

# COUNCIL OF BOTANICAL AND HORTICULTURAL LIBRARIES

## NEWSLETTER

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### SECRETARIAT MEETING

The Secretariat met at the Horticultural Society of New York on January 10, 1973. Among the topics discussed were cooperative collecting of local plant society materials, research projects approved by CBHL, Project Lock, and other business matters. These topics and others will be taken up at the Toronto meeting. Perhaps the most significant development is the incorporation of the Council which will take place in 1973.

### ASHER'S GUIDE

This ambitious new serial will give full information derived from the total contents of over 5,000 botanical periodicals. Symposiums and Congress Proceedings will also be included. Botanists and botanical librarians will welcome this botanical-horticultural "Current Contents".

### NEW LIBRARY PROGRAM AT PENNSYLVANIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society has prepared a traveling library exhibit for libraries in the Delaware Valley Area. The R. Gwynne Stout Memorial Traveling Library Exhibit consists of 12 basic gardening books and a supplementary reading list. Extra reading lists are included with the exhibit to be given away to interested persons.

Libraries may borrow the exhibit for 1 month. It is up to the individual library whether the books should be circulated.

PHS has seven sets of the exhibit available. So far, 27 libraries have borrowed the exhibit, 4 sets are on loan at the moment, and the rest are booked through the remainder of the winter. Libraries who have borrowed the exhibit have all been very pleased with its reception and we've had many inquiries about the books as well as the work of PHS.

Along with the exhibit we send information about our school program, our summer camp as well as membership information.

### BRECK'S SEEKS TO REESTABLISH CATALOG & COLLECTION

The Joseph Breck Co. of Boston has lost the catalogs of their business and wishes to reestablish it. If you have duplicates please send them to Muriel C. Crossman, Librarian, Massachusetts Horticultural Society, 300 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, MA 02115.

## PERSONALIA

Lothian Lynas Senior Reference Librarian of the New York Botanical Garden returned to England in December...Edith Crockett, Librarian of the Horticultural Society of New York has accepted the position of Geology and Psychology Librarian at Columbia University on January 22, 1973... Mr. Richard Isaacson will take up duties as Librarian of the Garden Center of greater Cleveland in February 1973. Mr. Isaacson is a graduate of the University of Minnesota Library School...Lazella Schwarten died on January 9, 1973. Mrs. Schwarten served the libraries of the Gray Herbarium and Arnold Arboretum from 1945 through 1967. Her reputation for service and her keen interest in botanical bibliography are well known...Meryl Miasek has been appointed Reference Librarian at the New York Botanical Garden. Ms. Miasek has been a Library Intern at the New York Botanical Garden since 1971.

## 1973 ANNUAL MEETING

The fifth annual meeting of the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries will be held April 26-28, 1973 at the Civic Garden Centre, Don Mills, Ontario. The program will include panel discussions on community services and Canadian botanical and horticultural resources. The 3-day meeting will offer opportunities to visit Ontario Science Center, Black Creek Pioneer Village, Royal Botanic Garden and other attractions of the greater Toronto area. For programs and accommodations information please write to the Librarian, The Civic Garden Centre, 777 Lawrence Avenue East, Don Mills, Ontario, Canada.

## ADDITIONS

The botany library of the Smithsonian Institution has added 3 stack ranges to accommodate the expanding collection.

The library of the New York Botanical Garden will be expanded by 8,400 square feet as a result of expansion and construction now in progress. The library will be comprised of six floors with 22,000 square feet of usable floor space. The basement level will include compact shelving with a capacity of 38,000 volumes.

## GROWTH

The library of the Cary Arboretum (New York Botanical Garden) is expanding rapidly to support the vigorous new program being undertaken at that institution. The collection consists of over 50 serial publications and 1,000 monographs. Plans for a new laboratory-library research facility are underway. A 12,000 volume collection is anticipated within 20 years.

## LIBRARY INTERN PROGRAM

The library of the New York Botanical Garden has an informal program by which graduate students from Queens College, Columbia University and Pratt work 20 hours a week with a librarian on the staff. This exposure to research library programs is meant to stimulate interest in special libraries and to offer proper training to these students who will administer research collections. Current members of the intern staff are Suzanne Broque (acquisitions), Fred Strum (Cary Arboretum) and Tae Jung Yoo (serials).

## PUBLICATIONS

The library of the Missouri Botanical Garden has produced a limited number of photocopies of an 1884 publication by Henry Shaw, the founder of the Garden. This 16 page publication, entitled "Plants of the Bible at the Missouri Botanical Garden" is available for \$2.00 from:

James R. Reed, Librarian  
Missouri Botanical Garden  
2315 Tower Grove Avenue  
St. Louis, Missouri 63110

The Cumulative Index to the American Horticultural Magazine will be issued in 1973. The price is \$19.95. Orders are being accepted by: The American Horticultural Society, 901 North Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

## POSITION WANTED

Dr. Keith E. Roe (Ph.D. Wisconsin 1969-plant systematics), who is completing an MLS degree at the School of Librarianship, University of Oregon is seeking a position as a botanical/horticultural librarian. Dr. Roe may be contacted at: 1585 Garfield Place, Eugene, Oregon 97402.

## MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN LIBRARY PREPARES EXHIBIT

A selection of some of the finest and most beautiful examples of botanical illustration from the collection of the Missouri Botanical Garden Library has been prepared as a touring exhibit with financial assistance from the Missouri State Council on the Arts. Entitled "Flowers and Plants, an exhibit from the Rare Book Collection of the Missouri Botanical Garden", the display contains approximately 40 frames representing botanical art from the earliest printed herbals through the present.

The touring of this exhibit is restricted to agencies and institutions within the state of Missouri that have been approved as high security facilities. Further information on this exhibit, one of many varied subjects and types sponsored by the Council can be obtained by contacting the Missouri State Council on the Arts, Suite 410, 111 South Bemiston, St. Louis, MO 63105.

## ASSOCIATION OF SYSTEMATIC COLLECTIONS

An ad hoc library committee to advise this new organization (which succeeds the Directors of Systematic Collections) held a meeting at the New York Botanical Garden on November 3, 1972. The Committee is comprised of Ruth Brown, Philadelphia Academy of Sciences, Nina Root, American Museum of Natural History, Gilbert Daniels, Hunt Botanical Library, and Bob Long and John Reed, New York Botanical Garden. Copies of the 57 page report will be available until January 31, 1973 from Dr. Philip S. Humphrey, Director, Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas 66044. Below are excerpted portions which immediately concern libraries.

### LIBRARIES

"Library holdings provide the second major resource for research in systematic biology, for they represent the accumulation of man's knowledge about the world's biota. The specialized systematic libraries that have grown with collections and research, are not limited to bound books and periodicals but may also include a variety of related aids: various card indices, catalogues, manuscripts, microfiche records of historically important herbaria, cartographic information, biographical and bibliographical files. Libraries, like the collections which they support, take on a unique character dependent on the same sorts of historical events and personnel idiosyncrasies that have influenced the development of collections. Like collections, libraries differ in their degree of importance. Some, because of the inclusive coverage or emphasis of particular facets of systematic biology, may be considered national resources, existing to serve not only their own institutions but those of the systematic community as a whole.

The problems which libraries face and their prospects for the future closely parallel those which confront collections, but in addition, libraries have problems which are unique and in some ways more critical. The enormous proliferation of scientific literature over the past few years is simply beyond the means of financially strapped institutions to acquire in total. Thus, libraries must continually reevaluate their own acquisitions policies to reflect a budgetarily sustainable growth rate. Decisions are being made which severely hamper systematic research, i.e. restrictions against purchase of duplicate copies, more restrictive circulation policies, elimination of subscriptions--all of these designed to ease budgets. Further, in those institutions--particularly universities where the focus is not primarily on systematic research, systematics may carry little weight in arguing for retention of a particular periodical or the purchase of reprinted editions of classic works. Space generally in short supply and trained librarians with an appreciation for the problems of systematic biology are difficult to find. Accessibility to storage areas is often restricted and the recovery of data already in the literature is often a nearly impossible task. If these problems aren't sufficient, more stringent laws controlling copying promise to restrict the widespread duplication of copyrighted materials, a practice now so common in systematics research and teaching programs.

Just as the development of collections is intimately tied to the development of institutional and national goals for systematic biology, so too must the development of libraries be related to the long range, disciplinary goals. There is no viable alternative. Like collections they exist to support systematic research and must be woven into an over-all plan in order that systematics and, in turn, society, may benefit from them. Just as disciplines face the task of indentifying major collection resources and establishing priorities for allocation of funds, so too must disciplines determine which libraries are truly national systematics library centers and in what manner there [they] may be supported to realize their greatest value. As in management of collections innovative approaches should be sought to meet increased demands for information. Such approaches should include, but not be limited to, the introduction of electronic data processing methodologies whenever feasible".

#### LIBRARIES AND PUBLICATION

"A special aspect of data management has to do with the vast and historically important data banks we call libraries. The growth of science and the volume of publication has so overwhelmed libraries as to pose serious new problems for acquisition, storage, and attempted coverage. These problems not only affect libraries holding systematics literature, but also the field of systematics publication itself. These problems are exacerbated by the reciprocal interactions between systematics and other fields. It is most important that we come to grips now with these questions and immediately plan for the future of systematics publication, for the safeguarding of rare and often irreplaceable foundation works, and for the problem of information exchange in a society increasingly concerned with such details as violated copyrights while calling upon us to synthesize data and concepts from the far reaches of expanding fields".

#### ADDRESS PROBLEMS OF LIBRARIES AND PUBLICATION

"The problems facing libraries and the resources they command are of greatest urgency. The ASC Council on Libraries and Publication should be formed immediately and charged to:

1. Survey systematics libraries and compile current, factual information about them, their service, and their needs.
2. Recommend standards to be met by designed National Systematics Library Centers.
3. Determine needs for and propose funding to improve library resources and centers".

#### COMPILER'S NOTES

We hope to produce and circulate the Newsletter four times a year beginning this year. Please send your notices of publication, news notes, title wants, and other copy to: C.R. Long, Administrative Librarian, The Library, New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York 10458.

POSITION OPEN

Librarian: Massachusetts Horticultural Society's 35,000 volume library oriented to public and member service needs trained, experienced and outgoing person. Bachelor's degree in horticulture/botany and degree from accredited library school required, plus practical library experience. Apply: Carlton B. Lees, Executive Director, Massachusetts Horticultural Society, 300 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02115.