



The Maze at VanDusen Botanical Garden.

VanDusen Botanical Garden

**MARINA PRINCZ, LIBRARIAN
VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA**

History

VanDusen Botanical Garden is situated in Vancouver, British Columbia, a city known worldwide for its stunning natural beauty. Surrounded by the Pacific Ocean on three sides and nestled alongside the Coast Mountain Range, the city's mild temperate climate and high

moisture levels (read: an awful lot of rain), provide a rich environment for the growth of a great variety of species that cannot be grown in colder parts of the country.

In the year 1910, VanDusen's present site consisted of an isolated acreage of logged stumps and bushes that was owned by the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR). From 1911 to 1960, the site was leased by the CPR to the Shaughnessy Golf Course. When rezoning forced this golf course to relocate, the railway proposed a subdivision for the site, but this idea was opposed

continued on page 3

From the President

**KATHERINE ALLEN, ASSOCIATE LIBRARIAN
MAGRATH LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA**

Greetings CBHL members! As we start the process of going to press, it's mid-September, there's a chill in the air (in Minnesota), and autumn is not far behind. The Board is busy preparing for its upcoming fall meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan, September 28-30 and looking forward to conferring with the 2008 meeting hosts.

Plans are afoot to welcome you to the 40th annual meeting of CBHL next June. The acclaimed Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park (<http://www.meijergardens.org/>) will host us in Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 4-7. Shelly Kilroy, Librarian at the Peter M. Wege Library, gave us an overview of the library and gardens in the November 2005 *CBHL Newsletter*.

Not only is Grand Rapids home to this world-class botanic garden and sculpture park (with works by Rodin, Moore, and many others), it is a "walking city" with several downtown attractions. The lure of nearby Lake Michigan's pristine beaches and magical dunes beckons as well. Enough for now—we'll find out more about the exciting things in store for us in our next issue.

Do you think CBHL is a great organization? Would you like to see more people joining? Have you ever thought, "Why don't they try ____ to get the word out about CBHL?" Do you have a network of contacts, marketing skills, or like to coordinate things? If you answered "yes" to *any* of the above, consider stepping up to be Membership Committee chairperson, or to join to be a member. Contact Lisa DeCesare (ldecesar@oeb.harvard.edu) or me and you'll be added to the committee (or head it!) – it's that easy.

By the way, you don't have to attend annual meetings to be on committees. Lots of planning and doing take place throughout the year via email, wikis, and low-tech phone calls!

Past President Susan Fraser is chair of the Nominating Committee this year. The group will soon be identifying candidates to run for Second Vice President. This is a four-year commitment (2nd VP, 1st VP, President & Past President) that is extremely rewarding. Please consider running if you are tapped as a possible candidate – an honor in itself. It's a worthy cause and you get to work with great people for an impressive organization.

Always feel free to contact me with suggestions or concerns or with agenda items for the Board's meetings at kallen@umn.edu or 612-624-4751. I'd love to hear from you.

Have a bountiful harvest season and joyful holidays!

In this Issue...

VanDusen Botanical Garden by Marina Princz	1, 3-5
From the President by Katherine Allen	2
Annual Meeting, One More Presentation	6
Literature Reviews by Charlotte Tancin & Katherine Allen	7-8
On the Web by Stanley Johnston	9, 23
Members' News, Compiled by Shelly Kilroy & Barbara Pitschel	10-18, 23
The Case of the Truncated Unicorn by Ian Christie-Miller	19-20
How We Succeed by Carol Traveny	21-23
2007-2008 Board of Directors	21
Calendar of Upcoming Events by Rita Hassert	23
Join Us!	24

VanDusen Botanical Garden

continued from page 1

by many citizens who founded the Save Our Parklands Association (SOPA). In 1966, the non-profit Vancouver Botanical Garden Association (eventually to be renamed the VanDusen Botanical Garden Association) was formed by SOPA members with a vision to create Vancouver's second botanical garden (the University of British Columbia Botanical Garden was founded in 1916) on this site. The passion and dedication of this early group was tremendous, and its spirited involvement set a tone of commitment for future volunteers and staff.

Based on the high level of local enthusiasm that was generated in these early stages, several informal meetings were held and eventually, botanical garden authorities from Canada and the United Kingdom were invited to participate in extensive site surveys. In January 1971, an agreement was signed among three major contributors: the Government of British Columbia, the City of Vancouver and the Vancouver Foundation. One million dollars from each of these partners purchased the land, and development of the 55-acre (22-hectare) site, which was situated only a few kilometers from the downtown core, was begun. Management of the property was placed in the hands of the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation to develop and operate with the assistance of the VanDusen Botanical Garden Association. The Garden was named to honor the chairman of the Vancouver Foundation, W.J. VanDusen (1889-1978), a philanthropist, lumber baron, and a strong supporter of the project.

Once the site was assured and the paperwork in progress, the development of the Garden was begun. Bill Livingstone, the Deputy Superintendent of the Vancouver Parks Board, was responsible for the layout of the landscape design and all construction on the project. A leading exponent of naturalistic landscape design, Livingstone was the man responsible for

transforming the flat and abandoned golf course into a truly inspiring connection of lakes, rock gardens, and waterfalls. He was a man known for his modesty, integrity, capacity to inspire loyalty, and for a profound and instinctive knowledge of his field.

Roy Forster is another prominent figure who was seminal to the formation and development of VanDusen. Roy was Curator of the Garden from 1973, two years before the Garden's opening, until his retirement in 1996. From the beginning, he was given the task of planning, developing, promoting, managing, raising funds for, and generally bringing VanDusen Garden along from its infancy to the place of beauty and centre of activity that it has become. Roy, who is still involved with VanDusen in a consultative and volunteer capacity, is a man of knowledge, wisdom, and foresight who has brought wit; a sense of history, art, and garden design; and a vast knowledge of plants to all his work at the Garden.

Plant Collections, Features, and Events

Plant Collections

Although VanDusen is not an historically old garden, its wide-ranging collections have developed a strong level of maturity due to the mild weather conditions of the western temperate rain forest in which it is situated. This mild climate has allowed for the cultivation of an outstanding plant collection of year-round interest. VanDusen's collections currently include over 255,000 plants representing more than 7,300 taxa from around the world. Included in the collection are representations of ecosystems such as those of tropical South Africa, the Himalayas, the Canadian Arctic, and Eastern North America, as well as plants native to our region. Some garden areas have been planted to illustrate botanical relationships, such as the Rhododendron Walk and the Heather Garden, and others to represent geographical origins, such as the Sino Himalayan, Mediterranean, and Southern Hemisphere Gardens. Still other areas, such as the Meditation

and Herb Gardens, are arranged according to a specific theme. All areas are set amidst rolling lawns, tranquil lakes, and dramatic waterfalls.

The following overview includes a sampling of some of the features that make the Garden unique:

Guides

The Guides have been an integral part of the Garden since its inception. The first Guide group was trained by Roy Forster in 1974 – one year before VanDusen opened to the public and this group has formed the volunteer backbone of the Garden ever since. Along with its offshoots, the Seed Collectors, Fresh and Dried Flower Arrangers, Labelers and Plants-to-See Display, and Membership, Library, and Special Events volunteers, VanDusen volunteers collectively donate more than 55,000 hours of their valuable time and energy to the Garden each year!

The Guides presently consist of approximately 100 walking and cart guides who take visitors around the Garden daily from April to October, and youth Guides who avail themselves for school programs during the school year.

Plants-to-See Display

The Plants-to-See Display board greets visitors at the Garden entrance, offering them a preview of the plants that they can expect to see in bloom within the Garden. A group of knowledgeable and diligent volunteers work cooperatively to hand pick, label, and attractively display the selected plants year-round.

Hedge Maze

One of VanDusen's most beloved features is its topiary hedge maze. This maze, loved by young and old alike, was planted in 1982 using 2,500 linear feet of cedar hedging.

Art in the Garden

In the summer of 1975, the Vancouver International Stone Sculpture Symposium was held in the newly opened Garden. Hosted by Vancouver School of Art (now Emily Carr School of Art), and under the direction of Gerhard Class, the Symposium invited 12 internationally renowned artists to create sculptures with the assistance of 24 students from the school. The artists were given a choice of stone and a site within the Garden. The finished sculptures remain on display, complementing the landscape and the Garden's living collections. VanDusen's new director, Chris Woods, is very enthusiastic about developing a program of cultural and artistic events in the Garden.

Canadian Heritage Garden and Medicine Wheel

VanDusen's Canadian Heritage Garden is engaging both in its complexity and breadth. It includes plants from across Canada. Five different sections denote Canada's rich geographical biodiversity, including Eastern Canadian Woodlands, Boreal Forest, British Columbia Forests, and Prairie Grasslands. A stroll through this area is like traversing the country in terms of its botanical and cultural heritage. This garden also features a heritage orchard with variety of fruit trees grown by early settlers, as well as indigenous and hybrid plants of Canadian origin. A current temporary exhibit displays a recreation of a typical Vancouver garden from 1896.

As part of the Prairie Grassland exhibit, the Heritage Garden also features a prairie medicine wheel. Medicine wheels have been used for ceremonial purposes by First Nations people since ancient times, and the practice is still common today. Medicine wheel ceremonies are held by Native elders at VanDusen during each solstice and equinox, and are open to all to attend.

Festival of Lights

One of the most popular and magical events held at VanDusen is the Festival of Lights. This event transforms approximately a quarter of the 55-acre garden into a mysterious and magical landscape lit up by millions of colourful lights. It is an elegant event featuring “dancing lights”, whose reflections flicker in time to seasonal classical music on one of VanDusen’s lakes. Also featured are local choirs, other entertainment, and stories from Father Christmas.

Plant Sale

The Plant sale is VanDusen’s longest running annual volunteer-driven special event. Every year, more than 10,000 Vancouverites flock to this “not-to-be-missed” event with wheelbarrows in tow, to purchase excellent-quality plant material that may not otherwise be widely available on the market.

VanDusen Botanical Garden Library

VanDusen Library is currently the largest public-access botanical and horticultural library in western Canada. It began modestly in 1976 with 400 assorted titles, mostly donated by enthusiastic supporters with a vision of a high quality reference library to support the Garden’s staff, volunteers, and the Vancouver gardening community. Since then, and with the guidance of five successive part-time librarians and their dedicated volunteers, the Library has grown to more than 6,000 volumes, including some antiquarian books and approximately 50 journal subscriptions. The collection encompasses the basic reference tools in the subject areas of botany and horticulture, as well as an excellent selection of books covering such topics as botanical history and plant hunting, floras of many parts of the world, the cultivation of specific plants, pests and diseases and IPM, garden planning and landscape architecture, well-known gardens, and specific types of gardening. The collection, about a quarter of which circulates to Garden members,

also focuses on the subject areas of conservation and sustainability. In order to ensure that the Library continues to grow and support its users, an expansion of the Library’s space is becoming a necessity.



Marina Princz, Librarian, VanDusen Botanical Garden Library.

VanDusen is presently in the midst of a 20 million dollar Capital Campaign Project, whose aim is for the Garden to continue to grow as a vibrant centre of botany, horticulture, and environmental learning. Library expansion is planned for the second phase of this project, which will likely be underway within several years.



The interior of the VanDusen Botanical Garden Library.

One More Presentation at the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Society Annual Meeting

June 6, 2007

Begin at the Beginning: the Importance of Preservation Planning

**PRESENTED BY JANET EVANS
LIBRARY MANAGER
MCLEAN LIBRARY
PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA**

**REPORTED BY LISA DECESARE
HEAD OF ARCHIVES AND PUBLIC SERVICES
BOTANY LIBRARIES
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS**

At the last CBHL annual meeting Janet Evans gave an extremely informative presentation on preservation planning and assessment. This is a topic that is important to all types of CBHL institutions.

Janet's presentation detailed the experiences of her staff at the McLean Library of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, as they participated in the Basic Stewardship Program managed by the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts of Philadelphia.



Janet Evans presenting her preservation talk at the Annual Meeting in Cincinnati. Photograph by Barney Lipscomb.

Janet discussed not only the steps that the McLean Library went through, but also how other institutions could benefit from participating in a preservation needs assessment before undertaking any preservation projects.

First she outlined the important terminology so that the attendees had a shared vocabulary. She broke her talk down into the various parts of the survey the participants completed. The assessment process was rather complex. It consisted of a 24-page questionnaire; an on-site visit; and a series of meetings where they outlined their short-, medium-, and long-term goals, as well as discussed issues unique to McLean Library. The process was long and quite involved but at the end the McLean staff was left with a complete assessment report/survey, tailored to its needs and goals. They are now working their way through the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts' Advanced Stewardship Program, and are developing a Preservation Plan that will serve as a roadmap for preservation projects and activities over the next three to five years.

By listening to the experiences of Janet and the McLean Library staff, other librarians can decide if this type of needs assessment is a good match for their institutions or, at the very least, they can take the information she outlined back to their institutions for more informed discussions about preservation planning. The CBHL members in attendance were very interested and, following Janet's talk, there were many questions and requests for more information.

Janet gave us contact information for Benchmarks in Collections Care for Museums, Archives and Libraries; a Self-Assessment Checklist; and contact information for the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts.
<http://www.ccaha.org/surveys.php>

Literature Reviews

**CHARLOTTE TANCIN, LIBRARIAN
HUNT INSTITUTE FOR BOTANICAL
DOCUMENTATION
CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA**

Fallen, Anne-Catherine. *A Botanic Garden for the Nation: The United States Botanic Garden*.

Contributors: William C. Allen, Karen D. Solit, and the staff and gardeners of the United States Botanic Garden; project coordinator: Holly H. Shimizu. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2006. 178, [2] pp., color illus., portraits, garden plans. ISBN 0-16-076772-5. \$69.00 (casebound, cloth). A free electronic version (zip file) is available at <http://www.usbg.gov/history/A-Botanic-Garden-for-the-Nation-The-United-States-Botanic-Garden.cfm>. Individual chapters are also available as smaller pdf files at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/serialset/cdocuments/sd109-19/browse.html>.

The historical mission of the United States Botanic Garden is neatly capsulized on the half title page of this volume: "To collect, cultivate, and distribute." Writer and photographer Anne-Catherine Fallen has put together an updated history and presents it along with a description of the Garden as it is today—its mission, functions, and successes—all illustrated with historical images and her own vivid and eye-catching photographs.

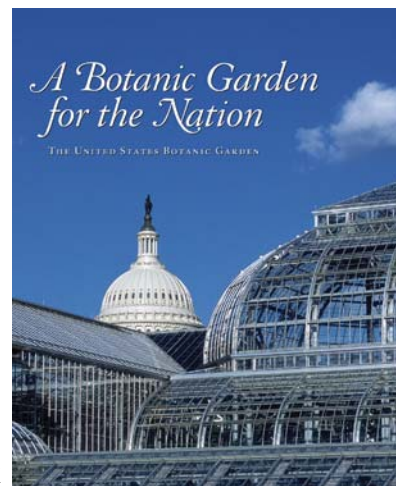
Fallen builds on the scholarly study done by Karen Solit whose *History of the United States Botanic Garden, 1816-1991* was published in 1993. The Garden's origin is in a 1796 letter from George Washington to the city commissioners asking them to incorporate a botanical garden into the city plan. Twenty years later a group of science-minded citizens formed the Columbian Institute for the Promotion of Arts and Sciences, and Congress approved a bill in 1820 granting them a tract of public land to develop. President Monroe, a member and supporter of the Institute, agreed to

let them place a botanical garden next to the Capitol, and the Institute began to collect seeds and plants to propagate. However, funds for maintenance were insufficient, interest dwindled, and eventually the site reverted to the federal government and was neglected for several years.

In 1850, a home was needed for the botanical collections of the U.S. Exploring Expedition, and the Garden was reinvigorated. The Expedition, under the command of Lt. Charles Wilkes, had set sail for the South Seas in 1838. Over four years they traveled more than 87,000 miles throughout the Pacific, including an exploration of Antarctica. The crew included two botanists, a naturalist, and two artists, who collected and pressed more than 50,000 plant specimens, gathered propagation material, produced numerous drawings, and brought back 250 living plants. In 1850 Congress appropriated \$5,000 to relocate a greenhouse from the Patent Office and re-establish the botanical garden at the foot of the Capitol. The Garden was officially named in 1856 and regular funding was established for it.

After that, new explorations, such as that of Commodore Matthew Perry in 1852, brought more exotic plants, and in 1855 Congress appropriated \$1,500 to house plants brought back from Japan.

Throughout the second half of the 19th century, the collections expanded and seeds were distributed across the country. The Garden gained prominence for its beautiful landscaping and unusual plants. Then, in the early 20th century, a new plan for the city was created that included an open mall between the Capitol and the Washington



Book jacket for *A Botanic Garden for the Nation: The U.S. Botanic Garden*.



Palm Leaf (*Licuala ramsayi*) in the Jungle of the USBG Conservatory. Photo © Anne-Catherine Fallen.

Monument. The plan was opposed for two decades because it necessitated moving the Garden and uprooting many stately trees in the process. The Garden was finally relocated in the 1920s to the site that it occupies today.

A new conservatory was built in 1933, and the Garden's mission was expanded to include education as a critical component of exhibits, in addition to the earlier mission of plant collection and distribution.

In the 1990s the conservatory had to be completely rebuilt, so the Garden was closed for several years and the staff used that time to develop a master plan to provide guiding principles for the renovated exhibits. The Garden reopened in 2001 and is thriving at the beginning of the 21st century. Following a contributed chapter on the architectural history of the garden by William C. Allen, Fallen outlines the Garden's varied programs and partnerships and describes its many thematic plantings both indoors and out, along with Bartholdi Park and the new National Garden, which was opened to the public in October 2006.

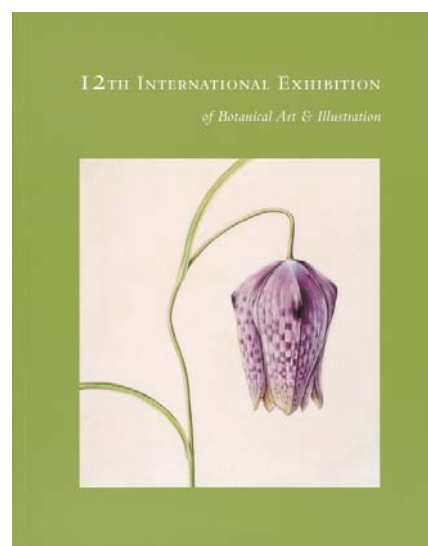
A Botanic Garden for the Nation is well written, and Fallen's many photographs highlight both the beauty and the diversity that characterize the Garden, making her book even more of a fitting tribute to a national jewel.

**KATHERINE ALLEN, ASSOCIATE LIBRARIAN
MAGRATH LIBRARY
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ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA**

Catalogue [of the] 12th International Exhibition of Botanical Art & Illustration : 30 September to 20 December 2007 / by James J. White and Lugene B. Bruno. Pittsburgh, PA : Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, 2007. 190 pp.; 111 color, 64 b&w figs. ISBN: 0-913196-82-7 (stiff paper cover). \$25.00.

"This exhibition catalogue features 111 artworks with portraits, biographies, and bibliographies of the 64 artists from Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, England, France, Italy, Japan, Scotland, South Africa, Sweden, the United States, and Wales. It also includes a cumulative index of the 1,016 artists represented thus far in the International Exhibition series." – from the Hunt Institute's publications page, <http://huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu/HIBD/Publications/HI-Pubs/Pub-IE-09.shtml>

The stunning artwork alone makes this catalogue worth having and sharing – a colleague just borrowed my copy before I could finish writing! The appealing layout, the personalized feel imparted by portraits and biographies of the artists, and the cumulative index of more than 1,000 contemporary artists (dating from the 1st international exhibition in 1964) are all valuable additions.



"Fritillaria meleagris" (2002) by Celia Hegedüs, watercolor on vellum stretched over board, 30.5 x 30.5 cm, Hunt Institute collection, gift from the artist.

On the Web: Absinthe, Tea, and Vegetable Judging

STANLEY JOHNSTON
CURATOR OF RARE BOOKS
THE HOLDEN ARBORETUM
KIRTLAND, OHIO

The recent announcement that shock rocker Marilyn Manson was launching Mansinthe, his very own brand of absinthe, coincided nicely with the appearance of several web sites dealing with the drink which is illegal in the United States, but not listed as a controlled substance. For those unfamiliar with the subject, absinthe is a green drink composed largely of high proof alcohol and some form of wormwood (*Artemisia* spp.), sometimes in combination with other herbs. It is said to have first been created in Switzerland in 1789 by the French physician Pierre Ordinaire. Although often portrayed as the height of dissolution along with the use of opium, the liquor has found favor over the years by various writers and artists for the supposed clarity of perception given by the chemical thujone. The various forms of *Artemisia* and their medicinal effects are discussed on **Wormwood** www.botanical.com/botanical/mgmh/w/wormwo37.html which gives the accounts from Mrs. Grieve's *A Modern Herbal*. The **Absinthe Buyers Guide** www.absinthebuyersguide.com/ contains information on the various brands currently available and where they can be obtained, as well as a history of the drink. The **Virtual Absinthe Museum** www.oxygenee.com/absinthe-museum.html features online exhibits of absinthe paraphernalia, absinthe bottles, and samples of absinthe-inspired literary and artistic works.

Considerably less controversial is **Find Your Cup of Tea** www.the-color-of-tea.com which discusses how the different colors and varieties of teas are produced. It also includes a page on Rooibos or red bush the tea-like drink made from the South African *Aspalathus linearis*.

Although a bit late for this year, **GL230 Exhibiting and Judging Garden Vegetables** extension.missouri.edu/explore/agguides/hort/g06230.htm is an informative page from the Missouri Extension Service, giving tips on how to display vegetables for judging and the general judging criteria used for county fairs in Missouri.

Turning to trees, **Garden Tree Information** www.gardenguides.com/plants/trees provides a somewhat uneven collection of pages on common cultivated trees. **Trees are Good** www.treesaregood.com is a site put up by the International Society of Arboriculture to educate the public about the value of tree care. The site includes fun facts about trees, FAQs, information on the benefits trees provide, information on tree care, and ISA press releases including spicy titles like "Topless Trees are Indecent." Finally, **Trees: Quotes, Poems, Proverbs, Maxims** www.gardendigest.com/trees.htm provides five pages of unorganized quotations about trees.

SCFC Project Learning Tree www.state.sc.us/forest/refplt.htm might be of interest to educators since it describes the South Carolina Forestry Commission environmental education program and the support materials available to teachers of pre-school through high school students residing in that state. Of potentially wider interest to those involved with education is **Greening Schools** www.greeningschools.org, a joint project of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Illinois Waste Management Research Center which provides teachers with resources for adding an ecological emphasis to their lesson plans, information on green technology for schools, and the capability of providing onsite technical assistance to address environmental concerns at schools in Illinois.

Finally, while we are all aware of the continuing effort to make older botanical and horticultural literature more widely available through the posting of digitized materials on the web, we

continued on page 23

Members' News

**MEMBERS' NEWS EAST COMPILED BY:
SHELLY KILROY, LIBRARIAN
FREDERIK MEIJER GARDENS AND
SCULPTURE PARK
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN**

**Stephen Sinon
Head of Information Services and Archives
LuEsther T. Mertz Library
New York Botanical Garden
Bronx, New York**

Botanical Illustrations from the Early Centuries of
Botanical Science at the New York Botanical
Garden Library

The library at The New York Botanical Garden is privileged to possess a number of botanical illustrations from the early centuries of botanical science. Among these is one anonymous group consisting of a collection of 250 watercolors from the eighteenth century, of which none had been positively attributed. We were recently able to host a visiting intern from Wales, Tessa Rankin, who is conducting research on these works.

These watercolors are done in a style emulating the work of Georg Ehret, however positive attribution to Ehret will be a long and difficult process. Many apprentices in the eighteenth century were encouraged to copy other artists' work as part of their training. Ehret was a favorite to replicate because of the number of works he produced and especially because he became a teacher to many pupils towards his latter years. There are a handful of paintings in this collection where the inscription contains "Ehret," but in most cases they are not in his style of handwriting. Reference figures and abbreviations in many of the watercolors have allowed successive research into the origin of the original plates; seventeen are traced replicas from Dr. Trew's *Plantae Selectae*, Linnaeus' *Hortus Cliffortianus*, or Miller's *Figures of Plants*.

Ehret has not been the only influence among this collection, which also contains fifty paintings that are in the style of Mark Catesby. Furthermore, in the collection are 60 or so illustrations of different grass species with a very distinctive style of delicate washes and clear linear outlines, quite reminiscent of the technique used by Nicolaus Joseph Jacquin (1727-1817). The common link between all these paintings is the paper. Almost every piece of paper has a watermark of a paper mill in production in the seventeenth and eighteenth century, although that still leaves a large period of time in which these paintings could have been produced.

During the research many discoveries have been made, either of a confusing nature or a surprising one. One example is an image of a *Kalmia* sp. which has lead to research into other *Kalmia* sp. drawings by Ehret in other institutions, such as the Natural History Museum in London, Windsor Castle, Pierpont Morgan Library, and the Arader Galleries. A stem of *Kalmia* sp., depicted by both Ehret and Catesby, was drawn from a specimen grown in Catesby's garden in Fulham. Ehret went on to adapt the same image repeatedly for several different publications and paintings, with only very slight differences. Because Catesby and Ehret were working from the same specimen, there has been considerable confusion as to which artist was responsible for which paintings. The preferable criterion being used in this project is to attribute the paintings of superior quality to Ehret. The Mertz Library will announce the findings of this study in the near future.

**Plants of Japan in Illustrated Books and Prints,
October 20, 2007 - January 13, 2008**

The history, culture, and art of Japanese gardens will be celebrated by The New York Botanical Garden in the fall of 2007 in a Garden-wide exhibition, *Kiku: The Art of the Japanese Chrysanthemum*. One component will be an exhibition of beautiful rare books and prints drawn from the collections of the LuEsther T. Mertz Library, which will illustrate the

horticultural and cultural exchange between Japan and the West over more than three centuries. Titled *Plants of Japan in Illustrated Books and Prints*, this exhibition will be located in the William D. Rondina and Giovanni Foroni LoFaro Gallery of the Mertz Library and will run from October 20, 2007 to January 13, 2008.

Images and text from the collections of the Mertz Library will explore several interrelated horticultural themes, including the Japanese tradition of viewing flowers, development of the nursery trade, useful plants of Japan, Western botanical exploration of Japan, and the Japanese aesthetic as exemplified in garden design. The exhibition will highlight the importance of Japanese plants in American horticulture and will contain books from the seventeenth to twentieth centuries, artwork, nursery catalogs, and a very rare set of Japanese woodcut prints.

Bernadette G. Callery, PhD
Museum Librarian and Head
Library and Archives
Carnegie Museum of Natural History
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

University of Pittsburgh to Teach Courses in
Preservation Management and Digital Preservation

Bernadette Callery, previously at the New York Botanical Garden Library and now at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History Library, has accepted a one-year appointment as a Visiting Assistant Professor at the School of Information Sciences, University of Pittsburgh for the 2007-2008 academic year. She has been teaching at Pitt as an adjunct since 2000 and will continue to offer her graduate classes in Museum Archives and the History of Books, Printing, and Publishing. During this year she will develop and teach courses in Digital Preservation and Preservation Management and will experiment with various online tools to extend the reach of the classes to off-site students. This year, the school has a record number of graduate students in the MLIS

program, which includes the archives and preservation specializations. This is good news indeed for the professions, particularly as the baby boomers are beginning to retire. For information on the MLIS program at the University of Pittsburgh, see <http://www.sis.pitt.edu/~dlis/>.

While Bernadette continues to work one day a week at the Carnegie Museum, (email: calleryb@carnegiemnh.org; Phone: 412-622-8870), her contact information at Pitt is:

School of Information Sciences
University of Pittsburgh
135 North Bellefield Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
Email: bcallery@sis.pitt.edu
Phone: 412-624-9439

Michael T. Stieber, Ph.D.
Library Administrator &
Special Collections Librarian
The Morton Arboretum
Lisle, Illinois

What's in a Name? Carl Linnaeus' 300-year Legacy
August 28, 2007 - January 26, 2008

As part of the international celebrations of the 300th birthday of Carl Linnaeus, we have a new exhibit on the grand old man of taxonomy that runs from August 28, 2007 to January 26, 2008.

“If a name is not correct, speech will not flow smoothly. It will even imperil the harmony of all under heaven.” – Confucius

Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778) established a place for every plant species using an artificial sexual system based on the number of stamens (pollen-bearing male organs) and pistils (egg-bearing female organs) within the flower. Before Linnaeus, the naming of plants was in chaos. Although this artificial system eventually gave way to a more natural system, his lasting contribution to science, which brought order out

of chaos, is an easily remembered, binomial (two-part) Latin name—genus and species.

The exhibit includes works of some of Linnaeus' predecessors that he relied upon: *Hortus Elthamensis* (1732) by Dillenius and *Institutiones Rei Herbariae* (1694) by Tournefort;

- Works that he published during his Holland years, such as: *Hortus Cliffortianus* (1737) and *Genera Plantarum* (1737);
- Illustrations of a columbine (*Aquilegia vulgaris*), drawn by Stella Ross-Craig, a colored plate of a cactus by Ehret, and a card with instructions on how to key it out using Linnaeus' key to the sexual system he devised;
- A wall filled with pictures of (imagined) illustrations of Theophrastus and Dioscorides and of Gerard (those three from Gerard's title page), a portrait image of Fuchs, and one of Linnaeus—each with names they used in their works for the Madonna lily (*Lilium candidum*), exemplifying “order from chaos” as a theme;
- Illustrations from the art collection of plants brought back and/or named by or in honor of Linnaeus' students (“apostles”) - such as: *Thunbergia alata*, *Banksia serrata*, *Kalmia latifolia*, and *Lilium japonicum*;
- Our own 18th century oil painting of Linnaeus in Lappland costume and a map showing his major travels in Sweden.

There is a full size 3-D cutout illustration of *Lilium candidum* on the “order from chaos” wall, using Besler's 1613 illustration as a model, elegantly done by our exhibits designer Debra Davis-Crabbe. As a precursor to the exhibit, at the May gathering of our Friends of the Library group, Michael Stieber spoke of the life and importance of the works of Linnaeus for botany, illustrated by many of the works that found their way into the exhibit.

Meanwhile, as an interim exhibit from the last week of July to August 23, Rita Hassert and Nancy Faller put together a marvelous display celebrating the 50th anniversary of the publication of *Reading the Landscape of America* (1957) by The Morton Arboretum's first naturalist, May T. Watts. They filled four cases with archival works about and by her, as well as, showing a taped presentation on May Watts, given at the College of Dupage back in the 1970s by Carol Doty. Many arboretum staff members attended, as did several visitors and volunteers. It was a great success.

Janet Evans
Library Manager
McLean Library
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Bibliography on Impact of Urban Greening on PHS Website

Information Services librarian, Elena Sisti, has created an extensive annotated bibliography on the economic, environmental, and social benefits of urban greening. Here is the link to this PDF file: <http://www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org/phlgreen/PGbibliography.pdf>

The Wired Gardener Has a New Look

The Wired Gardener is an online newsletter of reviews and news of great gardening web sites, lists of new books in the McLean Library, and news of gardening happenings in the Philadelphia area. We've just moved the email list to a new server, Constant Contact, and now have an attractive email format and easier management of the very extensive mailing list of subscribers. To subscribe to *The Wired Gardener* (it's free), sign up on our web site: <http://www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org/garden/wired-signup.html>

Mary Walker
Librarian
New England Wildflower Society
Concord, Massachusetts

Native Plant Societies List Update

As of June 2007, an updated list of Native Plant Societies of the U.S. and Canada is available. The list is on the NEWFS website at <http://www.newfs.org/>, go to links, then organizations, then native plant societies. Mary has maintained the list since 1983; it is one of the older lists in existence and has been used as a source for many other lists.

Allyson Hayward
Landscape Historian
21 Albion Road
Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts

The Life and Art of a Garden Designer

This fall I have a new book coming out titled: *Norah Lindsay: The Life and Art of a Garden Designer*. In the years between the wars Norah Bourke Lindsay (1873-1948) greatly influenced the course of garden design and planting. She developed her skills in her own magical garden at the Manor House, Sutton Courtenay in Oxfordshire, widely regarded as the most beautiful garden in England. Then, in 1924, facing financial ruin after the collapse of her marriage, she embarked upon a career as a garden designer. Her commissions ranged from the gardens of quiet English manor houses to the grand estates of the country house set, to royal gardens in France, Germany, Italy, and Yugoslavia. She lunched with Winston Churchill, gardened with the Prince of Wales, vacationed with Edith Wharton, and dined with Merle Oberon and David Niven. The book also contains more than 300 intriguing photographs showing her gardens, her plantings, and her friends.

Sally Williams
Hiram, Maine

Sally Retires

Sally Williams has retired as Database Editor at EBSCO Publishing. The new editor of *Garden, Landscape & Horticulture Index* is Heather McDonough, HMcDonough@ebSCOhost.com.

Sally's new address is:
PO Box 105
1593 Pequawket Trail
Hiram ME 04041
207-625-4762

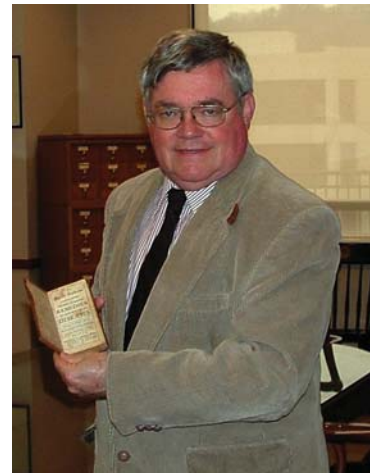
In the winter Sally and her husband will be at:
21 Chestnut Street
Unit 802
Portland ME 04101

If anyone is in the area, come visit!

Maggie Heran, Director
Lloyd Library & Museum
Cincinnati, Ohio

Lloyd Library and Museum Announces Autumn 2007 Events and Exhibitions

The Lloyd Library and Museum is enjoying an autumn filled with programming, events, and exhibitions that appeal to diverse and eclectic palates. Festivities began on Saturday, October 6, with a catered reception featuring harvest-inspired delicacies available throughout the afternoon and evening. The Lloyd welcomed former director Mike



Mike Flannery with Nicholas Culpeper's book.

Flannery for a lecture on Nicholas Culpeper (1616-1654), who Flannery describes as “the morning star of alternative medicine” in his newly-edited work *The English Physician* by Culpeper. Copies of the book were available for purchase and signing by Flannery throughout the evening.

In conjunction with Flannery’s lecture on Culpeper and his early contributions to alternative or popular medicine, Lloyd’s new book exhibition focuses on this topic. *The Rise of Popular Medicine: From Nicholas Culpeper to Early 20th Century America* features books from the library’s collection by Culpeper, as well as the works of those who were inspired by his philosophical belief that medical knowledge be available and easily accessible to the general public. Called by some “the Father of Alternative Medicine,” Culpeper’s influence extended across five centuries, eventually informing leaders of 19th and 20th century American botanical sectarians, such as Samuel Thomson, Wooster Beach, and John Uri Lloyd. This exhibition is on display from October 6 through December 31, 2007.

The Lloyd Gallery features works by artist and photographer Nancy Howell-Koehler, who was on hand October 6, for the official opening of her botanical art exhibit of sepia-toned digital art prints (see example at left). Howell-Koehler has created, exhibited, and written about photography and art since 1970, living and working in both



Photograph by Nancy Howell-Koehler exhibited at the Lloyd Library.

Cincinnati and Yellow Springs, Ohio. She says about her current work, “Flowers are sensual. As earth-bound plants they relate through movement and color as they follow the sun. It is this liveliness and radiant energy I hope to capture in my series of digital prints.” The exhibition at the Lloyd runs from October 1 through

December 31, 2007. Cards of Howell-Koehler’s beautiful prints are available for purchase, and there is also an opportunity to win one of the prints on exhibit. For more information about these events and the Lloyd Library and Museum, visit our website at www.lloydlibrary.org.

Lloyd Library Revamps Children's Programming for 2007-2008

The Lloyd Library and Museum proudly introduces its new Children’s Program Volunteer, Carol Skilbeck, and her innovative program for 2007-2008. Skilbeck, a librarian and former educator, has created and planned an exciting series of workshops she has dubbed *The Young Naturalists Club*. It is open to all children ages six to ten who are accompanied by an adult. It meets from 10 to 11:30 on the second Saturday morning of every month, October through May. The first program on October 13, introduced aspiring young naturalists to growing herbs and plants, as well as starting and keeping their own field journals.

This initiative is designed to inspire children and adults to learn about natural resources creatively and responsibly through such hands-on activities as using plant materials for dyes, candles, potpourri, and cooking, and using natural and recycled materials to create artworks. The Lloyd Library will make certain resources available to incorporate into the programs. Along with contemporary books and journals, the library holds a vast collection of historical and rare books where one can find remarkable illustrations of animals, plants, flowers, and travel expeditions.



The logo for The Young Naturalists Club.

Such books will be displayed for the children to inspire them and to demonstrate the significance of historical books, as well as the intersection of science and art. For more information about *The Young Naturalists Club*, including a calendar of workshop dates and planned activities, visit the Lloyd Library and Museum website at www.lloydlibrary.org.

**Katherine Allen, Associate Librarian
Magrath Library
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota**

Plant Information Database is Now Free to the Public

Plant Information Online (plantinfo.umn.edu), one of the world's largest resources for botanical and horticultural information, is now freely available to the public. Managed by the University of Minnesota Libraries, Plant Information Online is a collection of databases of interest to plant and gardening enthusiasts as well as professional botanists, horticulturists, and plant scholars.

Plant Information Online offers a range of resources, including:

- Information on where to purchase plants and seeds, with shipping sources for more than 100,000 plants from nearly 1,000 North American plant suppliers (the largest listing of currently cultivated plants in North America)
- Contact information and links for more than 2,000 North American retail and wholesale seed and nursery firms
- Bibliographic details for more than 300,000 images of wild and cultivated plants from around the world in botanical and horticultural books and magazines from 1982 to the present
- And a new section: links to expert-selected sites on growing plants in all regions of Canada and the United States.

Plant Information Online began in 1970 as an unpublished collection of printed resources. It was first published in print form in 1976 and moved to a web-based format in 1997 with access available only to subscribers. The service is now free and available to anyone with access to the Internet.

"We want to make this important resource available to the widest audience possible," said librarian Kathy Allen, co-editor of the service. "Previous subscribers have found Plant Information Online to be an invaluable tool to find information on many of the world's plants," adds librarian Richard Isaacson, co-editor and creator of the multiple databases that constitute Plant Information Online.

**MEMBERS' NEWS WEST COMPILED BY:
BARBARA M. PITSCHER, HEAD LIBRARIAN
HELEN CROCKER RUSSELL LIBRARY
OF HORTICULTURE
SAN FRANCISCO BOTANICAL GARDEN AT
STRYBING ARBORETUM
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA**

**Brian R. Thompson,
Curator of Horticultural Literature/
Interim Manager
Elisabeth C. Miller Library
University of Washington Botanic Garden
(UWBG)
Seattle, Washington**

A Celebration of Linnaeus

The Miller Library hosts "A Celebration of Linnaeus," an annotated exhibit of books by and about Linnaeus from the library's collection. Specimens of Pacific Northwest plants named by Linnaeus are included from the UWBG's Otis Douglas Hyde Herbarium. The backdrop uses Linnaean Society publications to explain the importance of binomial plant nomenclature, and features posters of Swedish stamps issued in honor of the tercentenary. At the center of the

exhibit is the Linnean Medal, awarded to UWBG Director David J. Mabberley in 2006.

The exhibit runs from August 20 through October 12 in the Miller Library entry display case and is cosponsored by the Seattle Public Library, which has a similar exhibit at its Central Library. A combined booklist is available with both displays, and includes citations for articles and websites about Linnaeus and the tercentenary. The booklist is available at http://depts.washington.edu/hortlib/resources/booklists_data/Linnaeus_Brochure.pdf.

Farewell to Karen Preuss

Karen Preuss resigned her position as manager of the Miller Library on July 31 because she's "heading home to the east coast." Karen was at the helm for two years, and not only accomplished a great deal, but also seemed to get to know everybody in Seattle during that time. She will continue her membership in CBHL and will be back in Seattle for the annual meeting in 2010. In a farewell note, she wrote, "this isn't goodbye, merely a relocation notice!"

Brian Thompson is interim manager while the UWBG conducts a search for a new manager. In late breaking news, Karen began a new job as Grant Writer/Grants Manager for the Queens Botanical Garden, Queens, New York in September. Can CBHL membership (and maybe even a library!) for Queens be far behind?

Virginia Gardner
VLT Gardner Books
Santa Barbara, California

The Amazing Physical and Intellectual Peregrinations of Member/Colleague/Friend

I just returned from the International Succulent Introductions (ISI) annual meeting / symposium at the Huntington Botanical Gardens, San Marino, California. Had a wonderful time with Dr. Bob Haller and his wife Nancy Vivrette from the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden; heard the new editor of

the *Cactus and Succulent Journal*, who built his own incredible greenhouse in Oakland; and went to hear Myron Kimmach, the former head of the Huntington Botanic Gardens, who spoke very engagingly about his personal plant explorations. I also enjoyed the company of Bill Baker, a nursery specialist in succulents, and Kathy Musial, curator of plants at the Huntington.

Earlier in the year, I went to a family reunion where my cousins even danced with me (a real highlight) because my husband won't dance. (He says that's because Vladimir Horowitz didn't dance.)

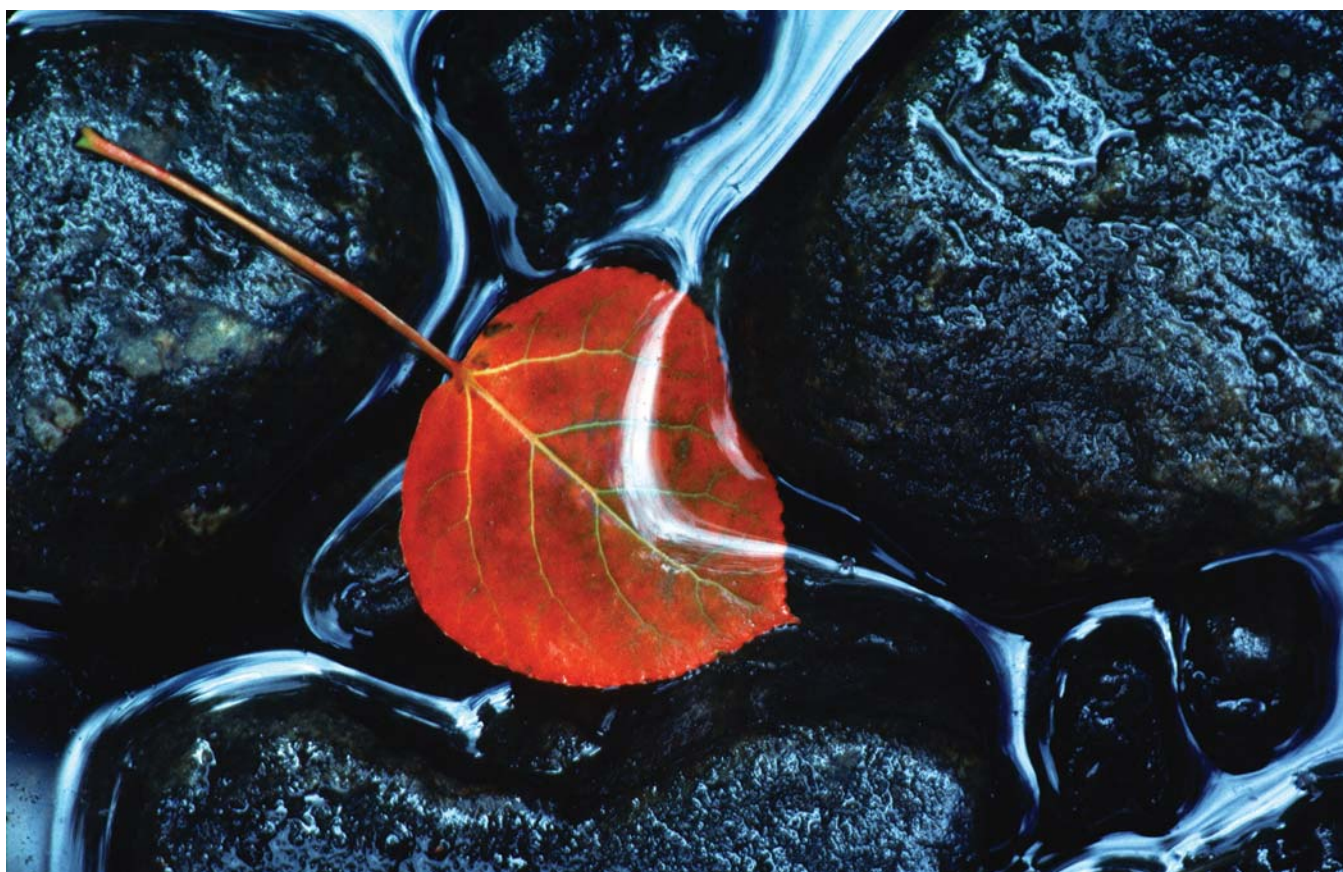
I'm looking forward to going to Rare Book School to study European Bookbinding at the Baltimore Art Museum, and then it's on to Orcas Island while my husband attends a sculpture symposium in Seattle. He took up sculpture to save money on buying a Luis Jimenez piece in 1994, and now has done all the presidents busts, many composers, and many authors, plus several 14-foot sculptures. My daughter says he is an over-achiever, not a renaissance man.

Barbara M. Pitschel, Head Librarian
Helen Crocker Russell Library
San Francisco Botanical Garden
San Francisco, California

Staff Changes

Associate Librarian Jane Glasby, whom many of you met in Cincinnati in June, has accepted a permanent part-time three-day-a-week position as information specialist with the San Francisco Public Library. Jane will continue to work with us two days a week, savoring the challenge of moving our periodicals collection and its management into our Virtua online system. She will also be training and job-sharing her position with our new four-day Assistant Librarian Brandy Kuhl. Brandy first came to us as a library school intern from San Jose State University. For the past year or so, she has worked for us as substitute librarian, covering vacations, illnesses,

continued on page 18



"Velvet Ash in Blue Bog" (top) and "Red Aspen Leaf" (bottom) by Jo-Ann Ordano are part of the photo exhibition at Helen Crocker Russell Library described on page 18.

continued from page 16

conferences, and other special circumstances. Brandy is an intelligent, fast-learning, and delightful addition to our library staff. We wish Jane great success and happiness in her new career step, and we welcome Brandy to our world of botanical and horticultural libraries; she will be added as a new member to the CBHL roster.

Photography Exhibit by Jo-Ann Ordano

From October through December, our library will feature "Autumn Impressions," an exhibition of photographs portraying the magical transformations that occur in North America's deciduous forests as plants respond to autumn's shorter days and colder temperatures with a palette of vivid hues. Images will include Maine's Blueberry Barrens, Southern Ontario's sugar maple forests, cottonwoods of the American Southwest, black oaks seen through morning mist in Yosemite Valley, aspens flowing down the steep eastern escarpment of the Sierra Nevada, and much more (two of her pieces appear on page 17). Jo-Ann is a professional photographer, writer, and teacher, whose work has appeared in natural history, travel, educational, and corporate publications. Sales of photographs will benefit the library.

**Laurie Hannah, Librarian
Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and
Ecological Restoration
University of California
Santa Barbara, California**

IMLS Grant to Continue Cataloging CCBER

The Cheadle Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration (CCBER) at the University of California, Santa Barbara is pleased to announce it has been awarded a Museums for America grant of \$30,633 from the Institute for Museum and Library Services. The one-year grant will provide continuing employment of CCBER's part-time librarian/archivist who will catalog its historical biological manuscript

collections, located in its C. H. Muller Library. Covering such areas as plant anatomy, oak systematics, and plant ecology, the collections represent the life's work of some of UCSB's esteemed faculty and researchers in the biological sciences, such as plant anatomists Katherine Esau and Vernon Cheadle, and taxonomist and plant ecologist Cornelius Muller. The collections, occupying approximately 100 linear feet, contain biographical materials, correspondence, photographs, research notes, publications, and artifacts. Once cataloged, descriptive finding aids will be uploaded to the California Digital Library's Online Archive of California.

This one-year project starts the second phase of the Library Cataloging Project, which began in the spring of 2006 with the establishment of an online library catalog, part of CCBER's contributions towards revealing hidden collections, not located in Davidson Library, on the UCSB campus. The C. H. Muller circulating library collection consists of more than 2,300 catalogued volumes on regional animal and plant distribution, plant anatomy, diatoms, restoration ecology, and local land use and environmental impacts.

**Susan C. Eubank, Arboretum Librarian
Los Angeles County Arboretum &
Botanic Garden
Arcadia, California**

**We Are Ready to Let the Books Go
(and Come Back Too)**

By the time you read this, the Arboretum Library will have become a circulating botanical garden library. With the help of a Good Family Foundation grant, generous monetary assistance from the Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation, and two San Jose State University School of Library and Information Science interns, Megan Berru and Shakti Maisen, the online catalog will appear on our website at www.arboretum.org. Materials will circulate to Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation members.

continued on page 23

The Case of the Truncated Unicorn

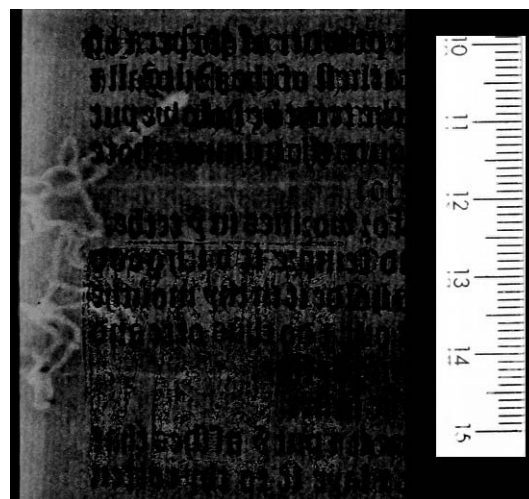
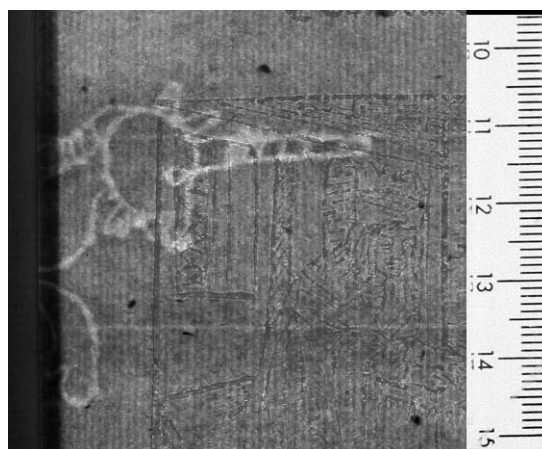
**IAN CHRISTIE-MILLER, PHD
VISITING RESEARCH FELLOW
INSTITUTE OF ENGLISH STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
LONDON, ENGLAND**

“Headless trunk of a unicorn found” does indeed sound sensational. This is an account of research which followed the imaging of a book printed in London in 1526 held in the Huntington Library in Pasadena, California. The book is *Here begynneth a newe boke of medecynes intytulyd or callyd the Treasure of pore men, whiche sheweth many dyuerse good medecines for dyuerse certayn dysseases as in the table of this present boke more playnly shall appere. The boke of medicines.*

The headless trunk referred to above was part of a watermark which I recorded while studying the *newe boke of medecynes*. The partial watermark was found at page signature Lii. The reason for the “beheading” is that the rest of the watermark is hidden in the fold of the book.

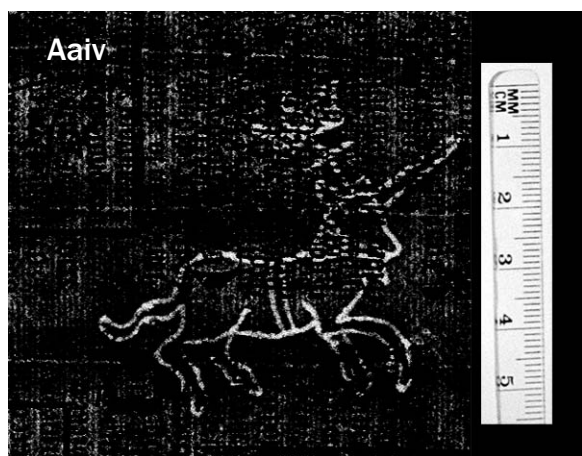


It was decided to investigate this watermark and to try to find the missing head. Various other unicorn watermarks were to be found elsewhere in the book. Two of the candidates are shown here.



Clearly, neither of these was correct. This 1526 London printed book was similar to other such books in that there is a wide range of paper used in one volume.

Help in tracking down the headless unicorn came from a simple search of the early paper database which I had established. The database had been set up initially thanks to a commission from the Royal Horticultural Society. The original subject was the RHS copy of *The Grete Herball*, which was first printed by Treveris in London in 1526. A simple search of the early paper database for unicorn watermarks in that book showed 39 hits. A quick survey showed that there are more than a dozen different unicorn watermarks present in that one book of 174 pages. A search under “crown cross unicorn”, however, only gave three hits – signatures Eiii, Kii and Aaiv. These are shown on the next page.



In the RHS copy of *The Grete Herball* the same watermark occurs at Eiii and at Kii. The watermark at Aaiv is from the same paper mill, but is from another mould.

Other copies of *The Grete Herball* have notably different papers at these three places. In general terms, the copies held at the Hunt Botanical Library, the Huntington, and at the London Natural History Museum share the same paper type at Eiii and at Kii. The unicorn that is the subject of this article is also found at signature Aaiv of the Huntington copy.

Reference to Briquet's *Les Filigranes* shows that the unicorn is his 10.449. He noted it in Neuborg, 1521, in A. Eure: *Plaids des appels des bois et forêts de la Seigneurie*, with variants in Lessay, in 1524, and in Moyaux (Calvados) in 1528. So by use of modern imaging, it has been possible not just to complete the truncated unicorn watermark, but it has also been possible to discern

which paper mould was used and which paper it produced in other books of the same year. This small illustration shows the potential of paper research as it enters the digital age.

The image capture system used relies on backlighting from a one-mm thick, cool electroluminescent light sheet. One of the problems associated with this image capture system is that watermarks are liable to be difficult to discern because of overprinting. The images shown above have overcome this disadvantage by use of graphic handling in Adobe Photoshop.

A notable advance was recently made when a special need arose at Sir John Soane's Museum. In this case, the museum staff wanted to see the versos of drawings which Robert Adam had stuck face down into albums. One solution was to remove the items, but this was unacceptable. An elegant solution was found which involved a variation of the above mentioned imaging technique. Two images were taken, the first was by conventional front lighting, the second by backlighting from the light sheet. He devised a way of subtracting one image from the other so that the verso could be seen easily.

There are fuller details of the above together with a demonstration of the work at Sir John Soane's Museum at <http://www.earlypaper.com>. I have spoken at EBHL about his watermark research. With funding requested from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Getty, I hope to set up an internet watermark research resource. More information about his work can also be seen at the website mentioned above.

How We Succeed

CAROL TRAVENY
TECHNICAL SERVICES LIBRARIAN
SWEDENBORG LIBRARY
BRYN ATHYN COLLEGE
TELFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

Coolness

Have you noticed? It's now cool to be a librarian! Of course, we already knew that. Although the dusty stereotype of the sensible-shoed stamper of date due slips and protector of written civilization still haunts the stacks and our popular culture, at least now she co-exists rather peacefully alongside the hip, tech-savvy, knowledge maven who may or may not have purple hair and a nose-ring, and who is equally at home with manga and folksonomy.

In the last several years, we librarians have finally come into our own. What other white-collar

profession has its own action figure? And we have only the Information Age to thank. The explosion of technological innovation and the evolution of the Internet as the comprehensive information / entertainment / communication vehicle of choice have given librarians, already quintessential purveyors of knowledge, the dizzying opportunity to become leaders in shaping this messy and wonderful brave new digital world. There has never been a better time to be a librarian than right now. Despite all we hear daily about budget cuts, problems of privacy and copyright, and the declining numbers of active readers, we have amazing opportunities to share our resources more efficiently, collaborate more easily, and reach a wider audience—all because of the Web.

There is no doubt that the Web is a powerful communications tool. Nothing since the creation of moveable type has changed the lives of so many people in so many places so quickly – and we still

continued on page 22

CBHL Board of Directors 2007-2008

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New York Botanical Garden
Bronx, New York 10458
Sfraser@nybg.org
718-817-8879

continued from page 21

haven't plumbed the heights (or depths) of possibility. In fact, in *Cluetrain Manifesto* (2000, Chapter 2: "The Longing"), David Weinberger notes, "We don't know what the Web is for but we've adopted it faster than any technology since fire." Whether you're talking about business, government, academia, or your grandmother, having a website is practically synonymous with existence. ("I blog, therefore I am.") But there is an investment – a continuing commitment of time, effort, and resources – that you must make if you want your site to be 1) useful, 2) entertaining, and 3) profitable. The problem is that there are so many handy features and neat options available online already, that users' expectations just keep rising along with the pressure on host organizations to satisfy those expectations. Patrons who used to be tickled over browsing your OPAC from the comfort of home now insist on being able to place holds on items or access virtual reference. Still, creating and sustaining a Web presence is too important an option to ignore. Tech journals, bookstores, (and websites!) are packed with information on creating, maintaining, and effectively using the Web to do all sorts of great things, but before all that – ah, yes – there is planning.

Building a Web presence is much like building anything: if you want a table, you really have to know what a table looks like. In other words, having clear goals and a detailed map of how to get there is fundamental. Start by asking yourself some questions: Why are you doing this? Who are you doing it for? What do those people really want or need? Do you have the wherewithal to realize your goals? How will it help your library? Be as specific as you can. Never assume. Realize these answers are going to be different for every organization. They might even change over time. You may want to think of your website as another branch of your library and construct it with the vision of greeting your patrons at the door, because that is exactly what you will be doing.

With the cost of travel increasing in both time and dollars, more and more research inquiries are being made electronically. The Web has enabled people from all over the world to connect and collaborate on projects without ever meeting "in person." It was two months before my MLIS classmates and I were in the same room together, although the bonds we had forged online as we began our distance learning experience turned into real friendships after that first actual meeting – which on a scale of unique social situations, fit somewhere between old home week and a blind date! Education via the Web strengthened our skills of cooperation, coordination, and thinking both creatively and technically – as useful in analog life as in the digital world.

Web presence can be as simple as access to your catalog and an email address, or as multi-faceted and complex as digital image collections and the blogosphere. In its truest sense, the Web is not a thing – the Web is people and the communities they create that are not limited by distance, time, or culture.

An excellent example, in fact, is the community of CBHL. When you think about it, our website is a hub of CBHL activity. As individual members or member institutions, we all have the means to contribute to the knowledge base as well as reap the rewards of participation. CBHL is truly an embodiment of the whole being greater than the sum of its parts. Our website, the associated CBHL Members Discussion List, and the incredible network of resources we hold collectively, expands our ability to do our jobs while increasing our visibility to the wider world. Best of all, when we have the chance to get together and meet in person, it's not just a group of strangers coming together in the same place, it's old home week. And that's really cool.

RESOURCES

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

**RITA HASSERT
TECHNICAL SERVICES LIBRARIAN
STERLING MORTON LIBRARY
THE MORTON ARBORETUM
LISLE, ILLINOIS**

November 24-December 2, 2007.
Guadalajara, Mexico.
21st Guadalajara International Book Fair.
http://www.fil.com.mx/ingles/i_index.asp

December 3, 2007. Beltsville, MD.
National Agricultural Library.
“Getting the Most Out of Your Institutional Repository: Gathering Content and Building Use.”
http://128.8.237.133/news/events_workshops/ir07/index.html

January 11-16, 2008. Philadelphia, PA.
ALA Midwinter Meeting.
<http://www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferencesb/midwinter/2008/home.htm>

On the Web

continued from page 9

never cease to be amazed at the large projects that have escaped our attention. Our colleagues in Spain have apparently been digitizing their older works for some time, resulting in the **Digital Library of the Real Jardin Botanico of Madrid** bibdigital.rjb.csic.es/ing/index.php, which contains a large collection of books accessible by clickable alphabetical lists of authors and titles.

Members' News West

continued from page 18

The conversion from an old-fashioned card catalog to an online catalog is a slow and arduous process, so you will not be able to instantaneously view our entire collection online. We are starting with about 2,600 records, which will give people a taste of our wonderful collection. The circulation period will be three weeks with two renewals. We will be happy to mail items to non-local Foundation members for the cost of return postage and insurance.

The integrated library system we are using is EOS International's WebExpress. I have been contributing to OCLC since April of 2006 and the retrospective conversion grant for this year will cover about 1,800 records. Everyone – volunteers, interns, and I – has been barcoding the items we are getting ready for OCLC to match and convert. This is an exciting benchmark for us and for our library users.

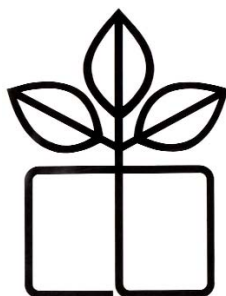
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