



Poinsettia 4/25 *Donner*
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To our many Friends

Last year at this time it was the pleasure of the staff of the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library to send its Season's Greetings to our many friends, and especially to those who have visited the Library. This year we are pleased to do so again, presenting on our cover a six-color reproduction of a color woodcut of poinsettia now in our collection and made by the internationally known master of the color woodcut, Joseph Domjan.

The Library has been filled with activity all year. This has been a period of substantial policy making, of staff development, of growth of collections (books, paintings, portraits, and letters and manuscripts), and one that has witnessed the appearance of a new annual publication, *Huntia*.

Last year you learned of our decision to produce a multi-volume encyclopedic work, *Bibliographia Huntiana*, accounting with full bibliographic description, for every botanical book published between 1730 and 1840. It will include also many books that describe plants from the horticultural approach. Nine members of our staff of twenty-three now devote full time to this project, and two vacancies concerned with it remain to be filled. Three of these staff members are working full time at European botanical centers. Because of the comprehensiveness of the treatments for each of the estimated 20,000 books to be included in *Bibliographia Huntiana*, it was decided at our Advisory Committee meeting last April to discontinue the Hunt Botanical Catalogue. It stands as a two-volume work, accounting for Mrs. Hunt's holdings published from 1477 to 1800.

In April this year the Library published the first volume of its yearbook *Huntia*. Reviews of it, here and abroad, have been

most complimentary and encouraging. Every effort will be made to maintain and to improve its standards of content and typography. One of its articles was a biographical account and appreciation of the achievements of the late Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt. A reprint of that article is available on request for so long as the supply lasts.

The Library's summer exhibition was one of 241 original botanical drawings and illustrations by 86 contemporary artists and illustrators. Through it attention was focused on our policy to acquire two or three original pieces by every contemporary artist and illustrator whose work has been published. A catalogue of that exhibition featured the individual artist, providing, in addition to a description of the items displayed, accounts of the artist's achievements and, whenever possible, a photograph of the artist.

Five members of the staff participated in sessions of the International Botanical Congress, held in Edinburgh this past August. Each worked also on Library projects, and for varying periods, at botanical centers there and elsewhere in Europe. These extended absences of key persons from the Library were largely responsible for the deferment until 1965 of the publication of our next facsimile item, Wahlafrid Strabo's *Hortulus*, and our next monograph, E. L. Greene's *Landmarks of botanical history*. Part II of the *Adanson* volume, now in press, is due out at the end of this year. It will interest many to know that Part I of this volume, published last year and designed by Jack W. Stauffacher, was awarded the honor of inclusion in the *Fifty Books of the Year 1963*.

Mr. Theodore W. Bossert, our volunteer Curator of Botanical Portraits, has zealously added the photographic likenesses of more than 3,500 botanists—past and living—to the growing gallery of portraits, making this unquestionably the largest repository of its kind. Many of these are photographs of originals located by him during his recent travels in Europe. Associated with each portrait is a file of pertinent biographical data.

Our book acquisition program concentrates on works of the *Bibliographia Huntiana* period. Fortunately, Mrs. Hunt had ob-

tained earlier many of the now rare or very scarce titles. This has left us free to search for the smaller but equally elusive works, such as the hundreds of doctoral dissertations now so hard to find, and the monographs then often issued as independent works, although published also in journals and mémoires of the day. During the year now ending we have acquired more than 800 such titles. While in Europe earlier in the summer it was my good fortune to find many long-sought-for 18th and 19th century Portuguese and Spanish imprints, locating most of them in the little shops of Lisbon and Madrid. The quest there, and elsewhere on the continent, increased our holdings of these materials by an additional 450 titles.

Many persons, here and abroad, learning of our interest in preserving manuscripts and other materials documenting the work of the world's botanists, either have contributed such materials or have considerably directed us to them. Holdings of this nature represent the papers of plant explorers, manuscripts of authors of botanical books, and papers of other plantmen important for their contributions to horticulture. To all who have contributed to this we extend our thanks, and to others who may know of similar archival materials deserving of preservation we invite consideration of our continuing interests.

The staff is appreciative of the many expressions of interest in the Library's program as expressed among our growing family of friends. We are especially grateful for the many gifts of books, photographs, and documents that have been received for the Library's collections. To all we are pleased to extend again at this season our best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a most satisfying New Year.

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