





To our many Friends

As the year 1965 nears its close, the staff of the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library once again takes pleasure in sending you its Season's Greetings, and a summary of the year's activities at the Library.

The cover of this greeting bears a four-color reproduction, by the Meriden Gravure Press, of an illuminated initial executed for the Library by the English calligrapher, miniaturist, and illuminator, Marie Angel. In the original water color, on vellum, Miss Angel painted in minute detail her composition of flowers especially prized by the late Rachel Hunt. Across the bottom is the pink Twin-flower (*Linnaea borealis*), at the right and left respectively are white Trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*) and Lily-of-the-Valley (*Convallaria majalis*), and at the top is the Crown Imperial (*Fritillaria imperialis*).

Growth and activity marked the Library's accomplishments and tempo for the past year. More than thirty-one hundred visitors signed the guest book, and thirty-seven group meetings were held in our lecture gallery. Staff research was focused on the preparation of *Bibliographia Huntiana*, a multi-volume encyclopedic work that will account in bibliographic detail for the world's botanical literature published in the period 1730-1840. Currently, thirteen of the Library's staff of twenty-four are engaged on this project, six of them at botanical centers in Berlin, Vienna, Utrecht, and London. Their work this year has primarily been to provide us with a record of every botanical paper published in the more than 2,000 journals of the *Bibliographia Huntiana* period. Others have now nearly completed the compilation of the names of authors and titles of all botanical books published in that period—about 20,000 titles by an estimated 4,000 authors.



Four publications were issued during the year. Part II of the volume *Adanson* appeared in May, providing in full the second day's papers and banquet address of the Adanson Bicentennial Celebration, held here in August 1963. Volume 2 of *Huntia*, our yearbook of botanical bibliography, was published in October. The inclusion of Volume 1 of *Huntia*, on the basis of excellence of design and typography, as one of the Fifty Books of the Year 1964, marks the third consecutive year that a publication of this Library has been so honored. Two exhibition catalogues were issued: one in May, accounting for about 100 botanical drawings and paintings by Andrey Avinoff (1884-1949), and one in October treating a like number of illustrations and paintings by Anne Ophelia Todd Dowden (Carnegie Tech, Class of 1930). The second volume of the Hunt Facsimile Series, Walahfrid Strabo's *Hortulus*, has gone to press, with publication scheduled for April, 1966.

Each of the Library's major collections has received substantial additions during the year. The book collection now numbers 11,112 titles, of which 826 have been added this year. The greater number of these new titles are of books published prior to 1850. The botanical portrait collection numbers about 14,600 likenesses, of some 4,900 botanists and horticulturists. Thanks to the generous volunteer effort of our Curator of Botanical Portraits, Mr. Theodore W. Bossert, the likenesses of about 1,700 persons—with biographical data for each—have been added this year, of which 322 are photographs mostly of 19th-century botanists given by the Department of Botany, Smithsonian Institution.

Second in importance only to the books is Mrs. Hunt's collection of more than 7,000 botanical prints and drawings. In continuation of our acquisition program, to concentrate on the original paintings and illustrations by 20th-century artists, we have added 520 items representing the work of 30 contemporary workers from this country and abroad. Notable among them are Anne Ophelia Dowden, Henry Evans, Jeanne Holgate, Wilhelmina F. Greene, Paul Landacre, George Mackley, B. Y. Morrison, and Marion Ruff Sheehan. To the Odyssey Press, publisher of Mrs. Dowden's most recent work, to Mrs. Sheehan, and to the estate of the late Paul Landacre, we are indebted for substantial

collections of their work, that of the first-mentioned on permanent loan, and of the last two by gift. Wholly apart from these is the recent deposit at this Library, by the Department of Botany, Smithsonian Institution, of several hundred botanical drawings of grasses by the renowned agrostologist, the late Agnes Chase.

The collection of autograph letters, recatalogued and curated during the year, contains 1,984 items written prior to 1900, by 1,212 botanists and others, and 4,262 letters by 1,818 botanists of the 20th century. Included among this year's acquisitions are 1,336 letters of the A. S. Hitchcock Holograph Collection, deposited on permanent loan by the Department of Botany, Smithsonian Institution, a gift of several hundred letters from Prof. L. J. Gier, and the very considerable file of correspondence, manuscripts, and papers contributed by Dr. W. A. Archer.

The critical study of botanical literature requires recourse to biographical accounts of every botanist and horticulturist of the world who may have published a book, a paper in any journal, or who collected or named plants. Although far from complete, this Library's collection of botanical biographical data is one of the best. During the year we acquired a duplicate set of the New York Botanical Garden's famed Barnhart file of about 47,000 card entries. To this have been added 4,100 cards comprising citations in published accounts not in the Barnhart file. In addition, the collection of biographical books and papers *per se* has been increased by 890 items. The Library's total biographical file contains 76,870 card entries to published accounts, and 3,970 books and reprints of botanical biography.

The growth of these collections, except perhaps for the books, is due in large measure to the generous interest by scores of persons whose contributions have been received during the year. To this growing family of friends we express our thanks. To all we extend again at this Season our best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a most satisfying New Year.

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9 December 1965