#2378)

 Note: the green foliage color is produced by yellow+blue.
- 35 Daisies in a glass (Chrysanthemum maximum) Dark green, on white $17\frac{1}{2}" \times 11\frac{3}{4}"$ (#1279)

- 36 Digger Pine (*Pinus coulteri*) (coning branch)
 Black, on white 23"×17½" (#1339)
- 37 Easter Lilies (*Lilium longiflorum*)
 Light green, on ivory 12½"×20" (#1378)
- 38 Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*) (juvenile foliage) Pale green, on white $24\frac{1}{4}" \times 16\frac{3}{4}"$ (#1355)



No. 36 Digger Pine



No. 37 Easter Lilies

- 39 Eucalyptus (Eucalyptus globulus?) (fruiting branch)
 Final print: 4 colors, on cream 20"×13" (#2475)
 6 proofs (4 separations, 2 overprints)
 - A. Blue-green separation
 - B. Pale olive green separation
 - C. Proof, A+B
 - D. Dark green separation
 - E. Proof, A+B+D
 - F. Dull red separation
- 40 Eucalyptus (Eucalyptus globulus?) (adult foliage)
 Green, on white 24¼"×16½" (#1319)
- 41 Fawn-Lily (Erythronium grandiflorum)
 Black, on dull yellow 18"×12" (#2365)
- 42 Fennel (Foeniculum vulgare) (fruit)
 Olive green, on cream 18"×12\frac{1}{4}" (#1266)

- 43 Flowering Cherry (*Prunus* sp.)
 Black, light brown, and pink 22\frac{3}{4}" \times 14\frac{1}{2}" (#1411)
- 44 Foxtail Grass (Hordeum jubatum)
 Reddish-brown, on natural 19"×13\frac{1}{4}" (#1376)
 For illustration see back cover
- 45 French Hyacinths (Hyacinthus orientalis)

 Dark green, yellow-green (yellow ink), light green, on olive green

 17¼" ×12" (#1290)
- 46 Fuchsia (Fuchsia hybrida)

 Cerise, on white $24\frac{1}{4}$ " $\times 16\frac{3}{4}$ " (#1316)
- Green, on white 18½"×12" (#2466)
 Signed proof of colophon of Evans Album #17. Linocut decorations, less the beehive, reproduced in the Hunt Botanical Library edition of Walahfrid Strabo *Hortulus* (1966).
- 48 Grape foliage (Vitis sp.)

 Dark green, on white $16\frac{3}{4}" \times 12"$ (#2409)
- 49 Grapes (Vitis sp.)
 Yellow-green, on cream 20"×12½" (#1374)
- 50 Honesty Plant (*Lunaria annua*) (dry fruit) Light brown, on white 20¼"×17" (#1309)
- 51 Hortensia (Hydrangea macrophylla)

 Green and blue, on white 17½"×10¼" (#1277)
- 52 Hybrid Teas (*Rosa odorata*)
 Red, on ivory 20"×12½" (#1371)
- 53 Iceland Poppies (*Papaver nudicaule*) Vermilion, on ivory 23¼"×36" (#2468)

- 54 Iceland Poppies (*Papaver nudicaule*) Vermilion, on white $24\frac{1}{4}'' \times 16\frac{3}{4}''$ (#1306)
- 55 Iris (*Iris germanica*) (flowers withered)
 Green, on white 18½"×12" (#2450)
 Signed proof as reproduced, in reduced form, in the Hunt Botanical Library edition of Walahfrid Strabo *Hortulus* (1966).
- 56 Iris (*Iris longipetala?*)
 Blue-purple, on white 20¼"×13" (#1286)



No. 52 Hybrid Teas

- 57 Iris (*Iris* sp.)
 Blue, on olive green $20\frac{3}{4}'' \times 13\frac{3}{4}''$ (#1395)
- 58 Japanese Iris (*Iris kaempferi*) Gray, on white 19"×13" (#2346)
- 59 Japanese Iris (*Iris kaempferi*)
 Pale green, on white 17½"×10" (#2347)
- 60 Japanese Iris (*Iris kaempferi*)
 Red-purple, on light gray 19"×12\frac{3}{4}" (#2359)
- 61 Japanese Persimmon (*Diospyros kaki*)

 Red-orange, pale green, and brown, on buff 12½"×19½" (#2427)

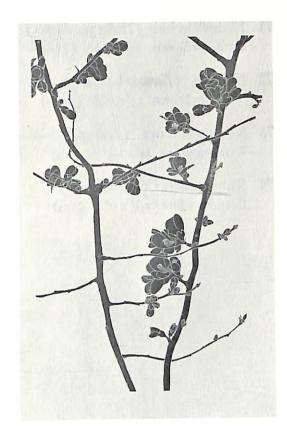
 Note: the brown produced by red-orange overprinted with green. Shown below, two lino-blocks (lent by Mr. Evans) from which the print was produced.
- 62 Japanese Quince (Chaenomeles lagenaria) Cerise, on white $23'' \times 14\frac{1}{2}''$ (#1412)
- 63 Japanese Quince (Chaenomeles lagenaria)
 Lavender-pink, on gray-blue 19"×12\frac{1}{4}" (#1375)
- 64 Lovage (Levisticum officinale)

 Green, on white 18½"×12" (#2453)

 Signed proof as reproduced, in reduced form, in the Hunt Botanical Library edition of Walahfrid Strabo Hortulus (1966).
- 65 Marsh-Marigold (*Caltha asarifolia*)

 Yellow, blue, green, brown, on white 19"×13½" (#1409)

 Note: the green produced by blue overprinted with yellow.
- 66 Melon (Cucumis melo)
 Green, on white 18½"×12" (#2446)
 Signed proof as reproduced, in reduced form, in the Hunt Botanical Library edition of Walahfrid Strabo Hortulus (1966).



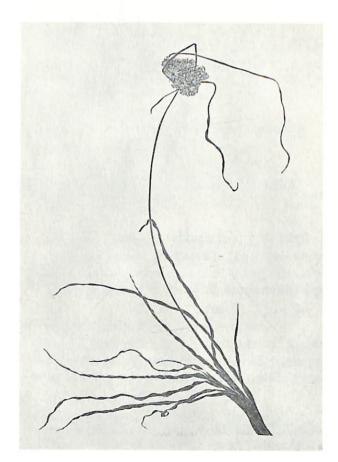
No. 62 Japanese Quince

- 67 Milkweed (Asclepias sp.) (dry pods)
 Pale brown, on white 20½"×13¼" (#1401)
- 68 Pacific Dogwood (Cornus nuttallii)
 Cerise, on white 20½"×13¼" (#1287)
- 69 Pacific Dogwood (Cornus nuttallii)

 Green, blue, black, on white 13½"×19¾" (#2474)

 Shown below, proofs of each color separation, plus proof of green+black.
- 70 Paper-Whites (Narcissus poeticus)
 Green, on white 17½"×10" (#1391)

- 71 Phaius Orchid (*Phaius grandifolius*)
 Black, on brown 19½"×12¼" (#2435)
- 72 Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*)
 Black, on brown 24"×16¹" (#1348)
- 73 Roses and fence (*Rosa* sp.) Rose, on white ${}^{24''}\times 16\frac{3}{4}''$ (#1359)
- 74 Rubrum Lily (*Lilium rubrum*) Rose, on white $24\frac{1}{4}" \times 17"$ (#1315)



No. 78 Sedge

- 75 Rushes (Juncus sp.) Green, on Kasuiri paper $18\frac{1}{2}" \times 12"$ (#1397)
- 76 Sahuaro Cactus (Carnegiea gigantea)
 Light green, on white 20¾"×13¼" (#1288)
- 77 Scarlet Larkspur (Delphinium cardinale) Vermilion, on white 19"×13" (#2344)
- 78 Sedge (*Cyperus* sp.)
 Brown, on white $19\frac{3}{4}'' \times 13''$ (#2380)
- 79 Shooting-Stars (Dodecatheon cusickii)
 Purple-red, on white 17¾"×10" (#1384)
- 80 Slender Arrowheads (Sagittaria latifolia)
 Green, purple, blue, on white 19" ×13" (#2384)
- 81 Slender Bamboo (Sasa senanensis?)

 Dark green, on white 18¼"×12¼" (#2425)

 Shown below, lino-block (lent by Mr. Evans) from which the print was produced.
- 82 Spiderwort (*Tradescantia virginiana*)
 Green, and blue, on white 20"×134" (#1292)
- 83 Tansy (Tanacetum vulgare)
 Green, on white 18½"×12" (#2461)
 Signed proof as reproduced, in reduced form, in the Hunt Botanical
 Library edition of Walahfrid Strabo Hortulus (1966).
- 84 Teasel (Dipsacus sylvestris)
 Gray, on cream 18"×12" (#2368)
 For illustration see front cover
- 85 Thistle (Cirsium sp.) (dry remains) Pale green, on white $24\frac{1}{4}" \times 16\frac{3}{4}"$ (#1312)

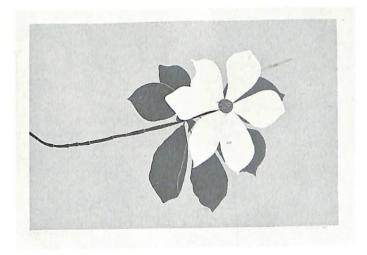


No. 88 Vanda Orchid

- 86 Tree Peony (Paeonia suffruticosa)

 Cerise, and dark green, on cream 18"×114" (#2415)
- 87 Tulips (*Tulipa gesneriana*)
 Blue, and green, on white 19"×13" (#2417)
- 88 Vanda Orchid (*Vanda teres?*)
 Purple, on white 26"×16\frac{3}{4}" (#1361)
- 89 Vanda Orchid (*Vanda tricolor?*)
 Light brown, on natural 18½" ×12½" (#1380)

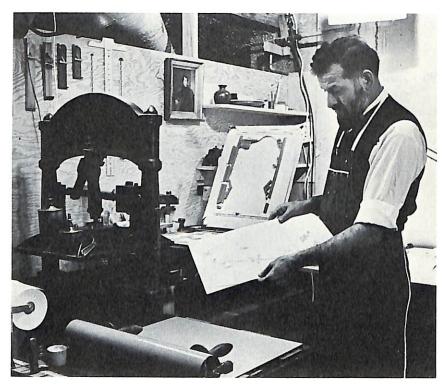
- 90 Water-Lilies (*Nymphaea capensis*)
 Pale yellow-green, dark green, pale blue, on white 19"×12\frac{3}{4}" (#2345)
- 91 Water-Lilies (*Nymphaea odorata*)
 Pale and dark brown, on white 19"×12\frac{3}{4}" (#2357)
- 92 Water-Lilies (Nymphaea stellata) Light green, dark green, blue, on white $18\frac{3}{4}" \times 13"$ (#2358)
- 93 Wheat Grass (Agropyron sp.) Yellow-brown, on white $24\frac{1}{2}'' \times 16\frac{3}{4}''$ (#1360)
- 94 Wild Oats (Avena fatua) Brown, on beige silk $37\frac{1}{4}'' \times 22\frac{3}{4}''$ (#2471)
- 95 Wild Oats (Avena fatua)
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- 96 Zinnias in a vase (Zinnia elegans) Dark red, on white $18\frac{1}{2}" \times 12\frac{3}{4}"$ (#1276)



No. 69 Pacific Dogwood

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- 98 The artist at work, by Bruce Harlow, 1966
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 - B. Cutting the block
 - C. Inking
 - D. In press
 - E. Examining the "pull"



No. 98-E Henry Evans examining a "pull"

Photo by Bruce Harlow

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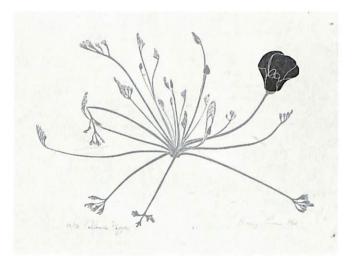
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No. 14 California Poppy

