



Lorenz & Baum



To our many Friends

The painting reproduced on this year's greeting is of the Christmas- or Jerusalem-Cherry, a plant known in cultivation for at least four centuries, and probably of Old World origin. The unreliability of common names is reflected here, for this shrubby plant of the potato family is unknown as a native of Jerusalem, or any part of the Near East. It is also unrelated to the true cherries (as indicated by the hyphenated common name). These names are of recent "coinage" and neither appears in literature of a century or more ago. The Christmas epithet, however, is suitable since, in this hemisphere, the fruit ripens at this season. Botanically, the plant is known as *Solanum pseudocapsicum* (the latter word meaning false pepper), and one of its earliest portrayals appeared in Besler's *Hortus Eystettensis* (Nuremberg, 1613). The 4-color reproduction on this year's card, by the Meriden Gravure Press, is of an acrylic painting on gesso panel by Norton Peterson. The original is in our permanent collection. Mr. Peterson is the first Pittsburgh artist to be represented on one of our greeting cards.

The year now ending has been more one of recapitulation and assimilation than of new activities. The acquisition of the Strandell Collection of Linnaeana has generated considerable effort to produce an annotated catalogue, stimulated by the guidance and work at the library this Autumn of Dr. Birger Strandell of Stockholm, the collection's Honorary Curator. In this he was assisted by Mrs. Strandell. An unreported facet of the Collection is a large collection of highly important newspaper cuttings, dating from the early 19th century to the present. More than 4,000 have been catalogued, complete with place and date of publication. Many are by scholars outstanding for their investigations of Linnaeus' work, and whose contributions, now brought

together by this newspaper literature, will prove most useful to our studies. The clippings have been treated chemically to preserve them, and are mounted under acetate protective sheets in 48 large loose-leaf albums. A majority of them will be included in the forthcoming catalogue.

Last Spring, Gilbert Daniels, this library's Assistant Director and supervisor of the *Bibliographia Huntiana* project, visited our staff members working at various centers in Europe. Among them was Mrs. Nina Smith who, in July, completed a year examining holdings of botanical books at the Komarov Botanical Institute in Leningrad. There she was given every opportunity to search out and study this exceedingly large and important collection. Since then she has been working in Helsinki and currently is in Stockholm. Born and raised in Finland, of Swedish/Russian parents, she is linguistically highly competent for these assignments. In the course of her investigations in Leningrad she "uncovered" many works whose titles are new to our inventory of botanical literature.

Numerous conferences with our advisory board and others have led this year to a restructuring of the publication plan for *Bibliographia Huntiana*. This encyclopedic work now in progress will account for the world's botanical and horticultural literature published from 1730 through 1840. It will consist of seven volumes of annotated entries for all pertinent books, pamphlets, and periodical articles, with photographic reproductions of the title-pages of the books. More than half of the project's staff of 19 are concerned with the indexing, volume by volume from library shelves, here and abroad, of some 2,600 titles of periodicals.

The library's Spring exhibition of botanical art featured 65 drawings and prints by Peter Takal of New York City, 13 botanical sculptures by Elfriede Abbe of Cornell University, and 10 bouquets of parchment-paper flowers by Mrs. Norris Prather Jones of Old Lyme, Connecticut. An illustrated catalogue of the exhibition is available on request.

In June, the library was the proud recipient of a very substantial indefinite loan by the St. Regis Paper Company, of 21 watercolors by Jack Kunz (now returned to his native Zurich). These served as the originals of a remarkable series of the Com-

pany's advertisements in American magazines of nationwide circulation. The series features many aspects of the trees and forests that are the source of pulp paper and paper products. The botanical accuracy of these paintings is exceedingly high, with no loss of aesthetic beauty. The paintings were presented at an appropriate ceremony by the president of the St. Regis Paper Company, Mr. William R. Adams, and accepted for Carnegie-Mellon University by President H. Guyford Stever. An exhibition of these works is scheduled at the library for October 1970.

Every five years, botanists of the world gather at an International Botanical Congress. The XIth was held this year in Seattle. For this occasion the library accepted the invitation to exhibit 86 frames of drawings and paintings by 79 twentieth century botanical artists and illustrators, representing 28 countries. A copy of the illustrated catalogue of that exhibition was given all Congress registrants. A limited number is available on request. This Congress was attended by some 7,000 persons (about 4,500 botanists from all nations), and the opportunity to present such an exhibit gave this library unusually wide publicity.

Recently, the library was presented, on indefinite loan from the Smithsonian Institution, a collection of excellent watercolors by Frederick A. Walpole (1861-1904), of wildflowers and other plants of the western United States. Made while Walpole was on the staff of the U. S. Department of Agriculture as a botanical artist, they are considered by John Brindle, our Art Curator, to be among the finest examples of work by an American botanical artist. The majority of them is unpublished. A study of Walpole and his work is now in progress.

With this brief year-end message I and the staff extend to all our warmest greetings and with them our thanks for the many courtesies and considerations received by us during this year.

Most sincerely,
George H. M. Lawrence, *Director*
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Carnegie-Mellon University
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