



# The Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries, Inc.

Newsletter

Number 105

May 2007

## The Lloyd Library and Museum

Cincinnati, Ohio

**Maggie Heran, Director**  
**Lloyd Library and Museum**  
**Cincinnati, Ohio**

The Lloyd Library and Museum, a privately-funded independent research library, holds, identifies, acquires, preserves, and provides access to both historic and current books and journals, as well as archival materials, on a wide variety of disciplines that fall under the broad subject areas of natural history, botany, pharmacy, and medicine. This institution's resources are, in fact, an eclectic blend of a host of related sciences and their history, including, but not limited to, chemistry, zoology, forestry, pharmacognosy, phytomedicine, ethnobotany, folk and traditional medicine, and alternative healing practices. In addition, the library holds materials on gardening, gardening history, horticulture, agriculture, cosmetics, perfumery, eclectic and sectarian medicine, and alchemy. Despite the scientific focus, the collections have relevance to the humanities, such as visual arts and foreign languages, through resources that feature botanical illustrations, original artworks, and travel and exploration literature. With over 200,000 volumes and nearly 1,000 linear feet of archives (including papers of herbalists, pharmacists, chemists, pharmacognosists, and materials related to the founders of the library) the Lloyd Library's coverage in its collection areas continues to be nearly comprehensive.

The library is a product of the endeavors of three men—John Uri, Nelson Ashley, and Curtis Gates Lloyd—brothers who were all apprenticed as pharmacists in the latter half of the 19th century.

Tradition holds that the nucleus of the library can be found in the two books John Uri, the oldest Lloyd brother, brought with him to Cincinnati in 1864 when he began his apprenticeship at W. J. M Gordon and Brother. The books were Edward Parrish's 1864 edition of *A Treatise on Pharmacy* and George Fownes' 1864 edition of *A Manual of Elementary Chemistry, Theoretical and Practical*. As Lloyd's career grew, so too did his book collection. By 1885, the Lloyds owned their own pharmaceutical business—Lloyd Brothers, Pharmacists, Inc., where a portion of their manufacturing facility was dedicated to the growing library. The Lloyds became avid book collectors because they wanted the best resources close to hand (in what we might today call a corporate library) in order to produce the highest quality Eclectic medicines, the products in which they specialized. Eclecticism was one of many healing philosophies of the 19th century, opposed to what was then called Regular Medicine, whose practitioners adhered to a very harsh regimen of purging, bleeding, and blistering. While Eclecticism is not easily defined, its therapeutics relied heavily upon medicinal plant treatments which differed from other botanical preparations of the era by being more highly concentrated, using fresh rather than dried specimens, and emphasizing use of native American plants



John Uri Lloyd, courtesy of the Lloyd Library and Museum.

*continued on pg. 3*

## From the President

**Susan Fraser, Director  
LuEsther T. Mertz Library  
New York Botanical Garden  
Bronx, New York**

Dear CBHL Members,

As libraries face the challenges of user demand for new technologies, including digitization and e-resources, we must navigate and critically evaluate the growing information universe. As part of our busy schedules, an essential daily task is incorporating new technologies into existing services, and finding the right balance. While traditional library skills remain essential we must continue to hone our skills to meet our constituents' evolving needs. To keep on top of our game, networking with colleagues is an essential element of librarianship. The collaboration that membership in CBHL provides has and continues to be an invaluable resource.

The CBHL listserv alone allows for the free exchange of botanical or library-related information. Member libraries can post difficult reference questions or hard-to-find citations; exchange collection development policies, database design plans, and policy statements; and discuss professional development issues.

With each new issue of the *CBHL Newsletter*, I am increasingly impressed with the amount of member activity and involvement. The newsletter

has become a great resource for book reviews, announcements of upcoming exhibitions, and it serves as an avenue for alerting members to new and relevant web sites. The increased number of images being published in the *Newsletter* has made the content even richer.

The CBHL Board convened by teleconference on February 20, 2007. During the meeting, the Board passed a resolution to increase the travel reimbursement for members of the Board to attend the mid-year Board meeting. To facilitate and encourage participation in the Board by CBHL members, the reimbursement will now include both transportation costs and hotel accommodations. Another discussion of note was on the dissolution of the Resource Sharing Committee. After reviewing the Strategic Plan, the Board agreed that the resource sharing mission of the organization is being carried out by other standing committees. The Board unanimously agreed to dissolve the ad hoc Resource Sharing Committee and a resolution was passed. The Board, thanks to Gayle Bradbeer, has also created a CBHL wiki to facilitate CBHL business.

As my year as CBHL President comes to end, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve the membership and I am looking forward to handing the gavel over to Kathy Allen who I am confident will serve us well.

With best wishes,  
Susan Fraser

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rather than the diverse materials used by other pharmacists.

By 1901, the Lloyds' research collection outgrew its space in the manufacturing facility; then, it rapidly outgrew two other buildings before 1908 when a new building was erected near the pharmacy. This structure housed the library for nearly 75 years. It was 22 by 72 feet, with room initially for more than 6,200 linear feet of shelving. By the end of its usefulness, it held some 11,500 linear feet of shelving containing about 98,000 volumes. The current building, designed with expansion in mind, was erected in 1970 with four floors and a base-ment equaling more than 30,000 square feet of space.

The museum aspect of the library was an outgrowth of the herbarium created by Curtis Gates Lloyd, who, in addition to being a trained pharmacist, became a well-known botanist and mycologist. The herbarium was divided and dispersed after Curtis' death, with the botanical specimens transferred to the University of Cincinnati and the mushroom specimens

transferred to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, where it is now part of the U.S. National Fungus Collections. Although these collections are no longer at the Lloyd, the library maintains its museum aspect by providing access to



Curtis Gates Lloyd, courtesy of the Lloyd Library and Museum.

historic pharmacy implements, original artwork, book and art exhibitions, and artifacts, such as bottles from Lloyd Brothers, Pharmacists, Inc.

The library is indeed one of the Lloyds' most enduring legacies. And, as it grew, the Lloyds provided for its future. In 1898, John Uri Lloyd drew up Articles of Incorporation to insure the library's legal standing and establish its mission "to collect and maintain a library on botanical, medical, pharmaceutical, and scientific books and periodicals and works of allied sciences"; and in 1917, Curtis Gates Lloyd established the trust under which the library continues to operate.



The Lloyd Library Building 1908-1970, courtesy of the Lloyd Library and Museum.



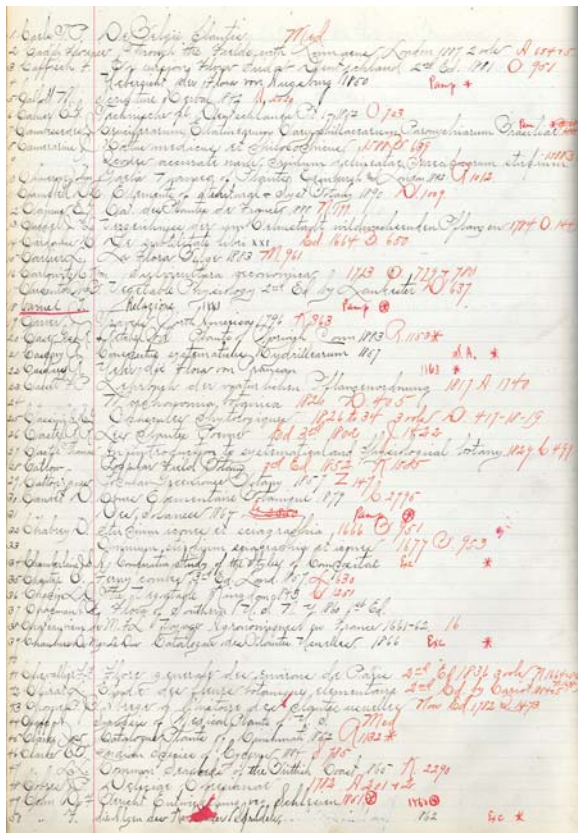
Medicines sold by Lloyd Brothers, Pharmacists, Inc., courtesy of the Lloyd Library and Museum.

The Lloyds' collected a significant number of important fundamental resources upon which to build. They developed "want lists" and made purchases based on a keen knowledge of the key literature, both historical and contemporary, in their subjects of interest. The earliest catalog in the Lloyd's archives is handwritten by Curtis and dated 1893. A short list of the titles in the library at that time demonstrates that they collected with purpose and expertise: Bigelow's *American Medical Botany* and three editions of his *Florula Bostoniensis*; two editions of Benjamin Smith Barton's *Elements of Botany*; several titles and editions by both Alphonse de Candolle and Augustin Pyramus de Candolle; Dominique Chabrey's *Omnium Stirpium Sciagraphia et Icones* (a book once owned and annotated by Jean-Jacques Rousseau); several titles by Albrecht von Haller; several titles by both Joseph Dalton Hooker and William Jackson Hooker; a full page of the catalog lists titles by Linnaeus; Leonhard Fuchs' *De Historia Stirpium Commentarii Insignes* and *Historia Generale des Plantes*;

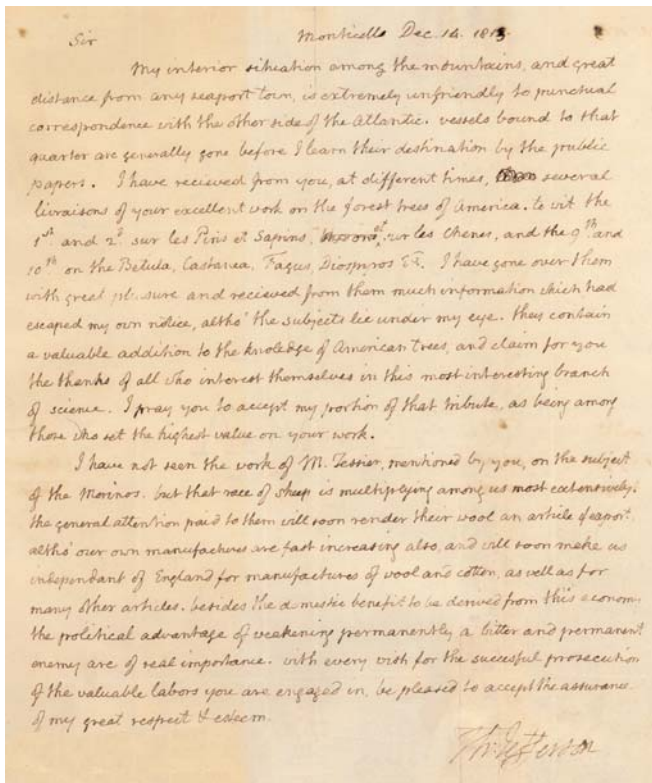
titles by Herman Boerhaave and Hieronymus Bock; William Woodville's *Medical Botany*; and, one of the original 25 copies of Sibthorp's *Flora Graeca*, for which there is also evidence that Curtis had this on his "want list" and was tracking prices at auction houses, such as Christie's. During the CBHL meeting this year, the Lloyd will feature books from this catalog in the exhibition "Seeds of a Great Library: Selections from Lloyd's 1893 Book Catalog."

With such an exemplary foundation, subsequent librarians ably followed the precedent set and continued to acquire rare, unique, and important resources to add to the collection. Among the hundreds of thousands of books and items acquired since 1893, a few deserve special mention. The Lloyd acquired its oldest book in 1937. Commonly known as *Mesue Vulgare*, this edition of the *Antidotarium* of Mesue was printed in Venice in 1493. It is a list of drugs compiled by an Arabic physician who wrote the original manuscript sometime around the 10th century. It was the most popular compendium of drugs in medieval Europe and is considered the very first important pharmaceutical work ever printed. In 1927, the Lloyd purchased the 1857 English edition of François André Michaux's *North American Sylva* from Paris. Upon examining the book, a letter from Thomas Jefferson to Michaux was found within its pages. The letter is dated from Monticello December 14, 1813 and bears the signature of Jefferson. In it, he praises Michaux's latest publication on North American trees and discusses exporting of wool and cotton. One last unique item worth noting is a handwritten manuscript by French botanist Joseph Pitton de Tournefort. Written in 1708, Tournefort describes the plants in the Jardin du Roi. Throughout the Lloyd's collections, one can find many more examples demonstrating the significance and uniqueness of its resources.

Today the Lloyd continues to add to these resources through continued purchase and donations of both contemporary and historic materials. Some recent acquisitions of note include the



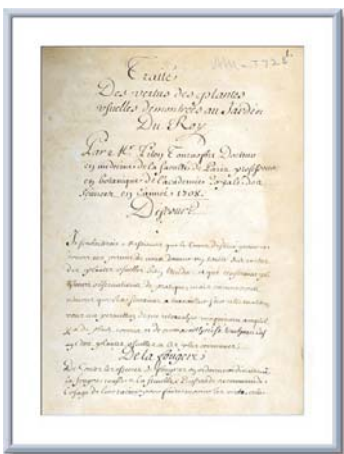
Page from the first Lloyd catalog, courtesy of the Lloyd Library and Museum.



Letter from Thomas Jefferson to André Michaux, courtesy of the Lloyd Library and Museum.

papers of Dr. George Rieveschl, Jr., the chemist who developed the well-known antihistamine Benadryl; several medicinal recipe manuscript books from apothecaries, both foreign and domestic, living in the 18th and 19th centuries; a scarce practical pharmacology handbook for physicians and surgeons published in 1783 by Johann Essich; Jean Prevost's 1666 *Hortulus Medicus*

*Selectioribus Remediis*; a first edition (1801) of *L'Art du Parfumeur* by Jean Louis Fargeon, Marie-Antoinette's personal perfumer; and, a one-of-a-kind book titled *Hemerocallis* by a local book artist.



Joseph Pitton de Tournefort's description of the plants in the Jardin du Roi, courtesy of the Lloyd Library and Museum.

Although the Lloyd does not have a natural constituency, such as institutionally-connected faculty, students, or researchers, it serves a wide variety of clients, locally, nationally, and internationally. From historians and philosophers



*Hemerocallis* created by book artist Carolyn Whitesel, courtesy of the Lloyd Library and Museum.

of medicine and science to contemporary practicing herbalists, many rely on the depth of the Lloyd collection for both scholarly research and practical applications. In recent years, the Lloyd has instituted programming to appeal to all segments of the general public. The Changing Exhibits program often features works of botanical illustrations and other visual arts, frequently accompanied by a related lecture. Recently, the library has also created space for a small gallery available for art exhibitions. Several area colleges and universities bring classes for orientation and special projects. The library also offers meeting space and group visits, as well as off-site presentations on the Lloyd's history and collections. In addition, the library now has two children's programs: Budding Artists for children ages 6-10; and, Mother Nature's Story Time for children ages 3-6. These new programs, along with increased emphasis on publicity and advertising, as well as a newly designed website with enhanced content, are reaching people in new ways and keeping us very busy indeed.

We look forward to hosting our CBHL colleagues in June; and, hope you will find the Lloyd, as others do, an eclectic and interesting institution to both visit and utilize.

## Welcome New Members

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

Nancy Carol Carter

Kathryn L. Earnest  
Green Spring Gardens Library

Lana Kelley

Anneli Meeder  
NHBS Environment Bookstore

Kathy L. Pearl

Nathan Smith  
The New York Botanical Garden Press

### Collections Survey Underway! Send Us Your Information!

In early 2007, survey forms were sent to all CBHL members who are currently affiliated with libraries or archives, asking for information about photographs, botanical art and illustration, seed and nursery catalogs, and index semina in their collections. Results of the survey are being databased by Kathy Crosby of Brooklyn Botanic Garden. Please see the CBHL web site for the questionnaires and other information, at [http://www.cbhl.net/members/comm\\_info/pac\\_survey.htm](http://www.cbhl.net/members/comm_info/pac_survey.htm). This is a great opportunity to pool information about your non-book collections for access by other CBHL members, giving us all an extra path into each other's collections. The survey is aimed at pulling together information that you won't find in OCLC, but that can help us all do a better job of finding information and making referrals. Please send us information about your collections! Although there was no deadline specified on the questionnaires, (and we will continue to accept information indefinitely!) we would like very much to receive your information by May 31, 2007, so that Kathy will have a good aggregate of material to work with. Questions about the survey? Contact PAC chair Charlotte "Chuck" Tancin at [ctancin@cmu.edu](mailto:ctancin@cmu.edu). Questions about the database go to Kathy Crosby at [kcrosby@bbg.org](mailto:kcrosby@bbg.org).

## From Seed to Flower: Selected Books from the Cornelius J. Hauck Botanical Collection

**BARBARA J. DAWSON**  
**CURATOR OF PRINTED WORKS**  
**CINCINNATI HISTORICAL SOCIETY LIBRARY**  
**CINCINNATI MUSEUM CENTER**  
**CINCINNATI, OHIO**

Unveiled in December 2006 by the Cincinnati Historical Society Library, Cincinnati Museum Center, the online exhibit highlights eleven works from the collection.

A brief history of each work is accompanied by selected images from that work. The introduction explains how the collection was begun, built and eventually acquired by the library. The exhibit may be viewed at: <http://library.cincymuseum.org/bot/hauckexhibit.htm>.



Sunflowers by John Miller (Johann Sebastian Mueller), 1715-1792. From *Illustratio Systematis Sexualis Linnaei*. London: Prostat venalis apud auctorem in Curia Dorsettiana juxta Parliament Street, 1777.

## **Botanicus.org: What Digitization Can Do For Botany**

**DOUG HOLLAND, LIBRARY DIRECTOR  
MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI**

Digitizing, indexing, and annotating historical scientific literature is vital to future research in systematic botany, the science of the identification of plants. Over 67,000 systematic botanical publications exist, but only those most recently published are in digitized form.

Like other natural history disciplines -- but unlike the physical sciences -- systematic botany is built upon and requires frequent reference to the literature of its past. To conduct carefully documented and authenticated research, botanists must spend weeks in library collections searching the published botanical literature for data to develop a new project or substantiate their recent observations. Comprehensive collections of botanical literature are only available in a handful of libraries, all located in North America and Europe. For botanical researchers, these library-centered literature searches, while a crucial requirement of any project, delay hypothesis development or recognition and publication of new plant discoveries. For those living and working in the developing parts of the world, the lack of access to library resources compounds these difficulties. Further, no matter how scrupulous the search, when scientists must work manually through an array of journals and books it is impossible to be sure that all historical facts have been located and all published observations have been seen.

To improve access and searching of scientific literature, we are building *Botanicus*, a freely accessible, Web-based encyclopedia of digitized botanical literature from the Missouri Botanical Garden. We began digitizing materials from our library in 1995, initially focusing on beautifully

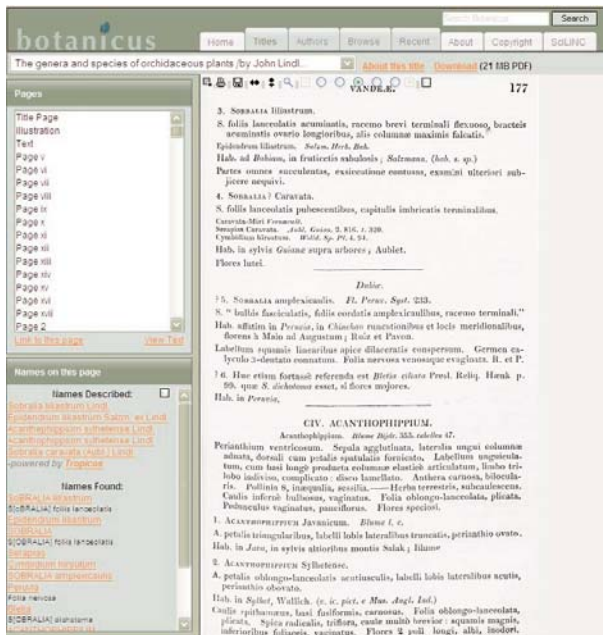
illustrated volumes from our rare book collection resulting in our *Illustrated Garden* website, [www.illustratedgarden.org](http://www.illustratedgarden.org). Our more recent project *Botanicus*, [www.botanicus.org](http://www.botanicus.org), expands our selection criteria to include the core literature of taxonomic botany. To date, we have digitized more than 600,000 pages of text, tables, and illustrations. The digital page images are processed by software that produces machine readable text that can be indexed and searched, allowing researchers to digitally unearth new information and speeding up the process of naming and describing the world's plant biodiversity.

The digital volumes and pages on *Botanicus* have several access points. Librarians and casual users will most likely search *Botanicus* through the Botanicus.org portal. Here books are found by traditional methods such as title, author and date, in either a list form or by a title search. Searching by author, title, or subject is not yet as complete or powerful as a traditional library catalog system. So, all *Botanicus* titles can also be searched for and accessed through our library catalog, <http://www.srlc.org/search~S1/>. A link to *Botanicus* is added to the original bibliographic record of every title digitized as well as from the newly created electronic resource record for that title. For botanists the most popular access points are links from name records in TROPICOS, the Missouri Botanical Garden's botanical information database, [www.tropicos.org](http://www.tropicos.org). TROPICOS contains individual database records for more than one million plant names. Each of these names includes a citation pointing to the publication where this name was first described. There are now more than 115,000 of these "protologues" links from TROPICOS directly to the digital title in *Botanicus* and sometimes to the exact page image. Web statistics for *Botanicus* showed a substantial increase in hits when this feature in TROPICOS was implemented, indicating the ease and popularity of this access point. One of our primary goals for *Botanicus* is to link as many of the one million TROPICOS name records to original descriptions as possible.

(For an example of protologues linking from TROPICOS, see the two screen shots. The first image is from TROPICOS for the name record *Sobralia lillastrum* Lindl., showing the “View in Botanicus” link. The second screen shot is the *Botanicus* page that automatically resolves from clicking the link, showing the page from this 1833 publication containing the original description for the taxon.)



Tropicos link to Botanicus, courtesy of Missouri Botanical Garden.



Page of text in Botanicus showing description of plant linked from Tropicos, courtesy of Missouri Botanical Garden.

As proud as we are of *Botanicus* and happy that it is seeing increasing use and speeding the taxonomic process, there remain problems to solve and many improvements to be made. Some problems are beyond our scope to address. Many areas of the world, particularly Africa and parts of Latin America, still have very limited access to the internet and certainly little access to internet connections fast enough to take advantage of *Botanicus*. We, of course, cannot do much to improve internet access in Africa, but we can and do try to make our site as streamlined as possible. Even if users must wait for a slow download, it still takes less time and money than a flight to London, New York, or Boston to look at an original.

We also continue to improve metadata and indexing capabilities. One major technical hurdle is adding page numbers to our digital books. At first glance this seems trivial but it is not. As librarians we are well equipped to handle books as a single item. But imagine if you had to catalog every page of a book. This is the problem we encounter with digital books. Automated processes do not record the page numbers as printed on every page. This has to be done by a human. We have a tool to help automate the process called “The Paginator,” but every volume and many of the 600,000 pages must individually be assigned page numbers for each page record in the *Botanicus* database. This critical bit of information along with the title and volume information from the bibliographic record allows both computers and humans to more accurately and quickly locate specific protologues citations.

MBG is a leader but is not alone in this effort to digitize literature. Many natural history museums and libraries have begun scanning materials individually, but have recently banded together to form the Biodiversity Heritage Library Project <http://bhl.si.edu/>. MBG is a member of this joint effort of the world’s ten largest natural history libraries to scan and make freely available all biodiversity literature.



## Members' News

**MEMBERS' NEWS EAST COMPILED BY:  
SHELLY KILROY, LIBRARIAN  
PETER M. WEGE LIBRARY  
FREDERIK MEIJER GARDENS  
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN**

**Sally Williams, Editor  
Garden, Landscape & Horticulture Index  
EBSCO Publishing  
Ipswich, Massachusetts**

Sally Williams participated in EBSCO Publishing's "Green Week" program in January. She gave two presentations to company employees titled "How Green Is Your Yard? Landscaping for a Cleaner Environment." Other presenters were MassRIDES, a group facilitating carpooling, and Essex County Greenbelt Association, a land trust conservation group. During the week, EBSCO Publishing (EP) initiated the concept through "Green Zone" signage throughout its facilities, and distributed recycle bins, reusable water bottles, and Al Gore's book or DVD, *An Inconvenient Truth*, to employees. Sally is a member of EP's Green Team committee which planned the event. The Green Team generates, researches, and implements environmentally-friendly practices for EP, and is a resource for staff members who wish to adopt "green" practices in their homes. Committee minutes and resources are published on the company's internal wiki website. Green tips are published in the company's newsletter "About EP." Another Green Week is planned in April during the week following Earth Day. For more information, contact Sally at [swilliams@epnet.com](mailto:swilliams@epnet.com).

**LuAnne Schwarz, Librarian  
Atlanta Botanical Garden  
Atlanta, Georgia**

I am excited about our new exhibition opening April 28, 2007, "David Rogers' BIG BUGS AND KILLER PLANTS." Gargantuan insects sculpted

from hardwoods will thrill visitors. Plants also have their day. Atlanta Botanical Garden maintains the largest public display of carnivorous plants in the world!

I will be offering garden storybook times about bugs and carnivorous plants for preschoolers. We will also have insect cooking demos, an insect petting zoo, a Bug-Athalon, and other fun activities for all ages. Check out our website for more info at [www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org](http://www.atlantabotanicalgarden.org).

**Susan Fraser, Director  
LuEsther T. Mertz Library  
New York Botanical Garden  
Bronx, New York**

*Paradise in Print* to Open in the LuEsther T. Mertz Library: an Exhibition of Lavish Folios and Rare Artwork Featuring the Beauty and Rich History of Caribbean Flora

For centuries, the Caribbean has been identified with romantic landscapes, brightly colored flowers, and delicious fruits. *Paradise in Print* will present a magnificent display of rarely seen, Caribbean-related illustrated works from the collections of the LuEsther T. Mertz Library. It



will open on April 28, 2007 in the Mertz Library's William D. Rondina and Giovanni Foroni LoFaro Gallery at the New York Botanical Garden and will run through July 29, 2007.



*Artocarpus Integrifolia...*  
Colored stipple engraving by J-B Dien (active 1799-1827) in *Flora Antillarum* by Richard Francois de Tussac (1751-1837). Paris: Apud, Auctorem et F. Schoell, 1808-27.

Beautifully printed folio editions and rare books, as well as original watercolors by artists associated with the Botanical Garden, will bring to life 500 years of Caribbean history and culture. Following the Spanish conquest, European explorers recorded and celebrated their plant discoveries in publications depicting regional flora. The images capture the exotic beauty of the plants, topography, and natural history of the region. Primarily intended to classify and describe the plants, these images show the Caribbean through the eyes of the early explorers and colonists.



Highlighting both the Caribbean's past and present, the exhibition will be a testament to the importance of art in the service of scientific research and exploration. *Paradise in Print* will offer

"Le Mangotier"  
Chromolithograph from Etienne Denisse (active 1814-1846) in *Flore d'Amerique dessinee d'apres natur sur les lieux*. Paris: Gihaut freres, 1843-1846.

an unparalleled opportunity to appreciate the Caribbean's beautiful flora within the context of its rich history and culture.

The islands have been subject to Western-style development longer than any other part of the New World. Depletion of natural resources and the widespread cultivation of sugarcane and other new crops resulted in broad transformation of Caribbean island landscapes. A surprising number of plants commonly associated with the Caribbean region are not actually native to the area. Nonetheless, despite development, plant diversity in the Caribbean remains high and more than half of the species occur only in the region, often on just one island. This represents a surprisingly high percentage of unique flora for a region so heavily developed and trafficked.

*Paradise in Print* will be part of a larger celebration of Caribbean flora and culture at the Botanical Garden in the spring of 2007, collectively known as *Caribbean Gardens: Journey to Paradise*. Other components will include a Caribbean flower show in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory and an extensive program of public lectures and events featuring Caribbean horticulture, music, food, dance, and other aspects of the region's many cultures.

### Plant Information Service Webpages

The Plant Information Service webpages of the LuEsther T. Mertz Library have been incorporated into the newly created Home Gardening On-Line section of the website of the New York Botanical Garden <http://www.nybg.org>. While website visitors can learn about The New York Botanical Garden's Home Gardening Center, access to the enhanced Plant Information Service webpages is gained only by entering your e-mail address and a password.

Resources available include the monthly gardening calendar with tips on what chores to do in your USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 6 garden each month; FAQ's; fact sheets on a variety of

topics related to home gardening, from cleaning the indoor air to plants that deer despise. In addition to learning about what is in flower at the Garden, registered users can also view a number of how-to guides and recommended plant profiles, and send their specific questions directly to an expert for guidance at [pltinfo@nybg.org](mailto:pltinfo@nybg.org). Or the Plant Information Office can be contacted directly at 718-817-8868 Monday through Friday 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and our plant experts Dorrie Rosen and Anita Finkle-Guerrero will be happy to respond. Future plans for the web site include adding the most current information to help gardeners in a changing climate.

### New Staff Members

The Mertz Library is pleased to announce the hiring of Lisa Studier as Metadata Cataloger to replace long-time cataloger Harry Chapman, who retired last June. Lisa has a BA from Oberlin College in History and Art History, and an MLS from Queens College. She is an artist, and has worked as a web designer and software analyst. One of her first tasks has been to catalog websites for climate change resources on the Mertz Library's website.

We are also pleased to announce that Rachel Lapkin has joined the Library as Assistant Conservator. Rachel received her MLS with a Specialization in Special Collections from Indiana University in 2001. She comes to NYBG from Chicago, where she worked in Conservation at The Newberry Library for five years. Besides good food, she is interested in the history of the book and bookbinding.

The LuEsther T. Mertz Library Archives and Manuscripts Collection at the New York Botanical Garden are now available on the World Wide Web in EAD (Encoded Archival Description). There are currently 119 collections of personal papers; institutional records of the Garden; and repository archives of, for example, The Wild Flower Preservation Society of America. More finding aids will be added periodically.

### Archives & Manuscripts Finding Guides Online

In the past, collections were described to the series level, whereas EAD allows one to navigate the collections through to an item level description. The guides are arranged to provide information about a collection's provenance and the conditions under which it may be accessed or copied; biographical or organizational histories related to the collection; material in other collections and/or repositories that may be related to the collection; material that has been separated from the collection for preservation purposes and its corresponding location; a note describing the scope and content of the collection; and progressively detailed descriptions of the parts or components of the collection together with the corresponding container numbers, or other means for researchers to identify and request the physical entities of interest to them.

The contents of the EAD finding guides are encoded in XML and content display is controlled by an XSL style sheet. This produces an end user HTML frame display to enable access through multiple browsers and for viewing of an expandable table of contents at all times while navigating the body of the guide. In addition, there are links embedded in the guide that allow the user to view a printable copy of the guide or to open a new browser window to the main pages for the Archives, Mertz Library, International Plant Science Center, and the New York Botanical Garden home page.

This two-year project was funded with a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the work was performed by Kathleene Konkle, the Project Archivist.

### **Beth Wohlgemuth, Head Librarian Illinois Natural History Survey Library Champaign, Illinois**

### INHS Library Moved to a New Location

The Illinois Natural History Survey library was becoming very cramped with little space for

library users to sit and relax. This was changed when the library moved in December 2005 to a new location. Our 46,000 volumes are now housed in a more spacious area (6,389 sq. ft.) in an area called the South Research Park, on the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign campus. The move took a little under a week and we had been able to vacuum the majority of the collection before we moved.



A new home for the Illinois Natural History Survey library.

The new library is much more comfortable with ample space for users, a rare book room, a room for archival materials, staff offices, and a staff processing room. The electronic shelving will insure that we have enough shelf area for many years to come. For more photographs see <http://www.library.uiuc.edu/nhx/moveflyer.htm>.

We had a grand opening celebration May 12th, 2006 and have settled in nicely.

If you would like to know more, the INHS Library was featured in the February 2007 issue (vol. 25:1) of the *Illinois Library Association Reporter*.

<http://www.library.uiuc.edu/orr/get.php?instid=275644>. The article, on page 14, includes photos and information about the INHS, the new building, and our collection.

**MEMBER NEWS WEST COMPILED BY:  
BARBARA M. PITSCHEL, HEAD LIBRARIAN  
HELEN CROCKER RUSSELL LIBRARY  
OF HORTICULTURE  
SAN FRANCISCO BOTANICAL GARDEN  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA**

**Richard Isaacson,  
Bibliographer and Head Librarian  
Andersen Horticultural Library  
University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum  
Chaska, Minnesota**

Forthcoming Exhibit: Carl Linnaeus' 300th Birthday

*Carl Linnaeus the Swedish Naturalist: A 300th Birthday Celebration* will be on exhibit at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum's Andersen Horticultural Library from May 12 through November 4, 2007. Original works and artifacts including shells, insects, birds, and animals will be on display. The exhibition will feature Linnaeus' travels, classification systems, naming systems, students and colleagues, and influences. A seven-foot reproduction of Linnaeus as pictured in *The Temple of Flora* will tower over all.

**Brian R. Thompson,  
Curator of Horticultural Literature  
Elisabeth C. Miller Library  
University of Washington Botanic Garden  
Seattle, Washington**

#### Northwest Horticultural Society Launches Valerie Easton's New Book

On March 6, the Northwest Horticultural Society launched Valerie Easton's new book, *A Pattern Garden* (Timber Press) with a fundraiser for the Elisabeth C. Miller Library. The gala evening began with a party, including a silent auction and a long line of book buyers eager to have Val sign their copies. It wasn't easy, but somehow the 200 revelers left the food and wine for the lecture hall.

After an insightful introduction by Steve Lorton, former Pacific Northwest Bureau Chief of *Sunset* magazine, Val outlined the principles of garden design that she's developed from such divergent sources as the architectural classic *A Pattern Language* by Christopher Alexander and the Japanese ideal of *wabi-sabi*. The former manager of the Miller Library has been working on this book for five years, and draws effectively on her research as a garden columnist with examples from throughout the Pacific Northwest and beyond. (Psst... You need this book in your library!).

#### Hidden Gems: Undiscovered Pacific Northwest Plant Books

On February 28, a small, but hearty group of book lovers braved unseasonable snow to gather for Brian Thompson's roundtable discussion of books by lesser know Pacific Northwest authors. Everyone brought their favorites to the table, and by the end of the evening we were all friends with George Schenk, John and Carol Grant, Des Kennedy, Linda Beutler, C. P. Lyons and many more outstanding authors.

**Deb Golanty, Senior Librarian  
Helen Fowler Library  
Denver Botanic Gardens  
Denver, Colorado**

#### *Flora of North America* Exhibit

On Wednesday evening, January 10, the Library sponsored a reception for Marj Leggitt's *Flora of North America (FNA)* exhibit, which is on display in the Connors Family Exhibit Case. Invited guests included students in Denver Botanic Gardens' (DBG) Botanical Illustration certificate program, where Marj has been a longtime instructor. The pieces were on loan from Missouri Botanical Garden (MoBot). Notecards featuring artwork from *FNA*, produced by MoBot, sold out at the reception. Also, two framed botanical illustrations by Pierre Joseph Redoute, which were a gift of the estate of Dr. Emil J. Massa, were displayed at DBG for the first time during the reception. Marj Leggitt's *FNA* exhibit ended on February 5.

#### *Temple of Flora* Exhibit

The new exhibit installed in February in the Connors Family Exhibit Case features the original folio volume of the *Temple of Flora*, focusing on the dedicatory pages to Swedish botanist Carl Linnaeus (1707-1778) as well as selected flower plates. The exhibit complements Annika Silander-Hokerborg's exhibit, *Men Around Linnaeus*. Because the book is bound, a new introductory page is turned each week, displaying Linnaeus portraits as well as opening dedications, scientific text, and poetic text. The exhibit runs through April.

#### Web Cataloging Pilot Project

Librarians Elaine Zummer and Jean Heilig are piloting a project for cataloging Web content, starting with free online newsletters. The conversion from print to online content can save space, reduce costs, and eliminate shelving tasks. From this modest beginning, we hope to build

significant online content as part of our collection. Jean is renowned for creating the first-ever e-Library for Jones University.

### *Gardening with Altitude* Sales

More than half of the first print run of *Gardening with Altitude* has sold, since its debut in May 2006. In the first six weeks of 2007 alone more than 25 boxes sold, and we are on track to sell out by this year's Annual Plant Sale in May.

**Joan Ariel, Director of the Library  
Santa Barbara Botanic Garden Library  
Santa Barbara, California**

### Security System & Activities During Temporary Closure

The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden (SBBG) Library has recently installed a 3-M Detection System, 3800 series, at the request of SBBG President/CEO Ed Schneider. While loss of library materials has not been high, the SBBG is increasing security systems throughout the Garden, in part prompted by our last accreditation review by the American Association of Museums. We have begun "tattle-taping" the collection and hope to complete the process later this spring.

Progress has been slow, however, due to the relocation of the Garden Shop into Blaksley Library in early January. The Shop is undergoing a total renovation and, unfortunately, the Library was the only space available to maintain this essential (revenue-generating) operation. So the Library has been virtually closed since the beginning of the year, but thankfully we have been able to retrieve all materials needed by Garden staff. We trust construction will be completed and the Library fully operational again by mid-April.

We have taken this opportunity to tackle a variety of "behind the scenes" tasks: address processing backlogs, continue our reorganization of the Muller Reading Room annex, work on the

ongoing analysis of our serials collection. We are also using this "fallow period" simply to catch up on the myriad activities that inevitably get delayed as a result of limited staffing.

### Celebration of Biodiversity and Conservation

One of our more enjoyable recent projects has been Library participation in the SBBG planning and preparation for BioBlitz, scheduled for May 11-12, the first of its kind on the West Coast (see [www.bioblitzsb.org](http://www.bioblitzsb.org)). In addition to book lists and bibliographies, we are planning an October film festival as part of SBBG's ongoing 2007 celebration of biodiversity and conservation. I am still compiling the list of available films and, once again, send thanks to the many CBHL members who have sent me suggestions. Once the list is "ready for prime time," I will share it with CBHL and perhaps we can post on the website.

### Hosting Gold-Coast Library Network Annual Meeting

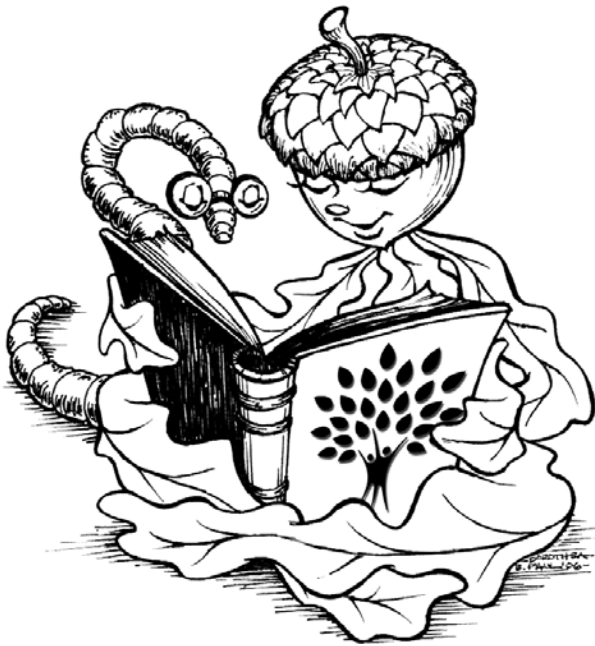
We are looking forward to hosting the annual meeting of our regional Gold Coast Library Network here on April 12. Public, academic, and special libraries are represented in this multi-type network, offering opportunities for valuable information sharing and collaborative programming. The centerpiece of the upcoming meeting will be a program on *Archiving Your Community* featuring Dr. Anne Gilliland. A pioneer in advancing community-based archives, Gilliland is Chair of UCLA's Department of Information Studies and Director of the Archival Studies specialization. The meeting and program will be followed by lunch at SBBG and tours of our Herbarium and the spring-blooming California natives in our beautiful meadow.

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

### Retrospective Conversion Grant

The Arboretum Library is proceeding with the first part of retrospective conversion. Thanks to the Good Family Foundation grant (reported in *CBHL Newsletter* number 104), we have chosen OCLC Online Computer Library Center, Inc. to take about 1,300 of our shelf list cards, match them to OCLC records, attach our holdings, input our call number and send us an FTP with those precious electronic records. You can currently search our OCLC records through FirstSearch by limiting the search to the library code "LACAL." We have about 457.

### Bookworms



Arboretum Bookworms logo ©by Dolly Paul

Our children's story time and nature activity for children ages 3 to 8 is expanding to double its services! This wonderful program is a collaborative project between the Arboretum Library and our Children's Education Department. Our

volunteers currently do programs in the library or on the grounds on the third Sunday of the month. We are also adding the third Wednesday of the month to attract a new weekday audience. The volunteers read books from the library's children's collection and do an activity that relates to the theme of the month. The books include both fiction and poetry, with a spritz of non-fiction.

The Arboretum has mature trees which create beautiful settings and interesting walks. When the weather is inclement the Library is a less gracious setting, but it works if we move all the tables out of the way. A donor has given us mats and a rug for the children to sit on and the Sierra Madre Garden Club gave us money to buy children's books.

**Joan DeFato,**  
**Retired from Los Angeles Arboretum**  
**Burbank, California**

### Greetings

Despite the fact that she doesn't have news, Joan sends her greetings, along with the following humorous reminder that retirement doesn't solve all our problems! "I really don't have any news. I'm having construction work done on the front of my house. They took the dirt from digging footings and threw it over the grass in the back yard. DUH! —Joan"

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

### Periodical Analytics

It has come to my attention that some of you might not know that our online catalog includes more than 25,000 (and growing) references to articles in periodicals held in our collection, selected over the past 20+ years. This resource might be of use to you if you know the title or author of the article or the title of the periodical.

We are willing to fax or mail copies of available articles to our CBHL colleagues. You can narrow your search by filtering on Article Citation. Remember that these are selective, not comprehensive, references based on our ongoing perceptions or our patrons' interests and needs. Also, please be aware that our actual serials collection is not yet up on our OPAC. Associate Librarian Jane Glasby is currently working on the process of combining serials cataloging with setting up our serials tracking module.

### Growth of Online Catalog

Many of our volunteers are busily working at improving our catalog—gradually adding item records to single- and multi-volume titles, adding summaries and age codes to children's book records, and slowly creating skeletal bibliographic records with "uncataloged" in lieu of call number and location for titles we currently hold but do not

have immediate plans to catalog. These books are shelved alphabetically in the workroom by MARC 245 field; if patrons request them, we can be persuaded to move them forward in the cataloging backlog queue. This last project is moving slowly, so it will be a while before its presence is very obvious or useful. Future hazy dreams include adding our vertical files to our OPAC, tying the vertical file authority file into our existing authority file.

### Art Exhibits

Library quarterly art exhibits have been both interesting and lucrative lately. Most of our artists offer matted prints for sale, as well as the original work, which broadens our audience and the possibility for more people to possess botanical art.

We ended 2006 with a group show of watercolors by advanced students of Mary Harden, who

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*Hibiscus trionum* - fine art plant scan by I'Lee Hooker, Tiburon artist.

From January through March, we were introduced to an amazing new technique in our exhibit of fine art plant scans by I'Lee Hooker. In her most recent work, I'Lee has halved flowers from her garden (with scalpels recommended by a surgeon friend); scanned them on a standard scanner (with the lid open to create a black background and an amazing depth of field); cleaned them up in photoshop, sometimes combining images in appropriate, informative, and aesthetically-pleasing compositions; printed them on a high-end printer, and had them impeccably framed. The result was a stunning display. A whole new world is opening up in artists' variations on new printing techniques; it may soon parallel the differences among classical print forms —engraving, etching, lithography, woodcut, etc.

Our April through June exhibition of classical watercolor paintings, *Park and Street Trees* by Santa Barbara artist Jean Sankey combines enjoyment of art with gardening inspiration.

teaches a wide and very popular spectrum of botanical illustration classes in our education program. Despite the fact that there were 28 different artists displaying in our little library, the exhibit was a delight to view because Mary required all participants to work within a limited palate (they were not allowed to use green pigments; they had to blend their own greens from other colors), and she ensured all the pieces were consistently framed. The show was very popular and also drew even more people into our classes.



*Fremontodendron* 'California Glory' - watercolor by Jean Sankey, Santa Barbara artist.

## **On the Web: Linnaeus 300, Vegbank, a Biographical Dictionary with Chronology, and Radish Night in Mexico**

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

2007 marks the three hundredth birthday of Carl Linnaeus, an event which is being celebrated in gardens and museums around the world.

**Linnaeus 2007** [www.linnaeus2007.se/](http://www.linnaeus2007.se/) is a Swedish site featuring a calendar with links to the various exhibits and special events being held in conjunction with the celebration at gardens and museums around the world. **Welcome to Linnaeus 300** [www.linnaeus300.com/home/](http://www.linnaeus300.com/home/) is the Swedish Institute's contribution to the celebration, posting a different scientific question and answer each week.

**Vegbank** [www.vegbank.org/vegbank/index.jsp](http://www.vegbank.org/vegbank/index.jsp) is the vegetation plot database of the Ecological Society of America's Panel on Vegetation. It is composed of three linked databases containing the actual plot records, vegetative types recognized in the U.S. National Vegetation Classification and other vegetation types submitted by users, and all taxa recognized by ITIS/USDA (Integrated Taxonomic Information System) as well as other plant taxa recorded in plant records. Results are voluntarily submitted and shared by ecologists to record vegetation in specific plots in an ecological context. The databases are fully searchable by the public, but data can only be annotated or added to by registered users. Coverage is spotty since the data is limited to voluntary contributions—there is no data for Ohio, for example.

### **Some Biogeographers, Evolutionists, and Ecologists**

[www.wku.edu/~smithch/chronob/homelist.htm](http://www.wku.edu/~smithch/chronob/homelist.htm) is the result of a project by Charles H. Smith, Joshua

Weleben, and Carubie Rodger of the University of Western Kentucky to put up a database of biographical sketches including life chronologies of various scientists. The database may be searched directly and also features lists arranged alphabetically by name, county, and discipline. Among the figures of interest to those dealing with botany are Aimé Bonpland, two of the de Candolles, Eilif Dahl, Per Axel Rydberg, and John Torrey.

**Your Old Books** [www.rbms.info/yob.shtml](http://www.rbms.info/yob.shtml) is the latest version of the list of answers to FAQs of those interested in rare books or in disposing of their own old books. Compiled by the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section Publications Committee of the American Library Association, it provides quick answers to questions such as what a rare book is or how to sell one's old books.

Another old site with a new home is **Henning's Rhododendron and Azalea Pages** [rhodyman.net/rahome.html](http://rhodyman.net/rahome.html). It is an extensive site which was reviewed here in detail some time ago.

**A Beginner's Guide to Tea on the Web** [members.aol.com/wazee17th/TOC.htm](http://members.aol.com/wazee17th/TOC.htm) is Diane Blackman's somewhat dated (owing to AOL's decision to cut off support to the free posting and hosting software they formerly provided their members in 1998), but elaborate website with links to other sites on tea. The links include tea varieties, tea brewing, tea in history and art, the tea trade, and even tea leaf reading.

The **Daily Weeder** [www.dailyweeder.com/](http://www.dailyweeder.com/) is the blog of an advanced master gardener featuring current stories and archived material on composting, fertilizing, flowers, garden plants, gardening, and miscellaneous subjects.

**ecoFabulous** [www.ecofabulous.com/](http://www.ecofabulous.com/) is a blog featuring "sexy sustainable stuff" by Zem Joaquin, a diva-like lady with a background in design who aims to combine style with sustainability. There are a number of links including several to green building sites which are

annoyingly coded to take you to the sites without ever revealing what their URLs actually are.

On a more practical level, **Greenhouse Business** [www.greenhousebiz.com](http://www.greenhousebiz.com) is a free site featuring selected articles from the magazine of the same name which is aimed at commercial greenhouse growers. Among its features are articles on newer plants.

### **Plant Tree Save Planet.com**

[www.planttreesaveplanet.com](http://www.planttreesaveplanet.com) is the site of a Scottish non-profit charity advocating tree planting to absorb carbon monoxide focusing on the poorest countries of the world.

Finally we come to the usual more different sites.

### **The Society for the Protection and Preservation of Fruitcake**

[www.fruitcakesociety.org/](http://www.fruitcakesociety.org/) features links to fruitcake recipes and sites. Those of you with a yen for a winter escape might want to consider a trip to **Radish Night**

[www.planeta.com/ecotravel/mexico/oaxaca/rabanos.html](http://www.planeta.com/ecotravel/mexico/oaxaca/rabanos.html) in Oaxaca, Mexico. The site discusses the festival which has been held for the last 108 years on December 23 when elaborately carved radish sculptures are entered into competition for a grand prize of about \$1,200. If this is not exciting

enough, there are apparently also competitions in constructing compositions from dried flowers and from corn husks.

Unfortunately only links to the images of some of the radish sculptures are available on the site.



Pictures from the Radish Night Festival, Oaxaca, Mexico.

## **Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries Future Annual Meetings**

### **2007 Annual Meeting**

Hosted by The Lloyd Library  
June 6-8, 2007  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
USA

### **2008 Annual Meeting**

Hosted by The Frederik Meijer Gardens  
Peter M. Wege Library  
Spring 2008  
Grand Rapids, Michigan  
USA

### **2009 Annual Meeting**

Hosted by The Missouri Botanical Garden  
Missouri Botanical Garden Library  
Spring 2009  
St. Louis, Missouri  
USA

### **2010 Annual Meeting**

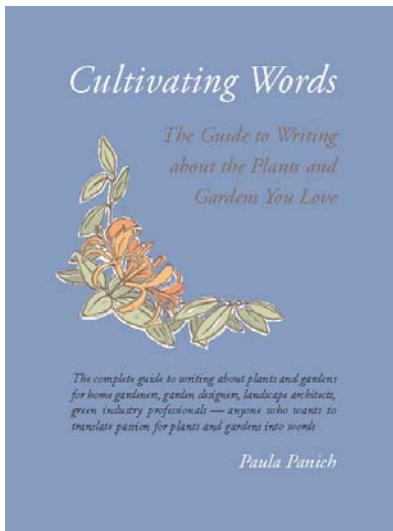
Hosted by  
The University of Washington Botanic Gardens  
Elisabeth C. Miller Library  
Spring 2010  
Seattle, Washington  
USA

## Literature Review

**JANE COLE, RETIRED LIBRARIAN  
DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA**

*Cultivating Words: The Guide to Writing about the Plants and Gardens You Love* / by Paula Panich, illustrated by Lynn Zimmerman. Northampton, Massachusetts: Tryphon Press, c2005, 129 p. ISBN: 0-9762709-0-0 (paperback) \$21.95. [www.cultivatingwords.com](http://www.cultivatingwords.com)

The preface to *Cultivating Words* includes the statement: “Gardeners are among the most generous people on earth.” Paula is referring, of course, to the way gardeners share their plants and



expertise with each other. It's true. And this little book tells how to take that natural generosity and spread it even further.

Her directions are absolutely friendly and to the point. At first I thought she wasn't very well

organized, but then I realized that that was part of the charm. This isn't *The Chicago Manual of Style*. This is a chatty book about garden writing, getting it published, selling your ideas to editors, and other subjects that could be downright boring if not done with Paula's flair for the right word. Often she uses her own work when it gives the best example, but she also goes to the classics: Edward Abbey, Laurence Durrell, Jamaica Kincaid, Verlyn Klinkenborg, and John McPhee among others.

Her examples are really the secret joy of this book. Every time she addresses a new topic –

short articles, feature stories, revising, writing queries (to get an idea accepted), or editing – she uses real examples from real writers. Including herself.

It's fun just to read all the possibilities. I actually found the whole thing quite entertaining and informative – even if I'm not planning to write anything. But maybe I will change my mind now that I've read this book.

[Editor's note: Panich highly recommends two books you may find inspiring: *Wild Mind: Living the Writer's Life* / by Natalie Goldberg (New York: Bantam Books, 1990) and *Will Write for Food* / by Dianne Jacob (New York: Marlowe & Co., 2005).]

## How We Succeed

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

“Bargains galore...”

If you're familiar with the work of iconoclast performer Tom Waits, you might recognize that snippet from his 1976 song “Step Right Up.”<sup>1</sup> Somewhere in the fast-paced, almost rap-like collage of late-night television advertising and carnival midway spiel is a line my husband is fond of quoting: “The large print giveth, and the small print taketh away.” Waits' skeptical riff on America's insatiable longing for the “wonder product” may resonate with librarians who suddenly find themselves in possession of a gift albatross in the form of used books. (It sounded good at the time...) Still, there are ways to make this sometimes problematic interruption in the daily workflow a useful mechanism for fundraising, filling gaps in your collection, and even public relations.

To a well intentioned donor, the obvious benefit to the library is the great price of free books. Of course with time and processing materials factored in, we know that free is never totally free (remember, “the small print taketh away”). More books to process will always simply be more books to process, and you must also consider a few extra steps when adding donations to your collection. Shelly Kilroy of the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids, Michigan shares her Library’s procedure:

“Gifted books are processed the same as purchased books with a couple of additions... I fill out a form listing name and contact information of the donor, book titles and estimated worth for our Development Department. They send out thank you letters...If the donor requests it, I add a book-plate recognizing their donation. Brief information on who donated the book (and in honor of whom if necessary) also goes into the Notes section of the online catalog.”<sup>2</sup>

Nevertheless, if you decide the reward is worth the effort, donated books are serendipitous ways to fill gaps in your collection or to replace volumes that are in poor condition. For example, over the past twenty years and without a budget for adult fiction, my library, which serves a small, liberal arts college and the community surrounding it, has been able to amass a respectable collection of popular fiction—current bestsellers as well as classics—from the many books passed along from local readers. A wish list for staff to check when unsolicited donations arrive is especially helpful here. This works for potential donors too—if patrons know what you are looking for, you may have less “out-of-scope” books to deal with at the end of the day.

Likewise, donated books can generate cash when unaccessioned items are sold, or used as tender in trade with other libraries. In addition to fundraising through traditional used-book sales, you may be able to sell selected items online with the help of an interested volunteer. (Never

underestimate the power of volunteers!) Such web sites as Alibris, Amazon, Powell’s and the meta search site Bookfinder.com are handy, relatively easy to use, and can be helpful guides in the decision making process.<sup>3</sup>

Unfortunately, “the small print” is never more evident than in the realm of used books. People feel good when they think they are helping the library: what better place to give books than to the library? (“That’s what libraries are all about... of *course* they would want them!”) It’s rather like being asked to adopt a basket of kittens—how could you turn them away? Alas, their desire to help may also coincide with a desire to unload books that are in less than perfect condition. This may result in the all too familiar scene in which the library doors open one morning to reveal a mountain of old shopping bags filled with books. While there is always a chance that your little thrill of anticipation (not unlike a six year old on Christmas morning) may actually turn into “ooohs and aaahs” of delight when you start sifting through the pile, more often the emotion is one of shocked dismay. Have a “hazmat” plan in place so that moldy, mildewed or wildlife-infested books never have to come in contact with your collection. Beth Brand from the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix, Arizona remembers a similar experience when nine boxes of books and papers arrived there:

“I was not present so I was not able to clarify the terms of the donation. ... [S]ome of the materials were water damaged and posed a threat to my collection. I had to set up a processing area in a nearby conference room to keep the mold out of the library. Not ideal. According to some colleagues, I am not alone in this type of situation.”<sup>4</sup>

The best antidote for this potential headache (provided you have advance warning) is a detailed, unambiguous policy regarding donated items. Make it available to the public—post it near the entrance or on your web site—and stick by it. Of course, this is sometimes easier said

than done, but a little diplomacy goes a long way, and the answer “No thank you” is generally more acceptable when followed by your reasonable explanation. The Lloyd Library in Cincinnati, Ohio posts their donation policy on their web site and very handily also includes their “Deed of Gift” form which very clearly establishes the rights of the donor and the library, as well as providing documentation of the transaction.<sup>5</sup>

Still, after the book sale is over, the “new” items are cataloged and on the shelves, and the infested and dilapidated have gone on to their next state of existence, the problem of what to do with the leftovers remains. This is possibly the most annoying aspect of dealing with used books but happily, it could also be an opportunity for your library to help others. There are a number of organizations working to provide good quality used books to institutions in need.<sup>6</sup>

Finally, one of the less obvious benefits of accepting/selling/trading used books is the connection with your community that it creates. Interestingly, a review of the subjects, authors, or genre of donated items may provide a chance to do an informal community assessment. What are your patrons reading? What are their interests? While by no means comprehensive or scientific, this snapshot could provide some insight as to where your library can intersect with and expand upon local interests.

Additionally, used book sales may bring new people into the library or make your institution and its mission more visible to the public. You could attract more volunteers; people who donate books may be just as likely to donate other resources. You connect with your patrons when you thank them for their donations, you help other libraries and schools when you forward books to them.

If your library hasn't ventured into this area of collection development and you want to learn more, the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records has a Donations module on their

“Collection Development Training for Arizona Public Libraries” web site. This primer, useful for all types of small libraries, covers the important issues in developing donations policies and procedures and presents helpful resources and examples.<sup>7</sup>

Working with used books is not for all libraries at all times. There are situations when it is simply not feasible. But consider it as an option—maybe Tom Waits has it right: “Everyone’s a winner...bargains galore.”

## NOTES AND RESOURCES

1. “Step Right Up” written and performed by Tom Waits. From the sound recording *Small Change*. c.1976. Fifth Floor Music, Inc. (ASCAP)

2. Shelly Kilroy, Librarian. Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, Grand Rapids, MI. [skilroy@meijergardens.org](mailto:skilroy@meijergardens.org)

From a personal email dated March 7, 2007 in response to my question: How does the processing of donated items (and donated collections) fit into the regular workflow? NOTE: According to the IRS, it is illegal for the receiving institution to place a monetary value on donated goods. However, it is allowable to have an independent appraisal done. The donor may also determine the value. Frequently donors provide the estimated value of items on receipts that acknowledge their gift and give them a record of the charitable transaction for their income tax.

3. Beth Brand, Librarian. Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix, AZ. [bbrand@dbg.org](mailto:bbrand@dbg.org) From personal email sent March 7, 2004 in response to my question: Have you found resources such as web sites, books or articles on this topic that you think are especially helpful?

Alibris for Libraries:

<http://www.alibris.com/librarians/librarians-home.cfm>

Amazon: <http://www.amazon.com/>

Powell's Books: <http://www.powells.com/>

Bookfinder: <http://www.bookfinder.com/>

4. Beth Brand, *ibid*.

In response to my question: Do you have a favorite best or worst memory on an incident involving a donation that would be of interest to the other members?

5. Lloyd Library and Museum, Cincinnati, OH.  
“Services and policies.” Last accessed March 14, 2007 online at:  
<http://www.lloydlibrary.org/services.html>

6. Better World Books Library Discards and Donations Program.

Last accessed online March 14, 2007 at:  
<http://www.betterworldbooks.com/Programs/Library.aspx>

Eberhart, George M. “Organizations that donate books overseas,” p. 489-492.  
*The Whole Library Handbook 3*. Chicago: American Library Association, 2000.

7. Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records. “CollectionDevelopmentTraining for Public Libraries: Donations.” Last accessed March 14, 2007 online at:  
<http://www.lib.az.us/cdt/dona.htm>

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## Calendar of Upcoming Events

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

May 13-17, 2007. Chicago, IL.  
AAM Annual Meeting & MuseumExpo.  
“Why Museums Matter.”  
<http://www.aam-us.org/am07/>

June 3-6, 2007. Denver, CO.  
SLA Annual Conference.  
<http://www.sla.org/content/Events/conference/ac2007/>

June 5-9, 2007. Cincinnati, OH.  
CBHL 39th Annual Meeting.  
“Eclectic Cincinnati: Legacies, Legends, and the Lloyds.”  
<http://www.lloydlibrary.org/cbhl.html>

June 10-22, 2007. Charlottesville, VA.  
Historic Landscape Institute.  
“Preserving Jefferson’s Gardens and Landscapes.”  
<http://www.monticello.org/education/gardeninstitute.html>

June 21-27, 2007. Washington, DC.  
ALA Annual Conference.  
<http://www.ala.org/ala/eventsandconferences/annual/2007a/>

June 26-30, 2007. Washington, DC.  
APGA National Conference.  
“Defining Your Garden’s Culture.”  
<http://www.aabga.org/conferencehome.aspx>

July 7-11, 2007. Chicago, IL.  
Botany & Plant Biology 2007.  
Joint meeting of the American Fern Society, American Society of Plant Biologists, American Society of Plant Taxonomists and Botanical Society of America.  
<http://www.botanyconference.org/>



July 15-21, 2007. Bozeman, MT.  
Guild of Natural Science Illustrators Conference & Annual Meeting.  
<http://gnsi.science-art.com/2007MT/index.shtml>

July 19-21, 2007. Chaska, MN.  
National Children & Youth Garden Symposium.  
“Widening the Circle.”  
[http://www.ahs.org/youth\\_gardening/national\\_youth\\_garden\\_symposium.htm](http://www.ahs.org/youth_gardening/national_youth_garden_symposium.htm)

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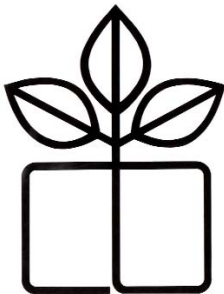
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