

# HUNTIA

A Journal of Botanical History



Volume 10 Number 2  
1999

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Pittsburgh

*Huntia* publishes articles on all aspects of the history of botany and is published irregularly in one or more numbers per volume of approximately 200 pages by the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15213-3890.

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Subscription rate is \$60.00 per volume. Orders for subscriptions and back issues should be sent to the Institute.

Typeset, printed and bound by Allen Press, Inc., Lawrence, Kansas.

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ISSN 0073-4071

## Two flower and bird paintings in the City Palace Museum, Jaipur

James J. White

### Abstract

Two 19th-century miniature watercolors depicting flowers and birds from the City Palace Museum in Jaipur, India, are described and reproduced.

On permanent display in the City Palace Museum in Jaipur, Rajasthan, India, are two 19th-century miniature watercolors depicting flowers and birds. These artworks, previously unpublished, are part of the Art Gallery of the Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum, located in the palace complex built by the royal family.

Figure 1 depicts three flowers and eight small birds. The flowers in the plant on the left seem to be of *Pedicularis*, but the leaves do not match the genus. Figure 2 depicts three plants with one bird and a moth. The prominent plant in the foreground resembles *Calendula*,

and no doubt the branch at the upper right is of a legume. In both paintings the artist or artists have taken liberties in making highly stylized drawings.

### Acknowledgments

I acknowledge the courtesy of Mr. Y. Sahai, Director, Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum, for arranging photography of the artworks and to Hunt Institute photographer Frank Reynolds for improving on the prints. For their exceptional hospitality to me in Jaipur, especially in January 1996, I am indebted to Mr. Airun of Anand Nursery and artists Ramesh and Suresh Sharma and also artists Damodar Gurjar and Jaggu Prasad and art dealer Vijendra Bansal. Dan H. Nicolson, Department of Botany, Smithsonian Institution, commented on the botanical subjects in the paintings.

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Figure 1. Three flower studies with birds, accession AG-1421.



Figure 2. Flowers, bird and moth, accession AG-1418.