



Anne Ophelia Dowden 1967



Greetings to our Friends

Perhaps it is a sign of maturing, even of aging, but if ever a year has sped past with accelerated tempo, and with increased activities, it is the twelve months that have elapsed since writing the annual message of one year ago. It has been a year of readjustment, after the loss of Mr. Roy A. Hunt; it has also been a year of growth and of transition.

This year's "Report Card" features a full-color reproduction by the Meriden Gravure Press of a painting by Anne Ophelia Dowden. This painting, from our collection of some 4,800 water colors and drawings, features hardy decorative species and varieties of holly. These are identified as follows: [lower left] Yellow-fruited American Holly (*Ilex aquifolium* var. *xanthocarpa*); [upper left] American Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*); [upper center] Burford's Holly (*Ilex cornuta* cv. 'Burfordii'); [lower center] English Holly (*Ilex opaca*); [lower right] Chinese Holly (*Ilex pernyi*). Most of the subjects were grown at the Long Island, New York, nursery of Mrs. Leighton Meserve.

The staff of this Library, now numbering 32 persons, has been augmented by the arrival in Pittsburgh, in September, of Gilbert S. Daniels (with Mrs. Daniels and their three children), from the Botany Department of the University of California, Los Angeles. Mr. Daniels fills the position of Assistant Director of the Library, and has as his special area of responsibility the coordination of work leading to the preparation of the Library's opus, *Bibliographia Huntiana*—a multivolume encyclopedic work that will account for the world's botanical and horticultural writings of the period 1730-1840. In August of this year, Dr. and Mrs. Buchheim and family returned to Pittsburgh, following a two-year residence in Berlin where he had been working on the same project. Seven full-time and four part-time members of our professional staff,

also engaged in producing *Bibliographia Huntiana*, are on assignment at various botanical centers, including those in Berlin, Prague, Rome, Stockholm, Utrecht, and Vienna.

The year now ending has been one of major activity in all divisions of the Library. The four groups of our collections continue to be developed aggressively. Mr. Theodore W. Bossert, Curator of Botanical Portraiture, spent several weeks in Europe selecting and supervising the copying of photographs of botanists, adding likenesses of 1,416 persons, of whom 677 are of European plant pathologists and mycologists copied from originals in the Saccardo Collection at the University of Padua, in Italy. The manuscript collection was augmented by an acquisition of some 190 items obtained, indirectly, from the family of the great early 19th century botanical artist, Pierre-Joseph Redouté (1759-1840). Among them are letters to him, a few by him (to his daughter), and many about him—plus numerous documents issued to him, such as passports and official letters of appointment (one signed by Napoleon, another by Empress Josephine). In addition, there are many contemporary notices of his death, the funeral sermon, and other biomemorabilia. Numerous contemporary botanists, here and abroad, contributed significant selections from personal files of correspondence as received by them from colleagues and other contemporaries. Materials of this character are continuously invited and often actively sought.

Additions to the collection of botanical paintings and drawings continue to be focused on those by 20th century artists and illustrators, and comprise a significant part of our over-all acquisition program. The 637 original works acquired during the period are by 53 artists of 16 countries: the largest number are from Austria, Germany, Sweden, Great Britain, and U.S.A. These artists will be among the 150 or more whose work will be presented in our 2nd International Exhibition of Botanical Art and Illustration scheduled to open in late October next year. The gift by Mr. H. B. Collamore of 18 original water colors by the well-known English authoress of children's books, Beatrix Potter, illustrating gardening and horticultural subjects, is a most welcome addition to the collection. It is one that the late Mrs. Roy A. Hunt would have cherished with deep sentimental feeling.

Peripheral to the Library's collection of botanical art is the gift by Mrs. David Halliday of a framed display, made by a Navajo weaver in Arizona, of pressed plants used in making dyes, the yarns dyed by them, and a small hand loom with a sample fabric woven from the dyed yarns.

Development of the collection of printed books follows our policy to acquire books in the period of 1730 to 1840; works studied and reported in bibliographic detail in the Library's major production *Bibliographia Huntiana*. During the past year, many friends of the late Roy A. Hunt contributed choice volumes to the Library in his memory.

Last year's report mentioned the projected publication in 1967 of our first computer-produced volume, to be known as *Botanico-Periodicon*: a volume to provide a record of the last three centuries of publication of those periodicals important for their articles about plants. The volume has since been renamed *Botanico-Periodicum-Huntianum* (already shortened to *B-P-H*), and will be published in late February, 1968. It will occupy some 1,100 pages. The effort required to complete this work has far surpassed anything we initially contemplated. A year ago it was projected that it would treat some 5,500 titles. Now nearing completion, we can report that it will provide pertinent data on nearly 12,000 titles of journals (published in 41 languages), plus more than 10,000 additional cross-references found in the literature to those titles. The editorial effort required for this work explains why Volume 3 of *Huntia*, promised in good faith for 1967, has regrettably had to be deferred until the spring of 1968.

This has indeed been both a most demanding and a rewarding year. At this time we are pleased, once again, to extend at this Christmas Season our sincerest and best wishes for the kind of a New Year envisaged by each of you.

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