

CBHL 51st Annual Business Meeting Hosted by the Desert Botanical Garden

Business Meeting Sessions:

May 15, 2019, Wednesday, 1:30 PM-3:00 PM

May 17, 2019, Friday, 3:30 PM-4:30 PM

5/15/2019 - Call to Order - 1:37 PM

Welcome and Official Commencement

CBHL President David Sleasman welcomed everyone to the 51st Annual Meeting at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix, AZ. The rest of the Board introduced themselves: Anita Kay, First Vice President; Brandy Kuhl, Second Vice President; Donna Herendeen, Past President; Betsy Kruthoffer, Treasurer; and Esther Jackson, Secretary. The President noted we had a quorum. The President called upon Suzi Teghtmeyer to be Parliamentarian. New attendee names were noted to be in the program booklet. The President asked whether there were any corrections to be made to the minutes of last year's meeting. No corrections being offered, John Reed moved to approve the minutes from the 50th Annual Meeting, New York Botanical Garden and Brooklyn Botanic Garden, New York, New York, June 19-23, 2019, published in Newsletter Number 150, September 2018, p. 21-27. Pat Jonas seconded. The minutes were approved by a vote of the membership. The President asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Tracy Mehlin requested an addition - to discuss the merger of the Publications, Public Relations, and Electronic Communications committees. Céline Arsénault requested member feedback on the new membership database.

Officer Reports

Secretary's Report

Esther Jackson noted that for the general election, 47 ballots were received on time through the online voting system. This is a lower response rate than last year's online vote. Mark Stewart was elected to the position of Second Vice President and Betsy Kruthoffer, after serving as the Treasurer in an interim capacity for the past year, was elected to the position of Treasurer.

Financial Changes

Dues Increases

On 3.8.2019 the CBHL Board unanimously approved a plan to raise membership dues effective 1.1.2020. The membership voted to ratify the changes of the dues 4.14.2019.

Membership category	New Annual Dues	Amount of increase
Regular Institutional	\$130	\$25 per year
Institution PLUS additional individuals	\$75	\$25 per year
Commercial	\$175	\$25 per year
Retiree	\$50	\$15 per year
Student	\$50	\$15 per year
Regular Individual	\$80	\$25 per year
Associate (EBHL)	\$20	NO CHANGE

Newsletter

After careful review of finances as well as discussion with Membership over the last several years, the Board voted to discontinue the printing of the newsletter. This represents a savings of approximately \$4,000 annually with a quarterly savings of \$1,000.

President David Sleasman will report on this and other cost-saving measures the Board is pursuing later on in the Business Meeting.

Procedural Changes

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From the President

Anita Kay
Life Sciences Librarian
Iowa State University,
Ames, IA

First and foremost I'd like to thank Beth Brand for putting together an absolutely wonderful annual meeting this year at the Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix. Yes, David Yetman certainly taught us about the Sonoran Desert ecosystem and saguaro cacti. Yes, Taliesen West and Frank Lloyd Wright's architecture was fun to visit and learn about. Yes, the Boyce Thompson Arboretum was absolutely beautiful. Yes, we learned about how librarians can more effectively communicate their value and importance to stakeholders. As well, member presentations were engaging and interesting. I'm sure everyone found someone's presentation useful and I was happy to learn about all of the ones that I heard. I brought back to Iowa with me several ideas from member presentations which I hope (and expect) to implement this fall semester. In her quest to create a perfect meeting for all of us, Beth was even able to, via her use of repeated positive thinking and her colorful aura, appease the weather goddesses and give us the perfect week in which to be in Phoenix.

For next year's annual meeting we will be at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. Robin Everly and Barbara Ferry will be our hosts. They have already begun their planning and are eager to have us all visit their home library, organization, and their city. Personally, I've only been to the area twice and I have never had a chance to visit D.C. but was each time exiled to the outer areas. I am looking forward to seeing a few of the well known locations throughout D.C. with both my own time as well as via the tours that will be part of the upcoming conference.

This year, Donna Herendeen rotated off the board after her four years of serving CBHL in that role. I have gotten to know Donna during my time on the board, and I have no doubt she will continue working with this organization through other means. Rotating onto the board is Mark Stewart from the Toronto Botanical Garden.

Say, speaking of the board, there was also something else that happened during this year's conference concerning the board: the membership briefly discussed and agreed on forming an ad hoc committee examining board composition for the primary purpose of cost savings. The board (and committee chair once it is formed) will keep everyone updated on this through the list-serv as composition, mission, and goals of that ad hoc committee are created. There will be open discussions in the near future concerning board structure. We expect this committee to work quickly and efficiently and hope that our organization can move forward with a new composition in place by the 2020 meeting in D.C. Remember, this came about as primarily a way to continue working towards a balanced budget. Although last year we made great strides towards achieving it, we need just a tiny bit more of a reduction in expenses and/or an increase in income to balance out. Nobody wants to remove benefits, but the continuing existence of CBHL is our primary concern as members of the board.

I also would like to point out that we have focused primarily on cost reduction while trying to balance the budget. What I would really, really like to see us, as an organization do, is work together and focus on increasing membership. We all know membership numbers have been slowly dropping. I think CBHL would benefit if we began asking ourselves, what can we do as a committee to positively affect the number of members? What can we do to increase membership numbers? Could we collaborate with another committee for a more effective result or increase in membership? And this actually is a nice segue into another interesting outcome that occurred at the annual meeting this year.

The Electronic Communications Committee (ECC), Publications Committee, and Public Relations Committee have begun conversations that may (likely will) result in those three committees forming a single committee. There was an in-person discussion during the business meeting at this year's conference in Phoenix, brought forth by Tracy Mehlin, Chair of the ECC, and Rita Hassert, chair of Publications, to merge these committees into a single committee. The argument was that those three committees do a lot of overlapping work and combining them will result in an increase in efficiency and more productive collaborations on projects. I am quite positive we will all be kept up to date with this progress by Tracy as the discussion continues.

And lastly, I really hope that I can do an acceptable job in my new role with CBHL. Please, feel free to express to me your opinions. During my short time with CBHL, I have really come to respect the members, this absolutely wonderful, kind, compassionate, and professional group of librarians. I most sincerely have never come across a better professional group during my life journey thus far and have nothing but huge amounts of respect for CBHL. I am honored to continue to serve on this board for the purpose of supporting CBHL and all that you all do. I do not have the plant taxonomy, knowledge, and/or archives expertise that so many of our members have.

Sincerely,
Miss Anita Kay



Smith Interpretive Center & Display Greenhouses, Boyce Thompson Arboretum. Photograph by Anita Kay.

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Annual Budget

In 2019 the Board decided that prior to the fall board meeting, the President, Treasurer, and 1st Vice President should create a draft balanced budget for the upcoming year for the Board to review and approve. After the fall meeting, the President should distribute the approved budget to the membership.

Committee Reports & Budgets

As of 2019, the Board voted that Committees should submit their annual reports prior to the annual meeting. Along with this report, each committee should include their budget for the upcoming year for the Board's approval. For example, the ECC would include LibGuides, the website hosting costs, the listserv costs, etc. It should be understood these are requested expenses to assist the Board in creating a balanced budget.

Nominating Committee

The nominating committee is chaired by the Past President (Donna Herendeen) and consists of at least two CBHL members appointed by the President (David Sleasman). The committee was pleased to nominate Mark Stewart of the Toronto Botanical Garden to be our next 2nd Vice President and Betsy Kruthoffer of the Lloyd Library to be our next Treasurer.

Treasurer's Report

2015

Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries

Amended 2015 Treasurer's Report - (January 1-December 31, 2015)

Prepared for the Phoenix Annual Meeting - May 14-18, 2019

Prepared by Brian R. Thompson, CBHL Past Treasurer, March 29, 2016

Updated by Bill Musser, CBHL Treasurer, May 19, 2016

Updated by the CBHL Board, June 7, 2018

https://cbhl.libguides.com/ld.php?content_id=48840416

2018

Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries 2018 Treasurer's Report

January 1-December 31, 2018

https://cbhl.libguides.com/ld.php?content_id=48840428

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Betsy Kruthoffer presented the 2015 and 2018 Treasurer's Reports for review and comments. Noted that the four accounts are still in Decorah and that it is easy for them to remain there. When preparing the 2016 and 2017 Treasurer's Reports, an adding error was found in the 2015 report. Thus, we are submitting a revised report for 2015 for membership approval.

Betsy Kruthoffer reported that the Financial Advisory Committee has accepted the 2015 and 2018 reports.

A motion was made by Tracy Mehlin to accept the 2015 and 2018 Treasurer's reports. Stacy Stoldt seconded. The 2015 and 2018 Treasurer's reports were approved by a vote of the membership.

Standing Committee Reports

In the interest of time, due to the larger than usual Annual Meeting agenda, Committee reports were presented to the membership in writing and a comment period was provided later in the business meeting to allow for time to review the reports, and approve to insert the written reports into the minutes with any comments.

The reports were discussed in the second half of the business meeting. For ease of reading, they are in the minutes here:

Annual Literature Award Committee

The Annual Literature Award was announced at the Friday banquet.

The Annual Literature Award had 42 nominations for 2019 by 16 different members of CBHL. This is an increase from 36 books and 14 nominators in 2018.

The 42 books were by 31 publishers. All publishers provided six review copies of each book to the committee membership: Céline Arseneault, Sheila Conner, Susan Eubank, Janet Evans, Rita Hassert, and Brian Thompson.

Committee met by phone on April 19th, selecting one Annual Literature Award and five Awards of Excellence. The winners will be announced at the Desert Botanical Garden on Friday, May 17, 2019.

At the May 14th meeting, we discussed adding reviews to the list of nominations for books that do not receive awards, but are still considered of value to CBHL members by the committee. These will be brief reviews (200-250) words intended as recommendations for collection development. It was recommended that these be announced and linked both in the newsletter and through the email list.

Brian Thompson was elected by the committee as chair for the next year.

Charles Robert Long Award Committee

There was no recipient this year.

Electronic Communications Committee

Tracy Mehlin was elected chair of this committee.

ECC includes the Webmaster, Listserv manager, and LibGuides manager in addition to committee members. Céline Arseneault manages the website and reports 5,437 visits with 14,597 pages viewed in the last year. The Plant Libraries page is the most viewed page after the home page. The membership database was launched in October 2018 and after a few bumps is now functioning well, but if we want reports or enhancements, that would cost additional money. Anita Kay continues to manage the listserv and reports average number of messages per month is up a bit. Tracy Mehlin manages the LibGuide which has seen 11,366 views on 77 Guides which is down slightly over the prior year. The board approved a LibGuides policy which is now posted with other CBHL documents in the Member Information Center. The board has asked the ECC to report on free alternatives to LibGuides by the fall board meeting. We ran out of time to discuss this at length, but a few members use LibGuides for their libraries and perhaps they might pay a portion of the annual fee.

Financial Advisory Committee

The committee includes Amy Kasameyer, Betsy Kruthoffer (Treasurer), and Brian Thompson (chair).

The Financial Advisory Committee reviewed the Treasurer's 2018 report. We recommend that the membership accept the report as presented by the Treasurer.

At the request of the CBHL Board, the Committee also reviewed changes to the 2015 Treasurer's report and approved those changes.

Founders Fund Committee

The Founders Fund Committee awarded two travel awards this year to Brian Thompson and Alena McNamara. It was noted that the EBHL travel award was not given this year. The one applicant declined to attend for personal reasons.

Membership Committee

Chairs: Stacy Brody and Janis Shearer, Manager: Suzi Teghtmeyer

Thank you to Elizabeth Fite for her assistance in the leadership transition of the committee.

Current Membership

New Members (22). Categories: Institutional (99), Institutions (51), Individual (51), Retirees (13), Commercial (12), Lifetime (10), Companies (8), EBHL Affiliates (7), Students (6)

Representation of Countries Outside of the U.S.

United Kingdom (12), Canada (9), Australia (4), Belgium (3), Germany (2), Netherlands (2), Singapore (2), Ireland (1), South Korea (1)

Job Titles/Departments Represented

Access Services, Archives/Archivist, Assistant Professor, Associate Director/Executive, Director, Bookseller, Botanist/Horticulturist, Cataloging/Cataloger, CEO/Owner/Proprietor, Collections Development, Conservator, Curator, Digital Projects/Resources/Assets, Head Librarian/Head of Library/Library Director, Museum Specialist, Press Coordinator, Public Services/Reference, Publisher, Retiree, Special Collections, Student, Volunteer

Expertise of our Members

Agriculture/Agricultural History, Arid Land Plants, Bonsai, Book Conservation, Book Groups, Cataloging, Rare Books, Serials, Children's Literature and Programming, Collection Development, Database Design, Desert Ecology and Plant Evolution, Ecological Gardening, Ethnobotany, Gardening Literature, Horticulture/Horticultural History, Koha, LibAnswers, Mediterranean Climate Plants and Gardens, Native Land Plants, Rare Books, Seed & Nursery Catalogs, Taxonomy and Systematics, Tropics Landscaping, Wordpress, and Web Development.

Committee Activities

Current

When notified via email alert, the committee emailed welcome and welcome back emails to all new members and renewals. Sample emails are available on the Committee LibGuide.

The membership directory launched, with great thanks to Céline Arseneault.

Future

The committee will explore re-assigning roles and responsibilities within the group.

The committee will continue to gain familiarity with the new membership directory.

The committee will continue to maintain the membership list.

The committee will work closely with the Board to ensure a smooth transition to the rise in membership dues structure.

The committee will focus on member recruitment to connect and reconnect with institutions that may not be aware of CBHL.

Nominating Committee

Reported on by the Secretary earlier in the Business Meeting.

Preservation and Access Committee

The PAC conducts a discussion at each annual meeting on some preservation / access related topic(s), and this year it was on how traces of past owners of library materials remain visible in our collections, and how such traces are documented so that researchers can find them. This includes bookplates, signatures and inscriptions, association copies, annotations, letters or photos laid in or tipped in, and other provenance documentation.

This year's participants discussed how such information is incorporated into OPAC records, local databases, or open collaborative platforms like Wikidata. We also discussed strategies and resources for deciphering handwriting, and how to make provenance and other related information accessible to online searchers. Notes from the discussion will be shared with CBHL members either through the elist or a newsletter article.

As reported briefly in the Steering Committee meeting, the PAC will also survey contributors to the non-book collections database to see how much of the material they submitted information about for the database is now searchable online. Based on the responses, we will determine possible next steps regarding the database.

Public Relations Committee

The CBHL social media campaign continues via Twitter (Meg Eastwood) and Facebook (Susan Eubank and Rita Hassert). Meg started to manage CBHL's Twitter account in July of 2018. During her first year, Meg experimented to see what tweets would promote engagement with our CBHL Twitter account. She retweeted 205 tweets from partner organizations such as the Biodiversity Heritage Library, and tweeted 56 original tweets.

For the upcoming year, she is planning to focus on creating more original tweets, particularly tweets that include visual images such as pictures of our libraries and highlights from our collections. Any libraries that would like to participate are encouraged to contact Meg.

Facebook engagement and interaction continues to grow. With these forays into social media for the organization, we discussed the need to develop a social media policy for CBHL.

Press releases were created and distributed for:
2018 CBHL Annual Literature Awards
2018 Charles Robert Long Award of Extraordinary Merit
2019 CBHL Annual Meeting

The press release for the 2019 Annual Meeting was distributed to listservs, websites, and blogs of various affiliative groups such as APGA and SLA. In addition to these groups, notices were sent to targeted library education programs west of the Mississippi.

Also at this meeting, attendees discussed the possible merger of the following committees: Electronic Communications, Publications, and Public Relations. Shared projects were identified and discussed along with other opportunities to collaborate.

Publications Committee

The Publications Committee would like to recognize and thank three longtime contributors who are stepping down this year: Susan Eubank, newsletter editor, Pat Jonas, book review editor, and Stan Johnston, author of the "On the Web" column. Judy Stevenson of Longwood Gardens will be taking over as newsletter editor. The newsletter deadlines this year will be July 15 for the September issue, October 15 for the December issue, January 15 for the March issue, and April 15 for the June issue.

At the annual meeting the committee discussed the value of including book reviews in the newsletter. Members felt reviews were a useful tool and should continue to be featured. We will be putting out a call for a new book review editor. Ideas for future content for the newsletter include a new member column, a current member spotlight column so we can learn more about the highly variable jobs of CBHL members, and creating a list of job titles for CBHL members to show the diversity of positions held by our members. We also discussed ways of increasing the accessibility of our online newsletter and will be looking into making the newsletter screen-reader friendly. We discussed ways of increasing awareness of the online newsletter, ideas suggested include encouraging members to put the online link in their catalogs and obtaining a DOI for the newsletter. Esther and Amy will investigate how to get a DOI. Céline as website manager requested that the online newsletter be submitted as a PDF/A file with standardized metadata. The Membership Committee requested a new membership brochure to use as a recruitment tool.

Steering Committee

The steering committee would like to thank Chair Susan Eubank who is stepping down. If you are interested in chairing this committee, please contact the committee.

Ad Hoc Committee on Future Conferences

2020 - Smithsonian

President David Sleasman reads letter from Smithsonian, dated February 26th, 2019. Call for a motion to accept the Smithsonians's offer to host in 2020. Pat Jonas moves, Chuck Tancin seconds. Stephen Sinon asks if MOU has been approved by the board. David Sleasman replies that, yes we worked with the Smithsonian to develop the MOU in our best interests. All in favor. So approved. Meeting dates: May 19-23 2020.

2023 - Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT)

President David Sleasman reads letter from the Botanical Research Institute of Texas dated April 16th, 2019. Call for a motion to accept the offer to host in 2023. Tracy Mehlin moves, Meg Eastwood seconds. All in favor. So approved.

A reminder about future meeting sites: 2020 - Smithsonian, 2021 - Toronto (no offer letter yet), 2022 - Denver, 2023 - BRIT.

Unfinished Business

Renew Ad Hoc Committee on Future Meetings

Motion to renew committee - Barbara Ferry, seconded by Stacy Stoldt. Discussion about committee structure. Why isn't this a standing committee? Maybe it could be a committee of past hosts who serve as advisors in specific way. They could offer meeting

advice, for example. The committee was created in 2012 and has been a committee for seven years. Donna Herendeen suggests that committee chair should be the one to ask for the committee to become official. The motion to renew passes.

Membership Database comments (Céline Arsenault)

Céline asks people to try to log in if they haven't already. Everyone can change their information, but not their email. If you have to change an email, email Céline or Suzi or Betsy for help. Question - when you enter updated information, how long does it take? It should happen right away - but it won't happen for name, email, or institution. Suzi requests that people enter as much of their profile as possible. For example, we have a very diverse array of job titles here. Expertise is also helpful. Fill in as much of the profile as you can. It helps the entire membership learn about you and your institution. If you need help, Céline and Suzi can help you log into the database and navigate the site. If you haven't logged in yet, see Céline or Suzi for help.

New Business

An Update on the Annual Budget (David Sleasman)

In the process of preparing multiple Treasurer's reports last year, we really asked what was happening with the organization. Are there financial trends of any kind? Last year the board requested information from the committees about membership data over the last few years, and looked at financial data, to try to figure out the anecdotal evidence - if a downward trend in accounts and membership numbers was something to consider more deeply. Thank you, Membership Committee, for the data. We saw that there was a prolonged period where total expenses have surpassed total income for nine or ten years. We were all concerned about this trend unchecked. At the fall board meeting we discussed what action we should take. Board decided that we had to act fast because we would have no cash on hand in a few years. First, we discussed having an annual budget to help us guide the current board and future boards and allow them to make informed financial decisions regarding the future of the organization. We developed a trial budget. We also talked about adding guidance to the procedures manual - new guidelines around the committees requesting funds. That information can be combined and the board can thoughtfully align expenses and income. Not perfect, but better than no budget.

Income! Our major income generation is from dues. These had not changed since 2001. Over that time, we have been spending down cash balance, and buying power has been decreasing. If we have to raise dues, we have to be careful. We can't simply do a gigantic leap to try to balance the budget. We wanted to say if we raised income a certain amount, what could we also do to reduce expenses to flatten out the two - income and expenses. We considered a couple of scenarios about raising dues and then we settled on the scenario that passed by a very large margin.

Second half of equation was reducing expenses. We looked at a number of options. We did not go to the newsletter first. We wanted to reduce the pain on the organization to the smallest amount possible if we have to cut something. We looked at the expense of replacing LibGuides - but we use that for the organization, it would require planning. Such a cut was not feasible to do in the short term without more research. Also looked at eliminating a board position but that requires a bylaws change and also agree that this requires a discussion with the membership. We looked at removing the fall board meeting. This meeting is very important because it allows the board to meet, and it helps the meeting host. And we thought about the newsletter which is already distributed electronically and also in paper. It has the expense of the paper and mailing including international. We thought that this was the most likely candidate because it was the least disruptive to the business of the organization because people already get the newsletter through email and if anyone wants a printed copy they can do so locally. This seemed the best candidate for saving money. Given the amount of savings - \$4k annually - this would allow us to balance the expenses and income. We settled on that and put it forward and approved that as a board. We were trying hard to minimize the disruption to the organization. With the reduction in printing costs and the raising of dues, we will hopefully begin to see a leveling off of reduction in cash reserves. However, it will require a thoughtful push to retain and recruit new members. With every member we lose, we lose significant income. We need membership dues. It is pretty much the only vehicle for generating working funds to run our meetings, pay our web hosts, etc.

Any questions? Or discussion topics? Barbara Ferry - do we have a 2019 budget? Answer - we have a prototype and we will not approve the next year's (2020) until fall board meeting. Questions about \$3k sponsorship for 2018 meeting. - This was an anniversary meeting, one-time thing. Are host gifts given every year? Yes, every year. John Reed comments that over the first 30 years, dues were raised every five to six years. Annual budget would be prepared for annual meeting and brought for discussion. At 2019 meeting board would provide a budget for 2020. John Reed also suggests that laying out expenses each year to see changes over time. Amy Kasameyer - did the board investigate using Skype for a video meeting for the monthly calls for fall board meeting. Answer - we have not explored this yet. John Reed - for a number of years - probably the first ten years - the board didn't go to the host. It really made a difference once we started to go. However, we might want to reduce the number of board members who go in the fall.

CBHL Board Efficiency and Expenses (Anita Kay)

Flowing from the financial reporting were a couple of discussions. Composition of the board and board operations. Idea of the efficiency of the board. Is the Second VP needed - caveat that Brandy is great! - there are not a lot of duties around this office. Do we need this office? Would reduce costs for fall board meeting and annual costs. However, we have heard comments about maybe the board needs to be altered in some way. Other concerns about the board's structure of rotating from Second VP to First VP to President to Past President. Maybe that's not a good system. Maybe the board is too big. Maybe we should elect a President and Vice President to two year terms, as it takes time to understand organization. We wanted to bring this up as an idea to see if there are any thoughts from you. And if there was incentive to work on this idea.

Any comments or questions? Chuck Tancin - I remember when I was President and it was the end of the meeting and I just learned to do my job and now I am off! I really support the two year idea (two years for Pres/VP idea). Tracy Mehlin - I think it's worth trying something different. We have been thinking about this for a number of years. In favor of doing something different. She was a President who was happy to be done. In favor of exploring a newer model. Patricia M. Van Skaik - The idea of having a rotating, moving up board, is not efficient. Doesn't think we should just look at someone rising through the ranks. Things change over time. Someone's commitment isn't the same. Things happen. This way, when it is time to have the election, you can be sure that the people still feel the way they did three years prior. John Reed - the one thing to keep in mind (two year pres might work) is getting the commitment of home org for as long a period of time. Two years pres and two vp is still four year term - says Suzi Teghtmeyer. Tracy Mehlin - Robin mentioned yesterday the idea of a slate of three or four people who are nominated to the board and either entire membership picks president or members of the board choose a president each year. Robin - What our co-op does is that every two years there are nine people elected. A person is elected for two years and they choose who will be pres, vp. Céline - I support more than two years. What will happen is that every three years, the whole board will change every three years. Comment that this might not happen - we could set up a new board to have some people cycle off sooner and some later for the initial setup. Comment that it is good to have Treasurer and Secretary that have longer terms.

Donna - at this point, the board cannot direct this. The board can set up an ad hoc committee to do this. Does anyone want to set up an ad hoc committee for exploring board structure? People are interested in having a committee set up. Suzi Teghtmeyer makes a motion for board to create an Ad Hoc Committee to explore board structure and efficiency - Tracy Mehlin seconds. Suzi suggests - after we create the committee, board sends out the email saying that we created the committee, volunteers are requested, parameters for deadline after the committee has been established.

All in favor - yes. Membership has approved creating the Ad Hoc Committee for Examining Board Structure.

Exploration of the Board's role in membership development (Anita Kay)

So far to this point we have discussed things to cut to get a balanced budget. We can continue looking for cost reduction, but we are really interested in looking for ways to increase membership. This is more of a discussion. We are looking for directions that the board can take to encourage or increase membership. Comment from institutional member. Many hort organizations don't have libraries, but the access they would have through the CBHL listserv to CBHL collections would be an advantage that we could sell to non-library people who are horticultural. We could pick up support through that group. Samantha D'Acunto - when I was in library school, they provided students with lists of professional organizations and CBHL not listed. Great way to get young professionals involved. Cast a wider net with students/young professionals. Perhaps there should be a meet and greet before the committee meetings. Didn't know what the committees were... what do they do? Didn't know that they were open. Committee meet and greet (coffee) with committees and chairs. Learn what happens, what is of interest to us, what we may or may not want to be involved with. Suzi - we could do grant writing! We have a number of people who have successfully written grants. We can put this in our member profiles that we know how to write grants. Maybe we can help each other out with grant writing processes. So we can do smaller projects together. That's a member benefit. We can get members in if we can help them achieve things that they can't do on their own.

CBHL Board of Directors, 2019-2020

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Proposal to merge Publications, Public Relations, and Electronic Communications committees (Tracy Mehlin)

The members of all three committees met on Tuesday and we suggest that these three committees merge to form a new communications committee. We believe the current committees have overlapping missions, and we want to consolidate our efforts for greater efficiencies in tasks. We will open discussions with membership in the coming days through the listserv and website and put the question to a vote soon. We can start discussing this here if there is time.

Comment - You may want to mention that the way it is structured now, these are standing committees in the bylaws. The reason for starting the discussion now is eventually there has to be a bylaws change that can be done electronically at any time. Comment - It is important to tell membership the descriptions of what the committees fully do. This information is in the bylaws, and there is additional information in the Procedures Manual.

Recess

Call for recess of meeting. Pat Jonas moved, Beth Brand seconded, motion passed 2:59pm.

5/19/2019 - Call to Order - 3:43pm

Discussion about Committee Reports

Electronic Communications

Question: The board asks the ECC to report to board about LibGuides alternatives before the fall board meeting. Has anyone tried to negotiate with Springshare? Also, there have been free alternatives but Springshare seems to work well. It is a stable system. (Aside about stability of listserv - at one time the company providing the service was not providing the support, hence the perception that we had a free product, but it was always paid.)

Answer: This is a new assignment from the board but nothing to report yet. Negotiating with Springshare did come up as an option. Also discussed free alternatives, cost-sharing where member libraries who use it contribute, etc. (Aside about who uses the LibGuides for specific content related to their libraries - Chicago, LA, Tower Hill, Mt. Cuba, Toronto, BRIT)

Preservation and Access

Question: Are we still a member of Group Access Capability (or GAC, OCLC ILL Group)?

Answer: We are and it works, but most ILLs are through the listserv now.

Steering

Question: What is the Steering Committee?

Answer: It is a committee of committees composed of all committee chairs, all committee managers, and all of the board. It keeps activities that were started at the annual meeting rolling. Also, the Steering Committee is looking for a chair! Thanks to Susan Eubank for all of her hard work in this role.

President David Sleasman asked if there was any additional discussion on the Committee Reports. No additional discussion forthcoming, Pat Jonas motioned to accept the written reports into the minutes. Tracy Mehlin seconded. Motion passed.

Closing of the Annual Meeting.

Presentation to Annual Meeting Host (Beth Brand of DBG).

Recognition of Outgoing/Incoming Officers.

Thank you to Donna Herendeen, outgoing Past President. It was a pleasure to work with you over the years.

Welcomes extended to Mark Stewart, incoming Second Vice President and Betsy Kruthoffer, incoming Treasurer.

David Sleasman passed gavel to Anita Kay, new CBHL President.

Anita asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tracy Mehlin moved, Meg Eastwood seconded, the motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:59pm.



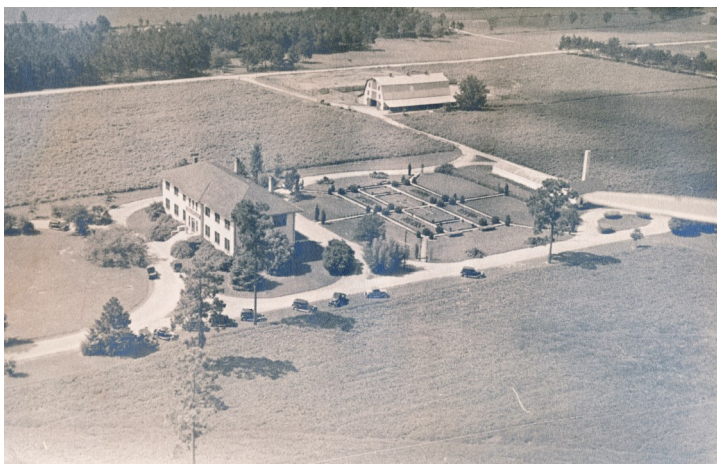
Agave photographs by the Eubank Martin family

CBHL Members' East News

Compiled by Shelly Kilroy
Librarian, Peter M. Wege Library
Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park
Grand Rapids, Michigan

University of Georgia Tifton Campus Centennial Celebration

Duncan McClusky
Librarian
University of Georgia Tifton Campus
Tifton, Georgia



The Tift Building was built in 1922. The garden behind the Tift Building appeared about 1931 in annual reports and became a parking lot in the mid 1940s. The Assistant Dean is having the garden restored and all plants used will be plants developed at the University of Georgia.

The University of Georgia Tifton Campus started celebrating its centennial in August 2018 due to the fact that in August 1918 the state government voted to have a second agricultural experiment station in Georgia and locate it in the Coastal Plain Region. Several cities applied to serve as the location for the agricultural experiment station and on May 3, 1919, the decision was made to locate the station in Tifton, Georgia. The library was involved in creating the coffee-table book that will be ready for the May 3, 2019 main event. The book will be about 75% pictures and 25% text. The librarian was also involved in the international program where 550 local fourth-grade students had an opportunity to visit thirteen displays done by campus personnel or students who came from another country. There is a website for all the activities for the centennial celebration that started in August 2018 and will conclude on May 3, 2019.

< <http://tifton.caes.uga.edu/about/campus-overview/history/centennial-celebration.html> >



Up close and personal with Lewis Ginter's Seed Library.
Photograph by Dory Klein.

Seeds of Change at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

Dory Klein
Librarian
Lora M. Robins Library
Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
Richmond, Virginia

Last month, the Lora Robins Library at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden launched a Seed Library: a circulating collection of seeds that users can borrow, plant, harvest, save, and—if all goes according to plan—return to the library. The Seed Library program is included with Garden admission. Our hope is that this relatively low-cost service will empower patrons to grow their own food from seed; foster a community of sharing; promote sustainable, organic, affordable gardening practices; promote agricultural diversity and the value of seed saving; and highlight local history.

Our Seed Library is comprised of a repurposed card catalog (retro!), filled with over 340 varieties of vegetable, flower, and herb seeds, arranged by family within numbered drawers. To participate, users complete a registration form, document the seeds that they are “borrowing,” fill out their seed information on our custom seed packets, and fill said packet with a few seeds to take home and plant; the return process is equally straightforward.

While Virginia is home to a few seed libraries, this is the only one in the Greater Richmond Area (not to be confused with the Richmond Grows Seed Lending Library in California, which has provided indispensable guidance and resources for getting a seed library off the ground). On May 18, we will launch the Seed Library with a bang with our day-long “Starting from Seed” party, complete with workshops, a seed swap, seed library lightning instruction sessions, speakers, and children’s activities.

This project blossomed thanks to a number of partnerships and advisors, to whom we’re incredibly grateful. The vast majority of the circulating seeds were generously donated by dedicated home

gardeners, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden's Horticulture Department, Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants at Monticello, Agecroft Hall and Gardens, Seed Savers Exchange, and High Mowing Seed Company. Leora Siegel at the Chicago Botanic Garden's Lenhardt Library and Betsy Trice at Reynolds Community College both provided a wealth of invaluable information, resources, and advice. Thank you to all who contributed, whether seeds or seeds of ideas! We can't wait to watch this project grow.



A Seed Library member searches for pollinator-friendly plants for her home garden.

Addison Announces Completion of Transylvania Florilegium

Stephen Sinon

William B. O'Connor Curator of Special Collections, Research & Archives

The LuEsther T. Mertz Library

The New York Botanical Garden

Bronx, New York

Addison Publications Ltd. is pleased to announce that volume two of its *Transylvania Florilegium* has now been printed and will be distributed to subscribers and collectors.

The Florilegium is a fine-art edition in two volumes. Each set is hand-bound in leather and marbled paper and finished with gold leaf. It comprises a sumptuous collection of botanical art created by thirty botanical illustrators with a Preface written by HRH The Prince of Wales.

In 2008, Addison published its first royal florilegium, the *Highgrove Florilegium*—a richly illustrated celebration of the gardens of HRH The Prince of Wales. After the completion of a long-term project with some of the finest contemporary botanical artists, a collection of watercolors has been chosen to record the flora of Transylvania, the area of Romania that is famous for the richness and diversity of its plant life. HRH The Prince of Wales is a passionate supporter of the conservation of this precious environment and the paintings of the florilegium were created by artists studying the flora at his properties at Viscri and Zalanpatak.

Printing of volume two was realized at the Pure Print Beacon Press on their magnificent ten color Heidelberg press alongside work from leading galleries and museums such as the National Gallery and Tate. All this taking place in the English country town of Uckfield, adjacent to the world-famous Glyndebourne Opera House.

To celebrate the completion of the two-volume publication, the publishers have arranged with The New York Botanical Garden and the J. Pocker Gallery in Manhattan for a *Transylvania Florilegium* event to run during the month of June. Visitors to the gallery can view the florilegium volumes on display and enjoy a special online tour of the garden grounds featuring living specimens of many of the plants seen in the florilegium.



A sample page from Addison Publications Ltd.'s *Transylvania Florilegium*.

Conservation and Preservation: A Symposium on Exposure: the Exhibition of Paper-Based Materials

by Kathy Crosby, Head Librarian
Brooklyn Botanic Garden
Brooklyn, NY

On April 5, 2019, I attended a symposium at The Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia entitled “Exposed: the Exhibition of Paper-Based Materials.” The symposium was sponsored both by The Barnes Foundation and the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts in Philadelphia. I have long wanted to attend some of their workshops and other offerings; I hope to attend more in the future.

As everyone came together over breakfast and coffee, I felt surrounded by a very CBHL-like aura. Most of the attendees were conservators and while I barely knew anyone, they were all immediately engaged in animated conversations about current and future projects. I met a woman who worked for the U.S. Army and another person who had been engaged in visiting groups and organizations around the country that focus on the archives of Holocaust survivors. She now wants to develop best conservation practice guidelines for Holocaust collections. To some extent, this symposium focused on the effect of exposure to light on various media, types of lights and light systems, the monitoring process, and housing. The keynote speaker was Stefan Michalski, senior conservation scientist at the Canadian Conservation Institute. One of his recent concerns has been measuring the potential effects of LED lighting on works of art as compared to, say, incandescent or fluorescent lights. His collaborative work shows that “damage by excellent or good LED lamps is less, not more, than most previous lighting sources used by museums.” Still, many of these lights are far from excellent. [1]

The incredible, fast-moving, high-energy process that light is—how often do I meditate on that—even as, in some sense, a librarian sharing information about photosynthesis? I know that different types of photons are essentially packets of energy. Perhaps I need to learn to think of light as diffracting off me and moving through me—get a sense of the feel for the diverse forms of photon energy in an imaginary way. When you try to think about it in this way, you get a sense of the potential physical forces acting on media, particularly for our purposes here—paper and color. Chuck Tancin and I emailed back and forth a bit about this yesterday; I liked Chuck’s phraseology about what forces might “penetrate” paper as opposed to “just” moving across its surface.

Michalski stresses that “UV, glare, and poor color rendering” can and should be removed as problematic factors in our museum or collections environments. I have included links below to his work at the Canadian Conservation Institute. [2] Most of us have some sense of the power of UV and the impact of glare, and very likely we have struggled with assessing color from time to time. What did the artist intend in terms of color, how does the source—or the intensity level—of light impact on the interpretation of color in a work, and beyond that, the acuity of our vision, which is different for everyone? Clearly resolving

“color rendering” issues for everyone is complicated. Though I support low-impact light environments in museums, I have clearly struggled from time to time. For further discussion on this, I have included a link to a Smithsonian piece on color rendering, below.[3]

If the word “permanent” is part of the description of a collection, isn’t the collection inherently endangered? “Permanence,” there is really no such thing, and I keep musing on whether there should be—on why we need to remember to edge back from the concept of perpetuity in order to appropriately curate our collections. Chuck Tancin shared a link from the American Society of Archivists that considers the taxonomy of “permanence” vs. realistic approaches[4]; I have included the link below. Gianfranco Pocobene, Chief Paintings and Research Conservator at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, spoke on the use of reproduction of light-sensitive works as opposed to use of originals in exhibit spaces. This kind of approach is still a work in progress and much discussion arose around the idea at the symposium.

Gardner arranged her collection in a series of galleries on three floors that surrounded a courtyard which let in significant light; she filled these galleries with paintings, sculpture, tapestries, wall fabrics, and furniture. In her will, she tried to make this arrangement as permanent as she could. Over time, lights were routinely turned off when galleries were not in use, and shade systems were installed. Despite these measures, some works of art on paper or textiles that have been on exhibit for more than 115 years have had to be taken off view and put into storage. Pocobene and his team print high resolution images of these pieces, especially watercolors, on fine art printing papers on an Epson Stylus Pro 7900 printer which uses an UltraChrome HDR inkset. Signage makes this reproduction and replacement process a part of the object’s story.

Remarkably and thankfully, many objects at the Gardner are yet largely unaffected by their lengthy display for years in this unique environment. After taking a two-week book restoration course and taking apart books along with my peers and mentor, we were reminded of the tradition of the strength of book craft as well as its fragility.

Thomas Primeau, Conservator of Works of Art on Paper, Philadelphia Museum of Art, noted how increasingly digitization of works of art on paper allow for their study without concern to light exposure. In many collections, the work of key artists is frequently requested for both internal and external display, and sometimes a reproduction might suffice—particularly when considering further potential damage to a work. He recounted decisions regarding Matisse’s “The Knife Thrower,” a work of Van Gogh done in commercially available ink, and a Seurat conté drawing. I apologize, I can’t remember the final decisions on each of the works!

Elmer Eusman, Chief, Conservation Division, Library of Congress, discussed two projects—one an anoxic housing environment for the [Waldseemüller](#) map and one a non-anoxic housing environment for displaying the Gutenberg Bible. A new display case has been completed for displaying one of the library’s Gutenberg Bibles using the latter approach. The previous Gutenberg housing incorporated a fire protection / suppression system; in the new model the library opted for fire detection equipment and three environmental monitoring sensors that provide a data stream and set off alarms when necessary. Anoxic cases like that created for the Waldseemüller map help to reduce color loss. I have only mentioned a few of the benefits of

these high-tech environments. [5,6,7]

Paul Marantz, IES, FIALD, LC, Founding Principal, Fisher Marantz Stone, and Jenny Castle, Senior Conservation Coordinator, Barnes Foundation, also presented at the symposium. Marantz leads a staff in development of models to interpret and help design lighting environments. For the Barnes, those models included small replicas of the art that would adorn the walls—the models are works of art in themselves. Jenny Castle reported on a monitoring system in use in the Barnes galleries. That monitoring system helped Castle detect a spike in light exposure in one of the galleries in October. Due to the arc of the sun, the system on the roof could not set the appropriate procedures or responses in motion and had to be reset. [8]

Vincent Laudato Beltran, Assistant Scientist, Getty Conservation Institute, introduced further advances in microfading testing, some of the results of which have been entered into a database. The tester itself is used to understand the in situ light sensitivity of an artwork; the database may help to elucidate broad patterns and therefore help to inspire appropriate responses. [9] There were other good talks on data and software which I am happy to share with you at a later date.

I attended this symposium because I wanted to learn more about light and how to assess diverse lighting environments at BBG. As I engage in this task, I can hopefully share more of what I have learned in a more practical way.

But another thought began to take root in my mind. How can we become more equitable and broad ranging in what we define as “treasure” and what we protect more with a view toward permanence? What gets “super” housing? On the flip side, is there a value in ephemerality? How do we look at and come to better understand that?

Footnotes 1-9 relate to thoughts, ideas, and phrases noted in the speaker’s abstracts included in the Symposium program booklet—a sort of proceedings: “Exposed: the Exhibition of Paper-Based Materials,” The Barnes Foundation, Comcast NBCUniversal Auditorium, April 5, 2019.

[1]For information on light and its effects on art and viewers :

Foundation for Advancement in Conservation. (2015). Tour of the Canadian Conservation Institute’s Online Light Damage Calculator. Retrieved from : <https://www.connectingtocollections.org/lightcalculatorrecording/>

[2]Michalski, Stefan. (2018-05-17). Agent of Deterioration: Light, Ultraviolet and Infrared. Retrieved from website : <https://www.canada.ca/en/conservation-institute/services/agents-deterioration/light.html>

[3]For more information on color rendering than is noted with the above links :

Ballard, Mary W., et al. (2015 Proceedings of AATCC International Conference). LED Lighting in Museums: Conservation and Color of Textiles. Retrieved from : <https://repository.si.edu/bitstream/handle/10088/31347/mci38560.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

[4]For information on the taxonomy of permanence :

O’Toole, James M. (American Archivist. v. 52 (Winter 1989)). On the Idea of Permanence. Retrieved from : <https://americanarchivist.org/doi/abs/10.17723/aarc.52.1.3x85283576r43387>

[5]For general information on the Waldseemüller map :

Library of Congress. (2014-3-12). Universalis Cosmographia Secundum Ptholomaei Traditionem et Americi Vespucii Alioru[m]que Lustrationes, St. Dié, 1507. Retrieved from: < <https://www.loc.gov/rr/geogmap/waldexh.html> >

[6]For information on the new Gutenberg Bible case :

Zongker, Brett. (2018-9-21). Gutenberg Bible To Be Presented in New Display Case Designed for Conservation. Retrieved from : <https://blogs.loc.gov/loc/2018/09/gutenberg-bible-to-be-presented-in-new-display-case-designed-for-conservation/>

[7]For information on anoxic cases :

France, Fenella G. (2009-3-5 & 6). Anoxic Encasements for Select Treasures : “In and Out Air Strategies,” From Climate Change to Microclimate. Library, Archives and Museum Preservation Issues, Bibliothèque nationale de France, 5-6 March 2009. Retrieved from : https://www.ifla.org/files/assets/pac/Anoxic-Encasements_BNF_Mar09_FGFrance.pdf

[8]For information on the firm Fisher Marantz Stone : Retrieved from : <https://www.fmsp.com/>

[9]The Getty Conservation Institute. (2012-11). Museum Lighting Research : Protective Effects of Anoxic Enclosures [and] Anoxic Enclosures at the GCI. Retrieved from : http://www.getty.edu/conservation/our_projects/science/lighting/protective.html

Book Reviews

Patricia Jonas, Book Review Editor
New York, New York

The Sakura Obsession: The Incredible Story of the Plant Hunter Who Saved Japan's Cherry Blossoms by Naoko Abe. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2019. 380 pages, 40 illustrations and 12 pages of color illustrations. Hardcover, \$27.95. ISBN 978-1-5247-3357-5

Spring cleaning and I am shredding vertical files. Not all of them. One I am keeping is labeled “Sakura Culture.” It consists of pamphlets (like Tourist Library, No. 3, *Sakura, Japanese Cherry* by Manabu Miyoshi [1861-1939], published in 1934 by Board of Tourist Industry, Japanese Government Railways); photocopies of bulletins (like *The Japanese Flowering Cherry Trees of Washington, D.C.* by Roland M. Jefferson and Alan E. Fusonie. National Arboretum Contribution No. 4, 1977); and some many-years-old “cherry blossom front” reports (*sakura zensen*) from the Japan Meteorological Agency. My file also has several translations of Ariwara no Narihira’s (825–880) famous poem included in the early tenth-century anthology, *Kokinshū* (okay, I’m obsessed). Here is Steven Carter’s translation:

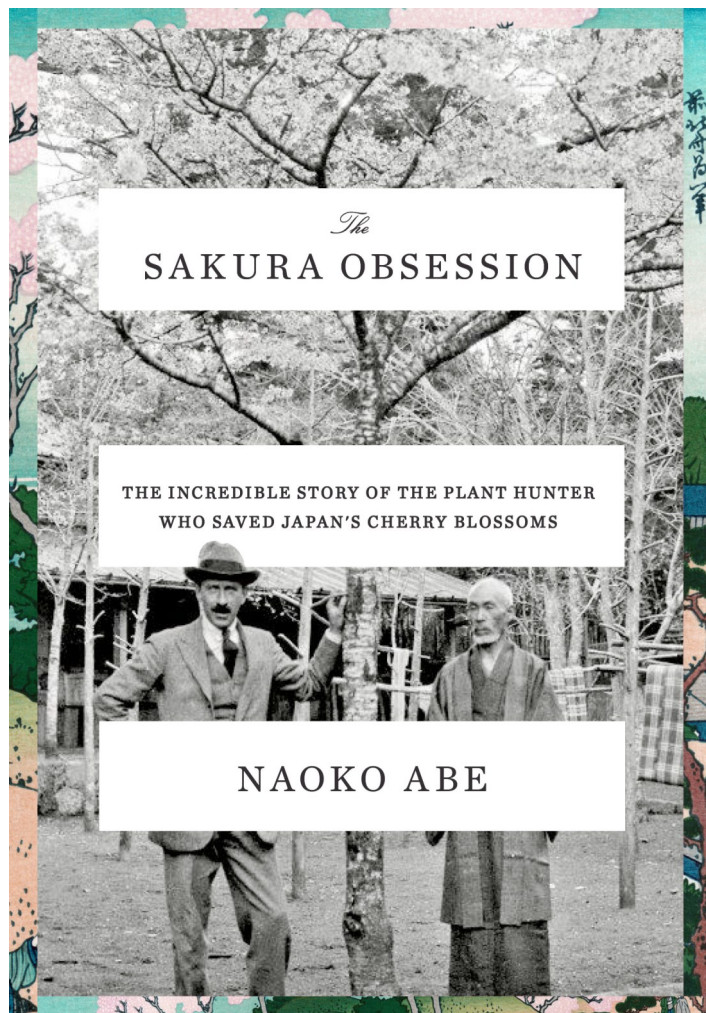
Ah, if in this world
there were only no such thing
as cherry blossoms—
then perhaps in the springtime
our hearts could be at peace.

Those of you whose institutions have flowering cherries in your living collections can surely relate.

Your libraries’ collections probably have covered the well-known history of the introduction of Japanese flowering cherries in the United States and the roles played by prominent botanists and collectors like Charles S. Sargent, David Fairchild, E. H. Wilson, Frank Meyer, and others. You may have some of the early, beautiful Yokohama Nursery Company catalogs as well as catalogs from Ellwanger & Barry and Parsons Company — the first nurseries in the United States to offer Japanese cherries. You certainly have, or should have, Wybe Kuitert’s essential *Japanese Flowering Cherries* (Timber Press, 1999). That book opened my eyes to how important Collingwood Ingram (1880-1981) — a British ornithologist, plant collector and author of *Ornamental Cherries* (London, Country Life, 1948) — was to the story of Japanese flowering cherries.

In *Sakura Obsession*, Naoko Abe unfolds a fuller story of Ingram’s life and his contribution to the confounding world of Japanese flowering cherries.

Abe, a Japanese journalist who has resided in London since 2001, had been struck by England’s diversity of ornamental cherries — trees that bloomed at different times, over a long period, with flowers in a kaleidoscope of colors — in contrast to the trees she knew in Japan, where, according to Abe, seven out of ten ornamental cherries are Somei-yoshino (*Prunus x yedoensis*). She repeatedly came across Ingram’s name as she did research for “a column about how cherry trees spread across the British Isles.” She saw a bigger story when she was given access to a substantial Ingram archive of “diaries, sketches, handwritten memos, research papers, books, journals, photographs and newspaper articles.” The resulting book (originally published in Japan in a different form and in England with a different title) has six parts plus an epilogue, two short appendices (a few key cherry varieties and species names and cherry blossom viewing locations around the world), notes, bibliography, and index. The parts are divided into 55 very short chapters in which Abe braids together Ingram’s biography and her own, the nineteenth and twentieth century histories of Britain and Japan, and the history, cultivation and social and political significance of cherries in Japan. Her goal was “to tell an illuminating tale about the surprising connections that linked one man, one flower and two countries. It was the largely unknown story of



Kanhi zakura (*Prunus campanulata*) from Ingram's notebooks.

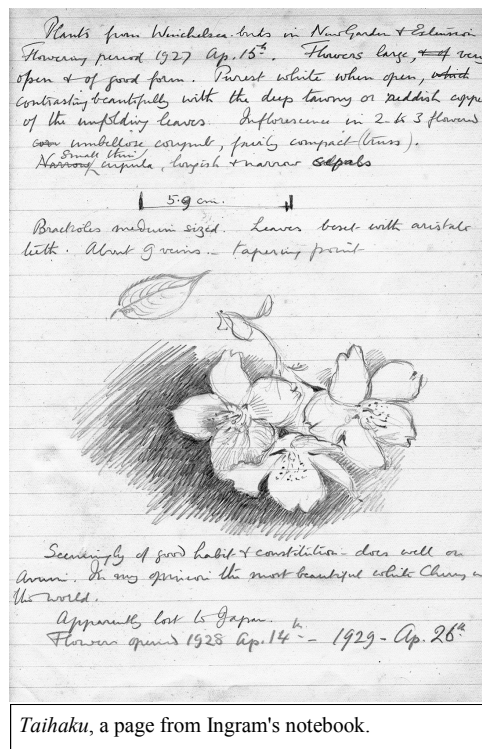
Collingwood Ingram, his long life and uncomplicated philosophy. The story of the cherry blossom, its short life and complex ideology.”

Assuming little familiarity with the history and meaning of cherries in Japanese culture, Abe summarizes it for her English language readers. The author herself was eager to understand how Somei-yoshino came to be so dominant in Japan. Why had so many of more than four hundred varieties cultivated over 1,200 years disappeared by the early part of the twentieth century, replaced by Somei-yoshino, a variety probably dating only to the mid-nineteenth century? How had exceptional diversity declined so precipitously with so few cherry enthusiasts sounding the alarm? As Abe sets out to answer that question, she explores Ingram’s part in the story. And there are good stories to tell, like Ingram’s discovery, fifteen miles from his home, of an exceptionally large-flowered white variety that he grafted and named ‘Taihaku’ and his efforts to reintroduce that lost variety to Japan. In “Creation and Collection,” Abe identifies some of Ingram’s sources for seed, scions, and plants for the cherry collection he was assembling at The Grange in Kent. He had purchased the property in 1919, and by 1925 he was growing seventy cherry varieties from his international “cherry network” that included Yokohama Nursery’s London office, Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, RBG Edinburgh, Arnold Arboretum, and private collectors like Clarence McKenzie Lewis, a New York Botanical Garden Trustee and fellow enthusiast. And from contacts he made during his 1926 trip to Japan, Ingram netted some important scions. Abe writes that “Ingram knew more about cherry trees than all but a handful of professional gardeners in the West.” But Abe’s accounts of connections made with even that “handful” seem sketchy, either because Ingram’s own records are incomplete or because the author glossed over them.

David Fairchild (1869-1954) was Ingram’s near contemporary and a key proponent of the planting of Japanese cherries around Washington’s Tidal Basin in 1912. Both traveled to Japan in 1902, Fairchild on an expedition and Ingram as a first-time tourist. (Ingram wrote of that visit “But a brief fortnight has left me with more memory pictures than months of travel elsewhere.”) Although their paths would not have crossed then, Abe might have commented on that coincidence, if she were looking for “surprising connections.” (There is too little about Fairchild’s plant explorations, but we are told, quite immaterially, that Fairchild’s wife, Marian, was Alexander Graham Bell’s daughter.) Their expeditions to Japan did not coincide chronologically, but Ingram and E. H. Wilson (1876-1930) met and consulted with some of the same Japanese specialists, like Manabu Miyoshi and Seisaku Funatsu (1858-1929), “whose knowledge of the cultivated Cherries of Japan is unique” Wilson wrote in his 1916 monograph, *The Cherries of Japan*. Funatsu was an influential member of the Cherry Association and Ingram was invited to speak to the group during his 1926 visit. It was then he warned its members of the loss of flowering cherry diversity. (There is a connection overlooked by Abe: According to Wybe Kuitert, both Wilson and Fairchild were members of the exclusive group and contributed articles to the club’s publication, *Sakura*.)

Funatsu was guardian of the famously beautiful and unique cherry cultivars planted on the banks of the Arakawa and a meeting with him had been arranged for Ingram. Ingram was enraptured and wrote in his diary: “The gusty wind . . . tossed his white beard to and fro like a banner. All the while the pink petals kept falling softly around him in little whirling eddies, like a shower of summer snow.” He had “an air of Oriental authority and Confucian sagacity,” Abe writes, without using quotes. If she is quoting Ingram, such a description might be understood as Orientalist fantasy typical of certain privileged Englishmen of the time; if she is not quoting, it is perplexing that Abe so frequently uses the outdated, exoticizing term “Oriental” and perpetuates such stereotypes about the Japanese. Abe describes Ingram as “a romantic who had grown up reading tales of Arthurian chivalry and honour. . .” She names, among his likely influences, Lafcadio Hearn, Basil Hall Chamberlain and Algernon Freeman-Mitford, all of whom longed for the “Old Japan of our dreams,” as Chamberlain described it in *Things Japanese* (1890). Chamberlain variously labeled Japan as “picturesque,” “fantastic,” “quaint,” and “tiny”—a fitting land for the “most esthetic of modern peoples.” He also wrote that “in the place of chivalry there is industrialism.” Compare that to Ingram’s impressions as he traveled from Tokyo to Yokohama in 1926 (through the region flattened by the Great Kantō earthquake in 1923): “The old Oriental towns have been wiped out, and upon their sites are being reared ultra-Occidental buildings of great size and hideousness. It seems to me that Japan . . . is suffering in consequence from a sort of violent aesthetic indigestion.” Ingram’s views clearly arose from a no less “complex ideology” than the long cultural history of the cherry blossom in Japan.

In “Somei-yoshino Invasion,” Abe points to how easily propagated, inexpensive, and fast growing that variety is and how important it became in the replanting of the region after the devastation of the 1923 earthquake. But Abe’s perspective is not primarily botanical or horticultural. This memoir is written from the perspective of a political journalist (she broke ground as a woman writing about politics for a major newspaper in Japan). Abe sees the upstart Somei-yoshino as an expression of growing militarism: it was the tree most often planted to mark important national events and military victories. This floral emissary was also part of Japan’s charm offensive in the West (60% of the trees sent to Washington were this variety). From the perspective of botanical and horticultural libraries, there are too many pages devoted to the World War II recollections of the Ingram and Abe families and other ancillary stories, including three chapters on the Kamikaze. In her pursuit of “surprising connections,” Abe makes some curious, even fanciful connections. For example, in “The Dejima Doctors,” the author speculates that her great-great-grandfather might have met Philipp von Siebold’s daughter, as both were physicians. And in “The Hokusai Connection,” what is the reader to conclude from her observation that “the two men [Hokusai and Ingram] were



born 120 years apart, almost to the day.” Although Ingram’s stern judgements about certain varieties are fun to read, *Sakura Obsession* does not bring any more taxonomic order or clear up any of the confusing nomenclature of flowering cherries. It is unlikely to satisfy a reader who has read Kuitert’s 1999 contribution and is looking for more. But it has rewards for more general readers, especially those with little knowledge of the subject.

According to Abe, Ingram introduced fifty different varieties to England including one with an unusually bellicose name, *Prunus* ‘Asano’ (syn. ‘Geraldinae’). It is a cherry he discovered in 1926, in a village at the foot of Mount Fuji, and grew from scions sent by a disabled veteran of the Russo-Japanese war. It is named for Naganori Asano whose forced suicide was avenged in the famous story of the forty-seven *ronin*. Before his death in the play *Chūshingura*, the figure modeled on Asano recites the following poem which Abe quotes:

More than the cherry blossoms
Inviting a wind to blow them away
I am wondering what to do
With the remaining springtime.

I am no longer wondering what to do with the remaining springtime. Vegetables need planting.

Charlotte A. Tancin, Librarian
Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation,
Carnegie Mellon University
Pittsburgh, PA

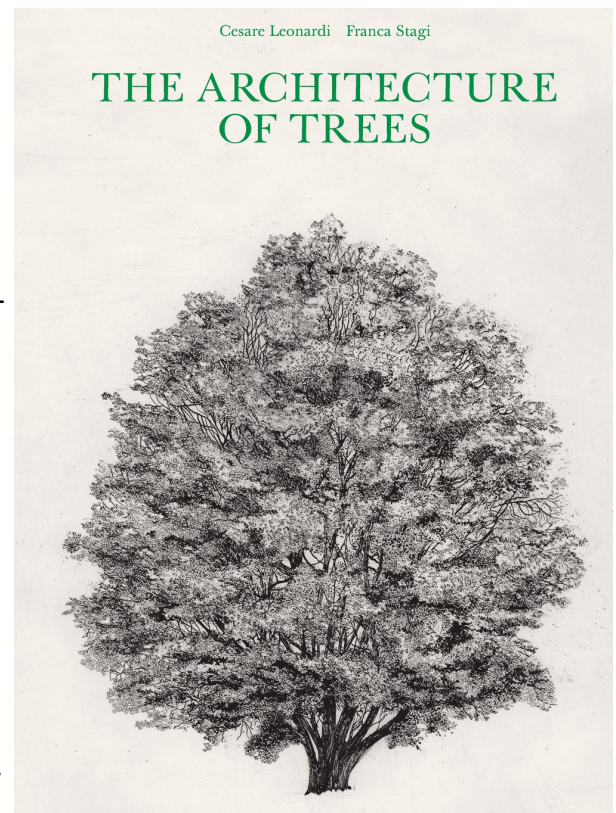
The Architecture of Trees by Cesare Leonardi and Franca Stagi.
Hudson, NY: Princeton Architectural Press, [2019]. 421, [2]
pages, illustrated. Hardcover, \$125.00. ISBN 978-1-61689-806-9

In 1963 Cesare Leonardi (b. 1935) and Franca Stagi (1937-2008) opened a design/architecture practice together in Modena, Italy. He was still an undergraduate at Florence University of the Arts, and she was a postgraduate at Milan Polytechnic. They first designed furniture before turning to urban and landscape design, renovation, and redevelopment in Modena and the surrounding area. After they disbanded the firm in 1983, he specialized in design and urban planning, and she focused on public architecture and on restoring and safeguarding historical architectural legacies.

This book is the first English translation of their *L’Architettura degli Alberi*, reflecting updates to the previous four editions published by Mazzotta in 1982-2002, and with a new design, reorganization of information, and review of the botanical names and bibliography. It contains their critical thoughts on urban green public spaces, along with tools for designing such spaces, with a focus on trees. The core of the book is Leonardi’s 370 drawings of trees, augmented by 71 pages of descriptions of the 53 families, 128 genera and 212 species (and 24 varieties), with 185 additional drawings of details (leaves, flowers, fruit) made on a scale of 1:5. The book also contains sections with color and shade analysis charts for all of the species and varieties represented, information on the trees’ origins and introductions to Europe, etymology of the genus and species names, two essays, a glossary, a bibliography and two indexes.

Leonardi came to believe that designing a park required a deep understanding of trees as its key elements. In Florence, Modena and surrounding areas, he studied specimens, photographed them, noted their names and dimensions, and then with an eye toward using them in his plans he drew the trees in India ink on transparent film. He learned to avoid atypical specimens and trimmed trees, seeking trees with natural and representative forms in areas where they seemed to thrive. These 370 portraits (which include a few shrubs and succulents) were drawn at a scale of 1:100, and the deciduous specimens each have two views, with and without leaves. The drawings are grouped by family, and the families are alphabetical within the categories of gymnosperms, dicotyledonous angiosperms, and monocotyledonous angiosperms. As Stagi notes, the drawings are meant to “capture and summarize the elements of the overall structure” of each tree, as shown in the example on the cover image.

One of the accompanying essays is Stagi’s “The City, Green Space, and the Architecture of Trees.” She saw urban green spaces as having dual meanings: places for becoming aware of and perceiving what makes up the land, and places for becoming aware of and possessing undivided land as parks. She sought a human proportion between built space and green space for cities, with green spaces “large enough to allow the city to live.” Feeling that the rules for expansion of the built city were not applicable for parks, she saw trees as the elements on which green space design should be based. She wrote, “We created the drawings and descriptions of trees in this book for this purpose: to learn and teach the elements of the architecture of green spaces, meaning parks.” She added



that she and Leonardi both looked at trees in two ways: from the study and description of their parts, and by seeing whole trees as architecture having shape and structure. The drawings were made to suggest the views of whole trees as real examples and not abstract prototypes. Use of the same scale for the drawings allows for easy comparisons, and their grouping by family allow for easy comparisons of genera and species within a family. She commented: "Plant architecture is fertile ground filled with endless invention, as nature experiments in infinite ways, taking advantage of every occasion and circumstance."

This beautifully and thoughtfully made compendium of information has the same large 40-centimeter format as the Italian editions. Although photos are not available on the Princeton Architectural Press website at present, examples of the shade and color analysis charts and the drawings can be seen on the website of Lazy Dog Press, publisher of the 2018 Italian version, at < <https://lazydog.eu/product/larchitettura-degli-alberi/> >.



Libraries: dialogue for change

World Library and Information Congress

85th IFLA General Conference and Assembly

24–30 August 2019, Athens, Greece

CBHL Conference Collaboration Grant Program

During the 2010 mid-winter CBHL Board Meeting, the Board established a grant program to encourage CBHL members' participation in other like-minded organizations' conferences. Currently there is already a wonderful reciprocal relationship with the European Botanical and Horticultural Libraries Group (EBHL). To expand collaboration, this "CBHL Conference Collaboration Grant" will pay up to \$500 towards conference fees (not including accommodations, travel expenses, or meals) for a CBHL member to go to the conferences of GardenComm (Garden Writers Association), American Public Gardens Association, Special Libraries Association, Internet Librarian, or similar organizations.

The grantee would receive the funds before the meeting (up to \$500) with the agreement the participant would present a report to CBHL (either through the CBHL *Newsletter* or as a presentation at the Annual Meeting). The report should include useful aspects of the conference that will help other CBHL members. The report is intended as continuing education for the CBHL members. The grantee is also intended to serve as a CBHL ambassador to the conference and is required to register as the CBHL representative.

To receive the grant, the prospective grantee needs to submit a letter addressed to the CBHL Secretary and include:

- Name of conference
- Date of conference
- Amount of grant request
- URL to the conference website
- Reason for choosing the conference, including the benefit to CBHL
- The date when you will submit your report about the conference to either the CBHL *Newsletter* or as a talk at the CBHL Annual Meeting

Please give the Board one month prior to the registration deadline for the conference to make a decision about the grant. Funding will be awarded based on the amount of funds made available by the Board during that particular fiscal year.

Submission address and/or email: CBHL Secretary, Esther Jackson, ejackson@nybg.org, LuEsther T. Mertz Library, The New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, NY 10458-5126

On the Web: Black Apples, an Historical Blog, and the Oldest Botanical Fossils

By Stanley Johnston
Mentor, Ohio

Following a facebook post by Suzi Teghtmeyer, we learn about Arkansas Black apple < <https://www.atlasobscura.com/foods/arkansas-black-apple> >, a descendant of the Winesap apple first discovered and cultivated in Bentonville, Arkansas, in 1870. The article suggests it needs to be harvested and placed in cold storage for a year before it is at its most edible.

A mention on the e-list led me to *The Gardens Trust Blog* < <https://thegardenstrust.blog/home/> >, a collection of writings by Dr. David Marsh, one of its trustees. Some of his recent musings include “A Maiden’s Blush: The First Book of Roses” < <https://thegardenstrust.blog/2019/04/13/a-maidens-blush-the-first-book-of-roses/> >, which expands our knowledge of the life and career of Mary Lawrance (Kearse); “Mechanical Landscapes: The Eidophusikon: < <https://thegardenstrust.blog/2019/04/06/mechanical-landscapes-the-eidophusikon/> >, dealing with a landscape automaton developed by Pierre and Henri-Louis Jaquet-Droz and its inspiration for the Eidophusikon or “moving pictures featuring phenomenon of nature” created by the French painter and stage designer, Philippe de Loutherbourg; and “The Catalogues of Robert Furber” < <https://thegardenstrust.blog/2016/01/23/the-catalogues-of-robert-furber/> >.

In passing, it seems fitting to note the most famous botanical automaton, “The Secret of Jean Eugène Robert-Houdin’s “Marvelous Orange Tree Act” < <https://hobbylark.com/performing-arts/Secret-of-the-Marvelous-Orange-Tree> >.

Another notice submitted to the e-list by David Sleasman is Peter Zale’s “Phantom of the Forest” < <https://longwoodgardens.org/blog/2019-01-07/phantasm-forest> >, dealing with the discovery of a



Cyrtosia septentrionalis in Susami town, Wakayama prefecture, Japan. Photograph by Keisotyo. [GNU Free Documentation License](#)



Arkansas Black fruit at Piihola, Maui, Hawaii. Photograph by Forest and Kim Starr, cropped. [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 United States](#)

strange plant in one of Longwood’s natural areas which turned out to be *Cyrtosia* (syn. *Galeola*) *septentrionalis*, a Japanese native orchid noted for its medicinal properties. What makes the discovery all the more mystifying is that the plant is generally unavailable for sale, and is parasitic, requiring interaction with a specific group of fungi since it lacks leaves and chloroplasts or the ability to conduct photosynthesis.

Meanwhile another similar plant is the subject of “Bizarre, Parasitic ‘Fairy Lantern’ Reappears in the Rainforest After 151 Years” < <https://www.livescience.com/61925-fairy-lantern-plant-rainforest.html> >, put on the web within a few months of the previous story – dealing with the discovery of *Thimia neptunis*, a parasitic plant dependent on fungi found in North Borneo.

This last item comes from *Live Science* < <https://www.livescience.com/> >, which also has two recent articles dealing with “1.6 Billion-Year-Old Specimens May Be Oldest Plant-Like Fossils” < <https://www.livescience.com/58261-oldest-plant-like-fossils-discovered.html> > and “World’s Oldest Flower Unveiled Its Petals More Than 174 Million Years Ago” < <https://www.livescience.com/64354-oldest-fossil-flower.html> >.

Other items from the web include an article on the “High Extinction Risk for Wild Coffee Species and Implications for Coffee Sector Sustainability” < <https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/5/1/eaav3473.full> >, “Creepy Australian Trees Bleed When Cut Open” < <https://www.aol.com/article/news/2019/02/22/creepy-australian-trees-bleed-when-cut-open/23675945/> >, and “Baubotanik: German Botanical Architect Grows Buildings Out of Trees” < <https://weburbanist.com/2017/01/03/baubotanik-german-botanical-architect-grows-buildings-out-of-trees/> >.

Another news item on AOL alerted me to the danger of a current dietary supplement – so here is information on “Drug Facts: Kratom” < <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/kratom> >.

Calendar of upcoming events

Compiled by Rita Hassert, Library Collections Manager
The Morton Arboretum, Lisle, IL

July 27-31, 2019. Tucson. Botany 2019. < <http://botany.org> >

July 31-August 6, 2019. Austin. Archives + Records 2019, Joint meeting - Council of State Archivists (CoSA) and the Society of American Archivists (SAA). < <http://www.archivists.org> >

September 4-7, 2019. Salt Lake City. GardenComm 71st Annual Conference & Expo. < <https://gardencomm.org/gardencomm19> >

October 4-5, 2019. Grand Rapids. American Horticultural Therapy Association Annual Conference. < <http://www.ahta.org> >

October 8-10, 2019. Pittsburgh. 2019 Natural Areas Conference. < <http://www.naturalareas.org> >

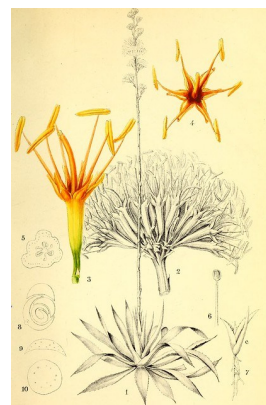
October 17-19, 2019. Pittsburgh. American Society of Botanical Artists (ASBA). 25th Annual Meeting & Conference. < <https://www.asba-art.org/conference/2019-pittsburgh> >

November 4-8, 2019. Charleston, South Carolina. Charleston Conference-Issues in Book and Serial Acquisition. < <https://www.charlestonlibraryconference.com> >

November 5-8, 2019. San Diego. Annual Museum Computer Network Conference. < <http://mcn.edu/> >

November 15-18, 2019. San Diego. American Society of Landscape Architects. Annual Meeting & Expo. < <http://www.asla.org/annualmeetingandexpo.aspx> >

Check out the CBHL Conference Collaboration Grant Program on page 17!



Agave images courtesy the Biodiversity Heritage Library Flickr page.

The deadline for the CBHL Newsletter

September 2019 issue is

July 15, 2019.

Contact editor,

*Judy Stevenson, jstevenson@longwoodgardens.org with articles
and ideas.*



CBHL Newsletter, c/o Esther Jackson, Secretary
Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries, Inc.
LuEsther T. Mertz Library
The New York Botanical Garden
2900 Southern Boulevard
Bronx, NY 10458-5126

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Return to:

Betsy Kruthoffer, CBHL Treasurer
Lloyd Library and Museum
917 Plum St.
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Questions ?

Contact CBHL Membership Manager Suzi Teghtmeyer,
suzirt@gmail.com

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Submissions are welcome according to the following schedule: March issue (copy due 1/15), June issue (copy due 4/15), September issue (copy due 7/15), and December issue (copy due 10/15). Publications Committee Chair, Amy Kasameyer, *Newsletter* Editor/Designer, Judy Stevenson, jstevenson@longwoodgardens.org, Proofreaders: Staci Catron, SCatron@atlantahistorycenter.com, Jennie Oldfield, JOldfield@atlantahistorycenter.com, and Kathy Allen, kallen@umn.edu.