

HUNTIA

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HUNTIA

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Short-title list of acquisitions, 1964

Carolyn J. Stanley

IN EACH VOLUME of *Huntia* will be reported the significant book acquisitions of the previous calendar year; the first such report appeared in *Huntia* 1: 137-144, 1964.

Concordant with the Hunt Botanical Library's *Bibliographia Huntiana* project, as outlined in *Huntia* (1: 17-24), its book acquisition program is oriented toward supporting the needs of that project, and thus is concentrated on botanical works published in the period from 1730 to 1840. Occasionally, outstanding earlier works pertinent to other research activities are acquired as they become available. Titles of existing holdings are sometimes duplicated when the second copy is of great bibliographic interest (*e.g.*, in its original parts, with wrappers, or annotated by its author or an identified contemporary owner of importance). One area of acquisition concentration not reflected in the titles reported below, is that of 18th and 19th century botanical and medico-botanical dissertations; the library now possesses a substantial number of Swedish imprint, and continues to search for titles from other countries.

Among the more notable acquisitions of the last year was a lot acquired from W. T. Stearn, which included Hertodt's *Crocologia, seu curiosa Croci regis vegetabilium enucleatio*, . . . (1671), Plukenet's *Almatheum botanicum* . . . — vol. 6 of his *Opera omnia botanica* (London, 1705) — and *Hortus dyckensis*, by Salm-Reifferscheid-Dyck (Düsseldorf, 1834).

A prize acquisition from Lathrop C. Harper was an unbound, uncut, set of Cavanilles' *Icones* . . . (1791-1801) in original wrappers. Jean Rousseau-Girard, of Paris, was able to supply a complete copy of Peter Pallas' *Flora rossica* . . . (Petropoli, 1784), of which the library previously possessed a copy of the first volume only (albeit from the library of Catherine the Great).

A fortunate visit by Dr. Lawrence to the third floor Amsterdam establishment of A. Asher disclosed a uniformly and sumptuously bound set of Bulliard's *Histoire des champignons de la France* (2 vols., 1791) *Herbier de la France* . . . (4 vols., 1780-93), and *Histoire des plantes vénéneuses* . . . (1798). Also at Asher's

was found and purchased a beautiful copy of Martius' *Icones plantarum cryptogamicarum* . . . (Monachii, 1828-34).

Among the earlier works, we are now proud to announce acquisition of a superb copy of the 1546 (Strassburg) edition of Hieronymous Bock's *Kreüterbuch*, of G. de Los Rios' *Agricultura de jardines* . . . (Madrid, 1592), and of Claude Duret's *Histoire admirable des plantes* . . . (Paris, 1605).

At a New York book auction last spring, the Director must have had an expression of disappointment on his face when a long-desired copy of the first edition of Darwin's *On the origin of species* (1859) went at a much higher price than he was prepared to pay. Apparently noting this, a lady beside him bent over and whispered, "Never mind, George, I have a much better copy, and of the first state, that I will be glad to give your library." And so, from Mrs. Sherman P. Haight, there has most generously been given to this collection a very fine copy in its original green cloth binding (unfaded and the gilt yet bright) of this now scarce classic of all biological literature. Later in the year, Mr. and Mrs. Haight contributed the two-volume travel account of Captain J. G. Stedman's *Narrative of a five years' expedition, against the revolted negroes of Surinam, in Guiana* . . . (London, 1796). Stedman's account of the economic uses of the local flora bring this work directly within the library's purview of books on botanical exploration and plant introduction.

From a tip provided by M. Jean-Paul Nicolas, formerly a Hunt Fellow at this library, we have obtained a beautifully bound and complete set of the all-time great French encyclopedia edited by d'Alembert [Jean le Rond] and Diderot, the *Encyclopédie ou dictionnaire raisonné des sciences et des arts; par une Société de Gens de Lettres*. This work, in 35 heavy folio volumes, with more than 2,700 full-page engraved plates, many once or twice folded, was published in Paris (completed in Neufchâtel and Amsterdam), 1751-1780. Known, and often cited in the literature, as the *Grande encyclopédie*, it is the embodiment of all the knowledge of its day in the sciences and the arts. Its articles, like those of its best modern counterparts were written (and usually signed or initialled) by the leading French authorities of that time. The informed botanists dealing with accounts in the 18th century literature, and especially of European plants, know well how often it must be consulted.

The library is delighted to announce receipt of the gift from Mr. Roy A. Hunt of a complete set of *Curtis's botanical magazine* (London, 1784-1948), comprising 179 volumes (plus four index volumes) of 9,688 color plates of botanical portraits and accompanying text. This acquisition nearly completes a small but highly select list of rarities long sought for her library by the late Mrs. Hunt—for this title, we possessed until now only the readily obtain-

able first 53 volumes of this journal, plus those of recent publication.¹ The demands by the working taxonomists of all countries for this great British work of flower iconography has siphoned off into institutional libraries virtually all of the available sets of this work; the number of complete sets known today to remain in private hands is estimated to be less than a dozen, of which about half are in Britain. This set came from the Gray Herbarium, Harvard University, and was formerly in the private library of the late Mr. Francis W. Hunnewell, of Wellesley, Massachusetts.

It is a pleasure at this time to thank the following donors, not mentioned above, who have favored this library during the last calendar year with significant gifts of botanical and horticultural books and manuscripts. The spontaneity with which these contributions have come to us, from more than double the number of contributors of all previous years, has added many new names to our growing list of friends.

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In the list of acquisitions which follows, cities of publication are spelled as they appear on the title-page. Dates are bracketed where they appear on the title-page as roman numerals, and a bracketed date preceded by "n.d." shows that the date is lacking on the title-page, but that it has been supplied from other sources.

¹ Broken and incomplete sets of *Curtis's botanical magazine* are available on the used-book market. Contrary to what one might expect, it is not the earlier volumes that are rare, but those published in the last third of the 19th century, when reduction in the number of subscriptions greatly reduced the size of the print order for each issue.

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