

CBHL Literature Awards Recognize Excellence in Botanical and Horticultural Literature

June 27, 2012 – Montréal – The Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries, Inc. (CBHL) presented its thirteenth Annual Literature Awards on June 27, 2012. This presentation was made in Montréal during CBHL's 44th Annual Meeting hosted by the Montréal Botanical Garden. The Annual Literature Award, created to recognize significant contributions to the literature of botany and horticulture, honored two monumental resources this year. **The Ambonese Herbal**, a six volume annotated translation of Rumphius's famous **Herbarium Amboinense**, written by E.M. Beekman and published by Yale University Press was honored with the 2012 award in the Technical category. **In the Footsteps of Augustine Henry** written by Seamus O'Brien and published by Garden Art Press won the 2012 award in the General Interest category.

The trials of the 17th century naturalist Georgius Everhardus Rumphius are legendary! As an employee for the Dutch East Indies Company, Rumphius journeyed to the Ambon archipelago in eastern Indonesia in the mid-1600s. Spending several decades studying the native plants of this region, he collected, cataloged, described and named plants, and prepared botanical paintings for many hundreds of specimens. During this time, Rumphius also faced blindness, the loss of his wife and daughter in an earthquake, the loss of his original drawings in a house fire among other catastrophes including the Dutch East Indies Company forbidding publication of his work. Through the efforts of E.M. Beekman, a new community of scholars and researchers will now have access to Rumphius's masterwork. Far more than a translation of Rumphius's magnum opus, E.M. Beekman provides a tremendous amount of biographical, contextual and nomenclatural information to this work. Providing stunning insight into the world of 17th century Indonesia, the CBHL Annual Literature Award Committee congratulates Professor Beekman, his editor Jean Thomson Black and Yale University Press on this well deserved honor.

In the Footsteps of Augustine Henry written by Seamus O'Brien was the recipient of this year's award in the general category. The life and travels of Henry, a renowned 19th century plant hunter, are brought to life in O'Brien's fascinating account. A customs official in China during the last two decades of the 19th century, Henry collected and prepared over 158,000 dried specimens of more than 6,000 species. Not content to remain in the past, however, the book also describes the modern Chinese expeditions taken by the author as he retraced Henry's routes. Written in a lively, accessible style and lavishly illustrated, the Annual Literature Award Committee applauds O'Brien's creation of this thoroughly entertaining and informative work.

The Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries, Inc. is the leading professional organization in the field of botanical and horticultural information services. It recognizes the critical importance of collecting, preserving, and making accessible the accumulated knowledge about plants for present and future generations. For more information, visit its web site at <http://www.cbhl.net>.

For more information: Contact Rita M. Hassert, 630-719-2430, rhassert@mortonarb.org