



Inside the Andersen Horticultural Library.

ANDERSEN HORTICULTURAL LIBRARY LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

**RICHARD T. ISAACSON
BIBLIOGRAPHER AND HEAD LIBRARIAN
MINNESOTA LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM
ANDERSEN HORTICULTURAL LIBRARY
CHASKA, MINNESOTA**

In the early 1970s, the late Governor Elmer L. Andersen and his wife, Eleanor, gave the Andersen Horticultural Library (AHL) to the citizens of Minnesota. The Andersens had a long interest in horticulture and had been major supporters in the establishment of the Arboretum. Mr. Andersen started collecting books on natural history as a youngster and left his collections to various libraries throughout Minnesota. AHL was established as a reference, non-circulating library, is located at the 1,047-acre Minnesota Landscape

Arboretum, and is part of the University of Minnesota Library System. As a young institution, the Library has enjoyed phenomenal growth.

As an academic library, AHL serves the diverse audience of students, faculty, and researchers found in a university environment. Also, it serves many of the more than 250,000 annual visitors to the Arboretum. One of the Library's concepts is that, as an outreach library, it also serves the thousands who use its publications (which in large part are built on its collections).

Its annual budget of more than \$400,000 enables AHL to build on its collections (16,000 monographs, 350 active serials, 1,200 current seed

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From the President

**KATHERINE ALLEN, ASSOCIATE LIBRARIAN
MAGRATH LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA**

Dear CBHL community,

We'll soon be celebrating CBHL's 40th annual meeting – I hope you're able to join us in beautiful, vibrant Grand Rapids for the festivities. I look forward to meeting new members and annual meeting first-timers, as well as catching up with friends and colleagues.

As you no doubt noted in the election packet, we will be voting on an amendment to the Bylaws at the annual meeting. Passage of the amendment would allow CBHL to officially award more than one Founders Fund Travel Fellowship in years when our finances make it a sound choice. If you're not able to attend the meeting this June, please return the proxy notice to Gayle Bradbeer and let your proxy know how you'd like to vote on the amendment.

Many thanks to Lisa DeCesare, who has done an outstanding job as Membership Manager for

nearly eight years and will move on to other things this summer. We'd love to hear from any members interested in managing this essential facet of our community life. The full job description is in the Procedures Manual in the "Members Only" section of the website (www.cbhl.net). It would be feasible to divide up the tasks so that the responsibility could be shared by different people.

Barbara Pitschel and Lisa D. have graciously served this past year as interim Membership Committee co-chairs, but will be retiring from leadership of the group in June. Here's a great opportunity to get more involved and have a say in how best to recruit and retain CBHL members. Please let any Board member know if you're interested in serving on or leading this important group. If you haven't made up your mind, sit in on the Membership Committee meeting the afternoon of June 4th in Grand Rapids, and then decide. Nearly all committees will meet that afternoon – if you're interested in joining one (or more), feel free to attend a meeting. (Note: Members of award committees are appointed; let the committee chair or a board member know if you'd be interested in serving on one.)

If you haven't already done so, please complete the PAC surveys (available on the website). The information collected on members' holdings of seed and nursery catalogs, photographic collections, and botanical art and illustrations is developing into a truly rich research tool.

I've been privileged the past year to serve as president of this incredible organization. CBHLers communicate and collaborate frequently and effectively. CBHL embodies the collective knowledge and wisdom of people who care – about others, about plants, about information, about libraries. I look forward to handing over the gavel to Leora Siegel and wishing her a great year as our next CBHL president.

All the best to each of you,
Kathy Allen

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ANDERSEN HORTICULTURAL LIBRARY LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

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and nursery catalogs, 50,000 historic seed and nursery catalogs, archive collections, and a special collection of some of the classic titles in horticulture and botany). Archive collections include the Francis Williams Hosta Collection. Most collections are cataloged according to LC and are available through MNCAT (University online collections). Another collection that ensures a high visitorship is the large collection of George Nakashima furnishings. When furnishing the Library, the Andersens discovered this famous furniture maker and decided his furniture fit both the setting and function of the Library.

AHL enjoys the support of an active Friends organization that was formed in 1988. Its bylaws state its purpose is to “serve as an advisory body to the Library; to stimulate public awareness of the Library and encourage use of its collections; to encourage the publication of information and research from the Library; to help develop the collections of the Library by encouraging gifts, endowments, and memorials; and to sponsor lectures and informational programs in conjunction with the Library.” Every year five speakers give presentations on differing aspects of gardening or gardening literature, and these presentations are offered to the members of the Friends group and to general audiences.

A diverse publication program helps the Library in its outreach endeavors. AHL has published more than 15 publications on local natural history and horticulture; six editions of *Andersen Horticultural Library's Source List of Plants and Seeds*, which has been a standard reference tool for North American horticulture; and various editions of an index to the world's plant illustrations. In 1997, AHL began its online resource, *Plant Information Online* <http://plantinfo.umn.edu>, which in 2007 became a free-to-all web resource. In February 2008, it contained sources in 958 North American

nurseries for 103,634 plants; 357,539 citations to 135,338 plants in science and garden literature; links to selected websites for images and regional information for about 12,008 plants; and accessed information on 2,290 North American seed and nursery firms. It is updated daily by University Library staff.

One of AHL's more recent projects has been the mounting of large educational exhibits based on materials found in the Library. In 2006, AHL joined the University's Magrath Library and the Wangenstein Historical Library of Medicine and Biology in a historic botanical art exhibit; in 2007 the Library mounted a large exhibit honoring Carl Linnaeus' 300th anniversary; and in 2008 in conjunction with The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum's 50th anniversary, AHL is planning an exhibit entitled *Discover Trees*.

Enjoying its University environment, AHL participates actively in forward-looking Library initiatives; for example, the Library System's Digital Collections, where images from some of AHL's special collections are housed. Besides images from some of AHL's more valuable books, one will soon find the catalogs from our entire collection of three Minneapolis seedswomen who were quite famous from the 1890s through 1930. Miss C.H. Lippincott, Miss Emma White, and Jessie Prior all ran independent seed mail-order businesses. These catalogs will be able to be fully searched for both illustrations and text. Also noteworthy is an online exhibit on botanical illustration, *The Transfer of Knowledge: The Art of Botanical Illustration [1491-1920]*, which features some of the most valuable of the Library System's botanical/horticultural collections. This online exhibit utilizes the open source software Pachyderm which was developed by museum and university scholars to utilize digital images for storytelling purposes. It can be found at <http://www.lib.umn.edu/botanical/>. It is an ongoing project of the Library System with the earliest works, starting in 1491, currently available.

CBHL Board Meeting

January 22, 2008

**GAYLE BRADBEER
DISTANCE SUPPORT LIBRARIAN
AURARIA LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
DENVER, COLORADO**

The entire Board was “present” for a three hour conference call. Some highlights of the Officers’ and Committees’ reports received include the Treasurer’s report that the general fund balance continues to be healthy at \$102,826 with recent renewals. The Grand Rapids meeting account is fully funded and so far it’s working well. The test of this trial system will occur when we start receiving income from conference registrations. Email list is as busy as ever.

The Annual Literature Award committee reports that 44 titles were submitted and a record 20 members participated. The membership on this committee will need to be reviewed by the Steering committee because several members’ terms will be up this year. The Long Award committee reports that someone has been nominated and the committee is actively discussing making the award this year. The committee requested guidance on the procedure for formalizing the content of the award. The committee was asked to send recommendations to the Board for discussion. The 2008-09 president will need to appoint a new member as one will leave the committee after this year. Members must be past officers. The Electronic Communications will collaborate with the Publications Committee to regularly review and update the CBHL website. ECC will work with the webmaster to update the website by 2 weeks before the next annual meeting.



Miss C.H. Lippincott's 1913 Seed Catalog

With my retirement in April 2008, AHL looks forward to new leadership to continue its growth and programs and bring new initiatives utilizing its rich resources. June Rogier was the first Librarian (1971-1985) and Richard Isaacson followed (1985-April 2008). The Library also has four library assistants. Because AHL is open almost every day of the year, the library assistants maintain the basic operation of the library, checking in of serials, and answering reference queries. Most processing is done centrally in the University Library System. AHL has always found the active membership of CBHL to be a significant resource, both collectively and individually.

AHL is looking to its future, building on significant collections, and being a part of forward-looking institutions, including the University Library System, the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, and of course, CBHL. In today’s challenging environment for many libraries, it is great to be able to rely on such organizations.

The Board recommends that more than one Founder's Fund Travel Fellowship be awarded if CBHL has the money. The Bylaws would need to be changed to allow this. A proposed amendment to the Bylaws will be sent with the ballots and will be voted on at the business meeting in Grand Rapids. The Membership committee is very small, yet vital. Almost all the heavy lifting is done by one person, the membership manager. The Board discussed some ways to make this position less onerous. The Board liaison will talk with the membership manager about breaking down activities of the manager into tasks and distributing them much as the newsletter process has been coordinated within the Publications committee.

The nominating committee met twice by phone and suggested, ranked, and prioritized candidates. Upon invitation the top two accepted the call to serve. Thank yous to Betsy Kruthoffer and Stanley Johnston for standing for this office.

Publications committee reports the EBSCO author release forms are in place for the next issue of the newsletter. Publications will be collaborating with Electronic Communications on regular updates of the website. The Board asks if an outline of the procedures for producing the

newsletter could be updated in the procedures manual. Public Relations committee has created a new membership brochure that the Board would like posted on the CBHL website.

Other business discussed included: a) Administrative questions from Shelly who is hosting this year's annual meeting. Planning is going very well and she's looking forward to seeing everyone in Grand Rapids; b) The discussion with EBSCO on special pricing for CBHL members on the *Garden, Landscape and Horticulture Index* is not complete as the original quote was too high; and c) CBHL 2007 annual meeting suffered a small loss which the Board decided CBHL will reimburse to Lloyd Library with thanks for a great meeting.

Finally the Board would like to inform the membership about some changes in the administration of the annual meeting. The funding procedure has traditionally been to advance seed money to the host to pay pre-meeting expenses. The host collected registrations and paid the bills from the proceeds, reconciling all expenses after the annual meeting had concluded. If the meeting made a profit, the

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Hold That Date!!!!

CBHL's 40th annual meeting and conference will take place June 4-7, 2008 in Grand Rapids, Michigan! It will be hosted by the Peter M. Wege Library at the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park. Our theme this year is "Growing Awareness: The Whys and Hows of Marketing Your Library."

Host contact information:

Shelly Kilroy
Peter M. Wege Library
Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park
1000 E. Beltline NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
616-975-3144
skilroy@meijergardens.org

If you have any questions or did not receive your registration packet please contact Shelly.
Hope to see you there!!

On the Web

Looking towards Grand Rapids,
Some Major Rare Book Databases,
the Haller Tercentenary, and
Edible Flowers

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

Looking forward to the CBHL Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan in June, those interested in the history of the city will find a good introduction in the *Grand Rapids, Michigan* article in Wikipedia en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_rapids_michigan—an especially fitting beginning given the workshop being offered to our members, “Wikis Work.” Information on our host site, the **Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park** can be found at www.meijergardens.org/ with detailed information on both the sculptures and gardens which we can see on our visit. For those taking the opportunity to join one of the Saturday field trips, information on the sand dunes and **P. J. Hoffmaster State Park** can be found at www.michigandnr.com/parksandtrails/Details.aspx?id=457&type=SPRK. Information on Michigan State University’s **Horticulture Demonstration Gardens** is at www.hrt.msu.edu/gardens and the **W. J. Beal Botanic Garden** is at www.cpa.msu.edu/beal/. The latter site is a little quirky in its navigation, but it does provide information on the gardens and their history, including an interesting timeline on their development.

The following two sites, both hosted by the British Library, are of interest primarily to those of us involved with rare books. The **ESTC** estc.bl.uk/F/?func=file&file_name=login-bl-list is a major project begun in 1976 to compile a list of all publications in English-speaking countries and all English language publications from 1701 to 1800, including a list of holdings. In 1989 it was expanded to include all English language

publications since ca. 1472, and the work’s name changed from the *Eighteenth Century Short-Title Catalogue* to the *English Short-Title Catalogue*. Although the database has been previously available on CD-ROM or online, access required a fairly hefty monetary subscription. Now it is finally free. The **ISTC** www.bl.uk/catalogues/istc/index.html or *Incunabula Short-Title Catalogue* provides information on all items printed from moveable type in all languages and all western countries through 1501. Unlike ESTC, it records all known copies of the works and their locations. It gives scholars hints to the sizes of early press runs and curators information on how many copies are actually known to exist of books in their collections. As with the ESTC, one previously had to pay a substantial fee to access the data which is now free.

Haller 300 www.haller300.ch/home-e.html is the site dedicated to chronicling the various events celebrating this year’s three hundredth anniversary of the Swiss physician, physiologist, botanist, and bibliographer, Albrecht von Haller. Unlike the world-wide celebration of Linnaeus’s birth, the Haller celebration seems so far to be limited to Switzerland.

Before moving on to the rest of the sites in the current column, it must be noted that keeping track of new sites just got a lot more difficult due to recent changes in **Yahoo** www.yahoo.com. Yahoo began as a set of web bookmarks compiled by two Stanford students in 1994. Over the years it evolved into probably the most useful categorized directory of internet sites and grew from there as various other services were added. In the spirit of the early internet, the site was free and people and organizations were encouraged to send their URLs for free listings in the directory. On a daily basis the new listings were made available as **What’s New on Yahoo** dir.yahoo.com/new/, which continues to the present day, and which I have checked on a weekly basis for new sites to include in this column since I first began writing it. This year Yahoo changed the procedure for submitting new

sites, now seemingly loading only those sites willing to pay a \$299 annual fee for inclusion. This eliminates the free flow of knowledge on which the directory was based and substantially cuts down on the listing of new sites.

Edible Flowers are discussed at whatscookingamerica.net/EdibleFlowers/EdibleFlowersMain.htm with a handy chart on a subsequent page at homecooking.about.com/library/weekly/blflowers.htm.

A **History of Chocolate** www.godiva.com/about/history.aspx is provided, compliments of Godiva chocolates, in the form of a timeline.

The **Seed Library** www.seedlibrary.org/, while primarily a retail source for heritage seeds, also operates a membership program offering discounts. Members can also participate in a not-for-profit seed borrowing program where backyard gardeners cooperate to save seeds with local history.

While most of our members are probably familiar with the Oberley Award, and the CBHL Annual Literature Award, they may not be familiar with the **Growing Good Kids – Excellence in Children’s Literature Awards** www.ahs.org/awards/excellence_in_childrens_literature.htm given by the American Horticultural Society. The AHS also has a Junior Master Gardeners program where pdf files of the most recent winners and a complete list of past winners are available.

ExpertVillage www.expertvillage.com/ provides a number of free online videos on diverse horticultural subjects. They are in its home and garden section. The video subjects range from how to feed a venus flytrap to how to build a pergola. **Howcast** www.howcast.com/categories/559-House-and-Garden provides a similar service in its house and garden section.

We conclude with a number of sites noted by our members in posts to the CBHL electronic list. Diane Schmidt’s **International Field Guides** www.library.uiuc.edu/bix/fieldguides/main.htm provides a database of bibliographical entries for field guides organized by subject. **John Davidson** www.botanyjohn.org/ tells the story of the Scottish naturalist who emigrated to Vancouver in 1911 and popularized nature study through illustrated public lectures. He founded the Vancouver Natural History Society and the University of British Columbia’s herbarium and botanical garden. The site contains more than 5,000 digitized objects including his herbarium sheets, lantern slides, and field notes, as well as an oral history project. The site also has a set of very interactive java-based activities such as a shopping experience detailing the difference in prices of grocery items between 1926 and now. Finally, we have the somewhat amusing appreciation of the reference interview and user instruction celebrated for Colorado Library Association librarians in Joe Uveges’ **Librarian Song** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SB4HvVEMFig>.

Founder's Fund Travel Fellowship

There were five applicants for the Founder’s Fund Travel Fellowship this year. Chuck Tancin of the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation in Pittsburgh is the lucky winner of the blind lottery.

Chuck will receive \$500 toward the expenses of attending the 2008 Annual Meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan and her registration fee will be waived. Hopefully next year we will be able to offer support to more CBHL members to join us in St. Louis.

Members' News

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

**James J. White, Curator of Art
Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania**

Hunt Institute Presents:
*Edward Donovan: Naturalist, Artist, Author
and Collector*

March 27 - June 29, 2008



Ipomea [sic] *variabilis*, watercolor by Edward Donovan, 1826. © 2008 Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation

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Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
Carnegie Mellon University
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890

The Hunt Institute is exhibiting selections from its large collection of botanical watercolors by the early 19th-century British naturalist Edward Donovan. Created in the period 1823-1830, they depict exotic plants introduced to the British Isles. Along with these watercolors, a selection of Donovan's books on loan from the Carnegie Museum of Natural History Library is on display.

Edward Donovan (1768-1837), as were many cultured gentlemen of his day, was a collector of natural history specimens—from personal excursions in the British Isles as well as purchases from notable natural history auctions that included items from voyages of exploration. With the connections he made as a Fellow of the Linnean Society and the Wernerian Natural History Society, he also was able to access the best collections. Donovan referenced all of these sources for his books about the insects, shells, fishes, and quadrupeds of England and the insects of China, India, and New Holland between 1789 and 1827. He not only wrote and illustrated these books but also prepared the copper plates. It was not uncommon for private collectors to open small public museums of exotica, and in 1807 Donovan founded the London Museum and Institute of Natural History, which included several hundred cases of birds, botanical specimens, and other subjects. Donovan's voracious appetite for collecting, his unfortunate experiences with unscrupulous book publishers, and the economic decline in England after the Napoleonic Wars most likely forced the closure of the museum in 1817 and the auction of his collection the following year. He continued to publish, but his finances worsened, and in 1833 he published a plea for funds from his supporters to bring suit against the publishers. This was to no avail, and he died penuriously in 1837, leaving a large family destitute.

Exotic plants were featured in Donovan's early and short-lived series *Botanical Review, or the Beauties of Flora* (London, 1789-90) and occasionally accompanied the natural history subjects in his later publications. The botanical

watercolors in our collection were created much later (1823-1830) and leave a trail of mysteries. We knew only that the 709 watercolors that were tipped into five albums with spines stamped "Edward Donovan/Flower Paintings" were part of Rachel Hunt's original collection, but we have no date or source of acquisition. Many names appear on the artworks, some associated with plant collectors, botanical gardens, or private collections. Geographic localities are noted indicating the origin and date of introduction from places such as Chile, Mauritius, Mexico, New Zealand, Nepal, Siberia, and the eastern United States. Also included in this collection of watercolors is a small selection by anonymous artists (many with only a monogram, except for E. Duncombe). Even after Donovan's collections were auctioned, he would have had access to exotic plants grown in the greenhouses and gardens of private plant collectors and public botanical gardens. Perhaps he was preparing a new subscription series on exotic plants. Despite the many questions that persist about the history of this collection, these beautiful paintings are significant for their documentation of newly introduced plants in the early 19th century.

In conjunction with *Edward Donovan: Naturalist Artist, Author and Collector*, the Hunt Institute will hold its annual Open House on June 22-23, 2008. We will offer talks about the context in which Donovan worked, a guided gallery tour of the exhibition by our assistant curator of art, tours of our departments and reading room, and opportunities to meet one-on-one with our staff to ask questions and see items in the collections. We encourage everyone to consider visiting us during this Open House. It will be a good time to see the new exhibition and an opportunity to have an inside look at our collections and our work. A schedule of events will be available soon on our website. We are looking forward to your visit.

The exhibition will be on display on the fifth floor of the Hunt Library building at Carnegie Mellon University. Hours: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1-4 p.m. (except May 18

and 25-26). The exhibition is open to the public free of charge. For further information, contact the Hunt Institute at 412-268-2434.

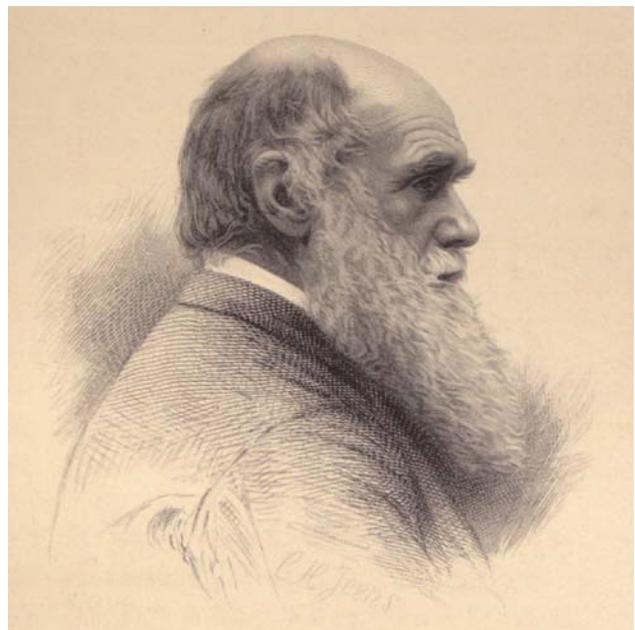
Lu Anne W. Schwarz
Librarian
Atlanta Botanical Garden
Atlanta, Georgia

Cherokee Garden Library and Atlanta Botanical Garden Library Joint Program

Staci L. Catron, Cherokee Garden Library, and Lu Anne Schwarz, Atlanta Botanical Garden Library, will be offering a joint presentation in July describing how their collections complement each other and how Staci and Lu Anne work cooperatively in serving their patrons.

Stephen Sinon
Senior Reference Librarian
New York Botanical Garden
LuEsther T. Mertz Library
New York, New York

Darwin's Garden: An Evolutionary Adventure
April 25 - July 20, 2008



Charles Darwin
Engraving by C. H. Jeens (active 1860)
Charles Finney Cox Memorial Collection, 1912

The cornerstone of *Darwin's Garden: An Evolutionary Adventure* is a scholarly exhibition of visually stunning botanical prints and Charles Darwin's original writings, field notebooks, and plant collections. This exhibition of 62 rare books and objects is displayed in the William D. Rondina and Giovanni Foroni LoFaro Gallery of the LuEsther T. Mertz Library, the world's largest botanical and horticultural library. It reveals how Darwin came to be an evolutionary botanist and shows how his interest in plants integrated with his most fundamental contribution to science: a comprehensive view of life. The exhibition runs from April 25 through July 20, 2008.

The Mertz Library exhibition explores Darwin's interest in plants through biographic and thematic approaches. Illustrated books, manuscripts, and other published materials from the Mertz Library's extensive collection of *darwiniana* will form the greater part of the exhibition, with additional materials on loan from the collections of private individuals and institutions such as the Cambridge Herbarium, Cambridge University Library, Down House, the archives and library of the Gray Herbarium of Harvard University, and the Lindley Library of the Royal Horticultural Society.

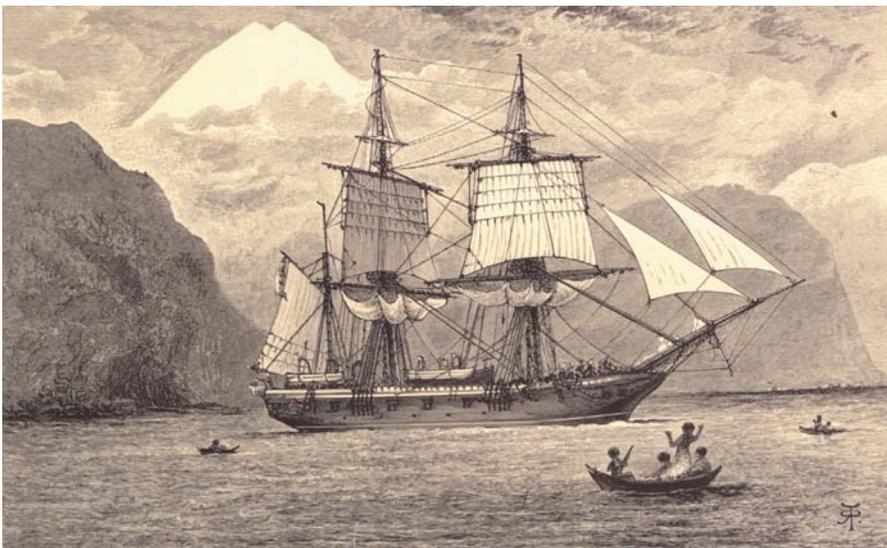
To the Garden Born: Darwin's Botanical Heritage

Botany played a pivotal—and often unappreciated—role in every phase of Darwin's life. His fascination with travel and the nature, variability, and geography of species, as well as his later preoccupations with plant sexuality and sensitivity, arose from the deep personal relationship to plants that took root in childhood. His own flowering as a botanist and naturalist was in no small measure influenced by family history and early upbringing. Even the earliest portrait of Darwin depicts the young future scientist with his sister, embracing a potted plant in full flower. A reproduction of this chalk drawing is in the exhibition. His paternal grandfather, Erasmus, a physician, botanist, and poet, penned *The Botanic Garden* (first published in 1789), a wide-ranging poem on science, technology, and the fertilization of plants. Its humor, sensitivity, and skillful use of heroic couplets were said to influence the works of Coleridge, Wordsworth, Keats, and Shelley. Darwin's maternal uncle John Wedgwood, son of famed potter Josiah, conceived and founded the Royal Horticultural Society.

New research by exhibition curator David Kohn and Cambridge University's John Parker, head of the Darwin's Garden Advisory Committee,

suggests Darwin was exposed to key ideas of 18th- and early 19th-century botany during his undergraduate education at Edinburgh and Cambridge, and this had a profound impact on his evolutionary thinking (Kohn, Murrell, Parker & Whitehouse 2005).

Darwin's notes as a medical student in Edinburgh and his plant anatomical dissections while a student at Cambridge will be on display, as well as early herbarium sheets that he studied.



[HMS *Beagle*]
Engraving in *Journal of Researches* by Charles Darwin, 1809-82.
London: John Murray, 1890. Charles Finney Cox Memorial Collection, 1912.

Darwin and the Foundations of Evolutionary Biology

Darwin was deeply moved by the balance of life and death in the entangled vegetation of tropical Brazil and Tierra del Fuego during the five-year circumnavigation of the HMS *Beagle*. He spent much of the journey collecting plants, along with fossil bones and bird skins. In the Galápagos, he was struck by the unique island species, and his collection of “all plants in flower” formed the basis for the first flora of that archipelago. The *Beagle* voyage blessed Darwin with an expanded view of natural processes, launching him on a decades-long journey of the mind that led to the writing of *The Origin of Species*, where he first published his ideas on evolution.

In the exhibition, a facsimile page of Darwin’s diary aboard the *Beagle* shows his reaction upon his first encounter with a tropical forest. Flower drawings painted on the voyage and a massive synoptic view of nature’s distribution over the Earth will vividly evoke early 19th-century views of nature. Darwin’s plant notes from the voyage and a sample herbarium sheet of a plant he collected in the Galápagos will reflect the dawning of his own theory of evolution.

After his return, Darwin transformed the gardens and countryside surrounding his Down House villa into a botanical field station. Botany proved to be crucial to the creation of the *Origin*; many of its critical arguments were tested by botanical experiments. Darwin also drew upon a deep familiarity with botanical literature he had acquired over the two decades following the *Beagle* voyage. While Darwin kept his theory largely a private, almost secret, preoccupation during this period, he did form strong collegial friendships with two leading botanists: Joseph Dalton Hooker, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and Asa Gray of Harvard University. Sustained by the intellectual and material support of these friends, Darwin was ready, within months of the *Origin*’s publication in 1859, to apply evolution to the specifically botanical phenomena he had first encountered as a young student. His explanation

of how evolution produces biodiversity—the principle of divergence, heredity, and variation, and his ideas on the origin and function of sex—sprang from his scholarship, botanical experimentation, and intellectual exchange with friends, all of which *Darwin’s Garden* will explore in the Mertz Library.

The exhibition will include Darwin’s *Experiment Book*, which contains several of his botanical experiments and a page on his “weed garden,” as well as a facsimile manuscript of *Trees of Life*, Darwin’s metaphor for evolutionary relationships over time. Color photography, further herbarium specimens, engravings, and line drawings vividly illustrate Darwin’s studies of flower form and pollination.

Scholarly Catalog and Guided Tours

The Botanical Garden is publishing an illustrated catalog of the exhibition’s contents, which will include a scholarly essay by exhibition curator and Darwin historian David Kohn and a checklist of all items in the show, as a guide for visitors and as an enduring reference. The scholarly essay chronicles the importance of botany throughout Charles Darwin’s life and reveals little-known dimensions of his influential work. Informative text, which includes fascinating anecdotes on the development of his theory of evolution by natural selection, accompanies beautiful images of many of the rare books and prints in the exhibition, illustrating the plants that Darwin studied with original material of his own writings and collections.

Guided tours of the exhibition are scheduled periodically during the exhibition. The schedule of tours will be available via the Botanical Garden’s website at www.nybg.org.

Major Sponsors

National Endowment for the Humanities: *great ideas brought to life*.

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin H. Davidson

Additional support has been provided by:

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Nolen
Ms. Weslie R. Janeway
Mr. and Mrs. Coleman P. Burke
Mr. and Mrs. Lewis B. Cullman
The Kurt Berliner Foundation
New York Council for the Humanities

Exhibitions in the Mertz Library are made possible by the LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust, William D. Rondina and The Carlisle Collection, and The Kurt Berliner Foundation.

Judy Warnement
Library Director
Harvard University Botany Libraries
Cambridge, Massachusetts

News from Harvard Botany Libraries

The Google Book Project has been in full swing in the Botany Libraries since late January. More than 6,000 items have been barcoded and scanned and will appear soon in the Google Book Search collection. The project staff expect to finish by late spring.

Lisa DeCesare, Head of Public Services and Archivist, will be the featured speaker at the April meeting of the New England Chapter of the Victorian Society of America. Her presentation will be about the history of the building that houses the Farlow Reference Library of Cryptogamic Botany which has been described as “truly a remarkably intact late Victorian era space.”

CBHL members interested in the relationship between Charles Darwin and Asa Gray will be interested in catching the webcast presentation of “Re:Design,” a dramatization based on their correspondence. It can be viewed at <http://web.mit.edu/museum/about/news.html>.

Judy Warnement will present a paper entitled *The World's Greatest Libraries on Your Desktop*

at the annual meeting of the Herb Society of America in Boston on June 28.

Patricia Jonas
Director of Library Services
Brooklyn Botanic Garden
Brooklyn, New York

Digitization at Brooklyn Botanic Garden

Brooklyn Botanic Garden digitized a total of 1,100 images by New York State botanist and photographer Elsie M. Kittredge (1870-1954): 426 lantern slides and 674 glass plate negatives. The images were added to BBG's Historic Image Collection, a digital library and fully searchable database accessible on BBG's website, http://bbg.org/cgi/hic/hic_search.cgi. Digitization of the E.M. Kittredge Collection was supported by grants from the New York State Council on the Arts and the Metropolitan New York Library Council through the New York State Regional Bibliographic Databases Program.

The collection, which was created between 1910 and 1915, is among the few existing lantern slide collections of plant images by a woman. Because it is accompanied by scientific collection data, which we have augmented to include currently accepted nomenclature and conservation status, and in many instances herbarium specimens, it is of particular importance to botanists, horticulturists, and educators. We also digitized the lectures that accompanied the slide sets loaned to schools and botanical clubs.

The project began with a need to re-house an extensive collection of approximately 7,000 lantern slides. We hired the firm The Better Image to provide instruction to staff and volunteers in the conservation and preservation of lantern slides. As we cleaned and processed the collection, we separated the Kittredge slides for digitization. We outsourced digital imaging services to Luna Imaging. Discussion with Luna about vital metadata that was being lost in the image capture because it was written on the



Elsie M. Kittredge, *Cypripedium parviflorum* var. *pubescens*, 1916, hand colored lantern slide, Historic Image Collection of Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, New York.

reflective border, led to Luna devising a process for compiling both the transmissive and reflective aspects of the lantern slide for the archive masters.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the project was to discover the quality of the images. Although the objects had been stored in wooden cabinets in a garage for many years, and were covered with a great deal of dust, they were otherwise in surprisingly good condition.

Wesley E. Higgins
Head of Systematics
Marie Selby Botanical Gardens
The Gore Orchidology Collection
Sarasota, Florida

Gore Orchidology Collection at
Marie Selby Botanical Gardens

Robert Hayes Gore, Sr. (1886-1972) started life on a hard-scrabble Kentucky tobacco farm and

rose to become a publisher, patron, and patriarch as one of Florida's wealthiest men. Gore made his initial fortune in Indiana and Illinois by selling insurance policies with newspaper subscriptions. After moving to Florida in 1929, Gore became a real-estate developer in Broward County and owner of the *Fort Lauderdale News*. He also was appointed governor of Puerto Rico (1933-1934) by Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Gore's orchid house business began as a hobby and, through hybridizing, grew into a commercial nursery business. He gradually acquired a remarkable library of more than 500 books on botany and orchid culture. He also collected orchid paintings and

color plates, including a set of Sander's *Reichenbachia* and such periodicals as *Lindenia*, *Orchid Album*, and *Orchid Bulletin*. The Imperial Edition of *Reichenbachia* (1888-1894), is one of 100 copies signed by the author Henry Conrad Frederick Sander. The title was chosen to honor Professor Dr. Reichenbach of Hamburg, the great orchidologist, who devoted his life to the study of the orchid family. Orchids are illustrated life-sized in *Reichenbachia*, and are accompanied by descriptions in both English and German. This edition is a set of 192 color plates, each measuring 22 by 16 inches, that were painted by seven artists, including Henry George Moon and Walter Hood Fitch.

The R.H. Gore, Sr. and Lorena Gore family trust has donated the Gore Orchidology Collection of rare orchid books to Marie Selby Botanical Gardens, Sarasota, Florida. The gift of 217 books is a remarkable addition to Selby's research library and is now available for scientific researchers. The Selby Research Library is a specialized botanical library focusing on tropical

plants, especially epiphytes. The library houses approximately 7,000 volumes, including a rare book collection dating to the late 1700s, 14,000 issues of scientific journals, 2,500 microfiche of early botanical references and herbaria, a photographic slide collection, an illustration file, a map file, and the Gardens' historical archives. This collection has strengths in plant systematics, floristics, horticulture, morphology, ecology, economic botany, and evolution. R.H. Gore's legacy lives on through his Gore Family Memorial Foundation Trust and the Gore Orchidology Collection.

Selby's library catalog is available online at <http://library.selby.org:81/browse/>.

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

**Larry Currie, Academy Librarian
California Academy of Sciences Library
San Francisco, California**

Grand Opening Nearing Completion

In January, the California Academy of Sciences began the great migration of its scientific collections back to Golden Gate Park, and the Library is preparing to move its 230,000 volumes back into our new facility beginning on May 5. More than 400 book carts have already been loaded, and we expect to load nearly 900 book carts by the time we are finished. Library staff will move into their new offices on June 2, and the grand opening of the new museum will be on September 27. Information about the new museum and exhibits can be found at <http://www.calacademy.org>.

**Tracy Mehlin
Information Technology Librarian
Elisabeth C. Miller Library
University of Washington Botanic Gardens
Seattle, Washington**

3rd Annual Garden Lovers' Book Sale – and Botanical Art Exhibit and Sale

The Miller Library held its third annual fund-raising book sale on April 4 and 5, 2008. Thousands of used gardening, horticulture, botany, and landscape design books were for sale.

As an added bonus, this year's sale coincided with an exhibit and sale of new works by members of the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the American Society of Botanical Artists. The library doubled as a gallery to display the recent work of several excellent local artists working in various media.

ELISABETH C. MILLER LIBRARY
GARDEN LOVERS' BOOK SALE
APRIL 4 & 5, 2008

Art Exhibit and Sale
PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY
OF BOTANICAL ARTISTS - Continues through May 4

Wine and Cheese Preview Party and Book Sale
FRIDAY, APRIL 4TH FROM 5:00 - 8:00 PM. TICKETS: \$15

Book Sale
SATURDAY, APRIL 5TH FROM 9:00 AM-1:00 PM. FREE ADMISSION

For more information visit the library's website at www.millerlibrary.org.
To purchase party tickets call the library at 206-543-0445.

BOTANIC GARDENS
Plants for Life
CENTER FOR URBAN HORTICULTURE
3501 NE 41ST STREET SEATTLE, WA 98105

Eager shoppers and those desiring a festive book-buying experience joined us on Friday evening for the Wine and Cheese Preview Party. Guests enjoyed a glass of wine, while viewing original botanical art and bidding on specially selected books in the silent auction.

Announcing the New NHS Curriculum Collection

As mentioned last issue, the Northwest Horticultural Society awarded the Library a \$2,500 grant in autumn 2007 to plan and purchase a curriculum collection. The goal was to expand the collection with more books and other materials to help local educators develop plant-focused curriculum.

Now complete, the NHS Curriculum Materials Grant adds 72 items to our collection, including curriculum guides, storybooks, field trip planners, garden design manuals for parents, field guides, and more. This grant doubles the size of our Parent/Teacher Resource collection, and more than doubles its usefulness.

The additions also support the educational programs of the UW Botanic Gardens, including the Seedlings Preschool and Saplings School programs at the Washington Park Arboretum, which reach 5,000 children a year.

While focusing on a classroom setting, these books would also provide excellent resources for parents or other family members to use for teaching about plants and nature, or simply enjoying the garden with their children.

View the complete booklist at:
http://depts.washington.edu/hortlib/resources/booklists_data/nhs_curriculum_grant.pdf

New Computers

Thanks to a grant from the College of Forest Resources Dean's Office on the recommendation from the CFR Resources Committee, the Miller Library now has two new computers for public

and student use for a total of four public-access computers.

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

Vertical File Subject Access Guide Going Online

When our catalog finally went online in 2005, we sorely missed a couple of enhancements that had been well-loved components of our excellent old card catalog.

The first and most vital piece was the collection of article citation cards, which included more than 20,000 references to articles hand-selected from our collection of approximately 450 periodicals. These had been typed on cards over the years and filed in our dictionary catalog. Steady work by staff and volunteers over a period of a couple of years enabled us to incorporate this entire collection of references into our OPAC. Staff members continue to browse the periodicals received each week, flag articles of special interest (good, well-illustrated, or well-presented treatments; new or infrequently-treated subjects; people, places, or subjects of special local interest; etc.), and staff and volunteers assign appropriate subject headings and enter records into the online catalog using a custom-designed article-citation workflow.

The card catalog had also contained interfiled references to related folders in the library's vertical files. We have missed this inter-collection finding aid, and have been trying to figure out a way to incorporate it into the OPAC. For a long time, Associate Librarian Jane Glasby and I stewed over this, with insufficient time to seriously focus on it. This spring semester we are fortunate to have two exceptional interns—Jennifer Ambrulevich from San Jose State University's library school and Ana Perez from San Francisco City College's library technology

program—who were both willing and eager to work with us on the design, troubleshooting, and execution of this project.

The intrinsic problem, of course, is that the entire folder constitutes the record and the item, offering slim bibliographical pickings. We don't have time or inclination to try to record or track the individual contents of each folder. We finally determined that, since a MARC record requires a 245 title field and we need a subject field, those would essentially constitute the basic content of our record. So, except for a few canned-text fields, our vertical file workforms have little else.

Our titles take the form: 245 10 Vertical file : \b Alpine flora. Our subjects follow the form: 650 0 Alpine flora \v Vertical file. And our collection location is Vertical File. Redundant, perhaps, but useful, as this has enabled us to transfer into the OPAC our many useful cross-references from appropriate subjects to the vertical file, e.g.

Alpine flora has see also references to Alpine flora – Vertical file, as well as intra-catalog references to Rock garden plants and Rock gardens.

This is a project in process, with Jennifer and Ana spending about half their internship hours on its implementation. Although these references are primarily helpful to on-site visitors to our library or to off-site patrons being assisted by library staff, anyone can go to our catalog (<http://asp.vtls.com/cgi-bin/sfbgs/chameleon/> or just click on the link on our garden home page) to see them. By semester's end in mid-May, we expect A through Z of the main vertical file to be completed. The next project will be to begin other separate vertical files—Plant Families, Botanical Gardens, San Francisco Botanical Garden, Golden Gate Park, and San Francisco. Like so many automa-tion projects, this is one of those many works-in-progress that I laughingly refer to as “job security.”

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Ongoing Used Book Sales

Another vexing problem has recently been partially solved. Our library receives many donations of used books on horticulture and related subjects from well-meaning friends whose intention is to help us. An important revenue line in our library budget is income from the sale of these in-kind book donations. We have two large used book sales every year—one accompanying our spring plant sale, the other in conjunction with our summer gardening fair—down in number since there are no longer harvest or holiday fairs. Despite good sales, this small window has proven inadequate to keep up with the incoming tide of books.

Of our three greatest inadequacies—space, time, and money—space has always been the most difficult to address. We are bursting at the seams. All the used books have been stuffed into a partial aisle on our mezzanine, but space has become insufficient to hold them over the long periods of no sales.

We recently arranged the books in price categories on their shelves. (I tend to price in even dollars near the low-end of bookfinder.com, and our prices include tax.) We are now permitting people, by appointment or arrangement with the librarian, to shop throughout the year. Due to space constraints, only one shopper at a time is permitted in the aisle. And our main rule is that books looked at and not purchased be returned to the correct price shelf. We are pleased, after the first two months of this initiative, with the slow but steady interest that is being shown by staff, volunteers, members, and library patrons, and by the money that is steadily trickling in and the shelf space that is opening up for newly-received gift books.

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

A Flood, Rare Books, and Bad News from OCLC at the Arboretum Library

Life at the Arboretum Library has been a little hectic lately. Our Administration Building was flooded during a winter rain when the area got a total of nine inches of rain in 24 hours. That's a lot of precipitation for us desert rats. The water seeped into offices and mold climbed the walls. As a result, most of the folks who had offices in the administration building are temporarily (for probably two years) moving into the library building. I have a whole group of new neighbors.

When the decision was made to move the accounting folks to our side, they needed a secure room. I have that, but it was filled with rare books. We decided to switch. The rare books moved to our safe. It's a large vault with a safe combination on the massive steel door. The accountant moved into the rare book room. It took about a week to move the books. I had one wonderful volunteer who slogged through the process with me. Moving your collection is one of the best ways to get to know it.

The funniest part of the whole move was that the accountant and I both discovered that we had been made computer repositories, because we both had locked spaces. I had all the old, dead computers that had never gone through the county deaccessioning process and she had all the new spare parts. We both decided in our move that a library and an accounting office were no place to store computers! They are gone now. At Grand Canyon, I also had designs on the "safe vault" as a hedge against forest fires, but was never able to convince the IT department that rare books were more valuable than computers. Somehow I feel vindicated now.

continued on page 23

Literature Review

**CHARLOTTE TANCIN, LIBRARIAN
HUNT INSTITUTE FOR
BOTANICAL DOCUMENTATION
CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA**

Hall, Nigel and Martin Rickard. *Fern Books and Related Items in English Before 1900*.

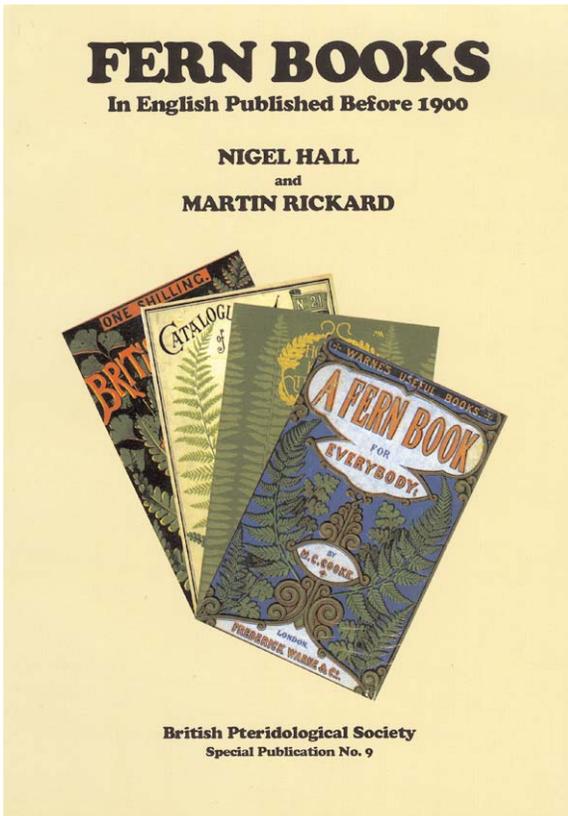
(Special publication / British Pteridological Society; no. 9) London: British Pteridological Society, 2006. iv, 98 p., ill., incl. 5 color plates. ISBN 0-9509806-9-2. £15 plus postage, available from Patrick J. Acock, pat.acock@btinternet.com.

Ferns were almost unbelievably popular in 19th-century Britain and, to a lesser extent, in the United States. In general, natural history was of great interest at the time and its pursuit was widely encouraged, with the happy result that many amateurs enjoyed studying nature and contributed to knowledge about the natural world. The Linnaean system was gaining popularity and

was so easy to use that it fueled popular botany in the 19th century.

Not only were naturalists more readily able to classify and name plants, but people from all walks of life found an outlet for their interests and talents in collecting, identifying, and growing plants. This was a hobby that was wholesome, healthy, genteel, stimulating, and could be pursued in various ways without a lot of expense or training. It was also seen to be particularly well suited to women. And while many kinds of plants attracted popular attention, some special types such as ferns and orchids were particularly intriguing. Ferns had not been well studied yet and were seen as graceful, exotic and somewhat mysterious. There was a huge market for fern identification books, and many people enjoyed leafing through fern albums or even making their own.

Now, more than a century later, many of our libraries still contain fern books from this period, but the context that created them seems distant and often forgotten. To help librarians and book collectors to appreciate the fern books in their collections, *Fern Books and Related Items in English Before 1900* is a new and very useful resource. Nigel Hall and Martin Rickard are longtime enthusiasts of both ferns and fern literature and have given us an informative and sometimes entertaining window onto these lovely publications. Hall and Rickard have built considerable added value into their bibliography by including numerous excerpts from contemporary reviews, showing us how the books were perceived at the time of publication by those “in the know.” Review comments run the gamut from fulsome praise to scathing criticism and give insight into all manner of things connected with the production of these books. In addition to standard bibliographic citations, the entries also variously include information about circumstances of publication, technical information about how the illustrations were produced, biographical notes about the authors cited, references to intended audiences, and more. There are added entries for



subsequent editions and reprints, and mentions of addenda and publishers' ads. Unusually, albums and nursery catalogs, the "related items" of the title, are included among the items described. Occasional informed speculation on the part of the authors adds to the text, and references for further information are provided in many of the entries. In addition to the color plates, there are about four dozen black and white photos of book covers, title labels, and fern images included.

This bibliography is a labor of love, contains a large amount of well-organized information, and yet is affordably priced. Adding it to our libraries can give us a tool for collection assessment, and can enhance the usability of the 19th-century fern books in our collections, enabling us to provide more information to our library users about this very interesting category of botanical literature. *Fern Books ... Before 1900* is highly recommended.

Leslie M. Delserone, Guest Reviewer
Agriculture Librarian
Magrath Library
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, Minnesota

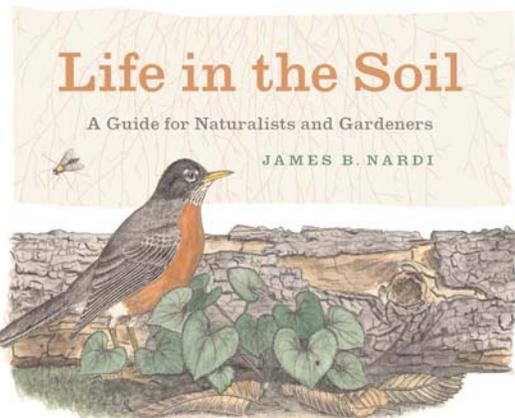
Nardi, James B. *Life in the Soil: A Guide for Naturalists and Gardeners*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007. 336 pp., 69 color plates, 229 halftones, 2 line drawings. ISBN: 0-226-56852-0. \$25.00 (paper).

Do you know someone who calls the soil "dirt"? If so, suggest James B. Nardi's book as an engaging and well-written corrective, revealing the diversity of micro- and macro-organisms living in and atop the soil.

After providing a backdrop—the interrelationships between soil, its properties, and the plant roots, bacteria, fungi, and animals that live in it—Nardi (a biologist with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the Illinois Natural History Survey) spends the bulk of the

book introducing the reader to microbes (e.g., actinomycetes), invertebrates (e.g., thrips), and vertebrates (e.g., moles) which have a global distribution. He also includes a few examples of organisms unique for their climactic specialization or morphology, such as the order Caecilia, tropical amphibians that are legless and live in the soil. These special cases serve as reminders of the wealth of biodiversity in the world's soils.

With each introduction of an organism or group of organisms, there is a "fact box" which includes information on common name(s), classification, "place in the food web" (e.g., decomposer, herbivore), size, and number of species. A reader will find sufficient background information about how to interpret these five descriptors in a preliminary "How to Use This Book" section. For example, Nardi does a good job in reviewing the fundamental characteristics of the prokaryotic (Archaeobacteria and Eubacteria) and eukaryotic domains (Eukarya). He then presents the five-kingdom model for the Eukarya, so it is clear that members of the Protozoa, Chromista, Fungi, Plants, and Animals are under discussion. Of



particular interest to the gardener are (1) the description of relevant organisms as “garden allies” or “garden adversaries,” and (2) the entire final section of the book, entitled “Working in Partnership with Creatures of the Soil,” with its discussion of composting. Those interested in natural history will enjoy the information in “Collecting and Observing Life of the Soil.”

Illustrations are appropriate, with well-detailed drawings. Color photographs are predominant among the color plates found in the book’s midsection. The author also clearly recognizes the value of an excellent index, and he includes a basic “further reading” list. Unfortunately, he does not provide a bibliography for the in-text references to articles and books, so interested readers may have a bit of work identifying and accessing these additional sources. While Nardi’s overview of the soil’s creatures approaches comprehensiveness in breadth of coverage, it is not a detailed field or laboratory identification manual. However, he achieves his objective to share “new discoveries ... [of] the unsung heroes that give the gift of good earth” (p. xxi), and reminds us that balanced and healthy “life in the soil” is fundamental to human and global health.

How We Succeed

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

Sharing the Wealth

CBHL is rich. When you think about it, the combined wealth of resources held by CBHL libraries is truly amazing. What is even more amazing is the opportunity for sharing those resources—it’s one of the great advantages of membership. Although a library certainly cannot depend solely on the collections of other institutions to fill gaps in their own holdings, the ability to expand the range of a particular subject through cooperative lending enriches the collections of all participants. Unfortunately, while the days of printed union catalogs are mostly over (along with the difficulty of keeping them up to date), and problems of slowness are solved as the reliance on local postal systems fades in favor of electronic technologies, there are still obstacles to overcome. In fact, it could be said that resource sharing has never been so easy or so complicated!

The difficulties stem from an embarrassment of choices. No two libraries are alike: there are a wide variety of programs and products available that have been designed to facilitate interlibrary loan transactions, and each library chooses what is best for its situation. At the same time, resource sharing works when either everyone is using the same system, or when different systems are interoperable. Adding to the dilemma is the probability that an individual library’s ILL

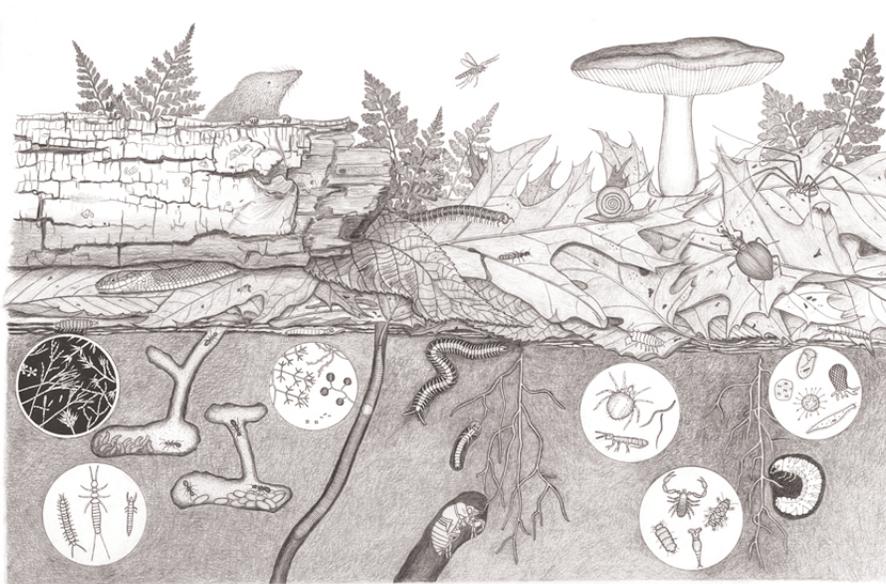


Illustration from *Life in the Soil* by James B. Nardi.

policies and procedures were established long before the opportunity for a group resource-sharing program arose. Finding a system that works well for all parties can be frustrating and may ultimately prove impossible.

Most integrated resource sharing/interlibrary loan systems have three basic parts: a database, a document management system, and a delivery system. The database can be a single catalog of one library system and its branches, or it could be the “catalog of catalogs”—OCLC. The management and delivery systems can be entirely electronic, or as low-tech as the local post office and a file drawer.

Founded in 1967, to date, the Online Computer Library Catalog has records from “over 60,000 institutions in over 120 countries and territories” (from the website). Through various products offered by OCLC such as FirstSearch®, a reference/resource sharing program, borrowing institutions, and in some instances individual patrons, can search for and request items from a multitude of potential lenders. The movement of items is tracked, and transactions may be completed in a matter of hours. Additional proprietary document delivery systems like Ariel®, the Oracle-based ILLiad®, or the open-source FTP (file transfer protocol) software called FileZilla provide ways to manage and move document files electronically—sending scanned copies of articles directly to the email in-box of the patron’s computer. A step down from this is the classic solution of simply scanning the material and using one of the many ubiquitous email programs available on any personal computer. This last approach is handy; however, it lacks the file management and tracking functions of the other programs. The “if all else fails” approach is, of course, photocopy and mail. As you might expect, with the exception of the FileZilla, email, and mail options, these document delivery systems are costly and often out of the budgetary reach of smaller libraries, especially where low ILL volume does not justify the expense.

While web-based systems generally provide the most efficient service, difficulties arise when your computers cannot interact with the computers at another institution. Breaking through this impasse was the development of the Z39.50 protocol that essentially translates data coming from one system (server to server) into a format that is intelligible to another. Additional protocols and standards (the MARC format, for example) continue to advance record and resource sharing capabilities.

CBHL members have three resource sharing options at present: GAC (Group Access Capabilities), a service offered to library groups and consortia through OCLC; the CBHL Distributed Catalog that was developed by Larry Currie of the California Academy of Sciences and contains the records of several CBHL institutional libraries; and no-frills email. Each has distinct advantages and disadvantages. While GAC has by far the largest database of holdings, it also requires subscription membership in OCLC along with the appropriate software/hardware system. Currently, according to the 2007 Institutional Membership Directory, there are 22 GAC participants. The Distributed Catalog provides combined searching across the participating libraries’ remote catalogs through Z39.50, but the technology might be too expensive and difficult to maintain for some libraries. In addition, only four CBHL member libraries are currently making their catalogs available through this service: the California Academy of Sciences, the San Francisco Botanical Garden, the New York Botanical Garden, and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society; and this may put a disproportionately heavy burden on these lenders. Requests posted on the CBHL e-mail distribution list seem to be both popular and effective, but this method makes compiling organizational usage statistics extremely difficult.

So, where do we go from here? Rather than offering solutions, I hope this article has provided some general background on resource sharing. A next step might be to discuss among the CBHL libraries as to how we can use our GAC more

effectively and how many CBHL libraries are currently subscribed to OCLC and so have the ability to join the GAC. Should we formalize the use of our resource sharing systems so a librarian would use GAC first, then the CBHL Distributed Catalog, and leave asking for article requests via the CBHL Listserv an option of last resort? The next step could be to decide whether the current resource sharing arrangements meet the needs of our members, and if not, open the discussion about how better to share the CBHL wealth. In the end, such discussion can only help us as librarians to provide better and cheaper document delivery services to the customers who use our libraries.

Links and Resources:

Ariel

http://www4.infotrieve.com/products_services/ariel.asp

CBHL Distributed Catalog

<http://library.calacademy.org/cbhl/ill/index.php>

FileZilla

<http://filezilla-project.org/>

FirstSearch

<http://www.oclc.org/firstsearch/>

GAC for CBHL

<http://www.cbhl.net/services/gac.htm>

GAC

<http://www.oclc.org/us/en/resourcesharing/features/groups/gacs/default.htm>

ILLiad

<http://www.atlas-sys.com/products/illiad/>

OCLC

<http://www.oclc.org/>

continued on page 23

Calendar of Upcoming Events

RITA HASSERT

TECHNICAL SERVICES LIBRARIAN

STERLING MORTON LIBRARY

THE MORTON ARBORETUM

LISLE, ILLINOIS

May 28-30, 2008. Adelphi, Maryland.
8th Annual Intellectual Property Symposium.
<http://www.umuc.edu/mkting/cip/index2.html>

June 1-5, 2008. Durham, North Carolina.
Society for Economic Botany.
49th Annual Meeting.
<http://www.econbot.org>

June 4-6, 2008. Grand Rapids, Michigan.
CBHL 40th Annual Meeting.
“Growing Awareness: The Whys and Hows of Marketing your Library.”
<http://www.cbhl.net/meetings/meetings.htm>

June 15-18, 2008. Seattle, Washington.
SLA Annual Conference.
<http://www.sla.org/content/Events/conference/ac2008/index.cfm>

June 15-27, 2008. Charlottesville, Virginia.
Historic Landscape Institute.
“Preserving Jefferson’s Gardens and Landscapes.”
<http://www.monticello.org/education/gardeninstitute.html>

June 22-26, 2008. Pasadena, California.
APGA National Conference.
<http://www.aabga.org>

June 26-July 2, 2008. Anaheim, California.
ALA Annual Conference.
<http://www.ala.org>

July 20-26, 2008. Ithaca, New York.
Guild of Natural Science Illustrators Conference & Annual Meeting.
<http://www.gnsi.org>

July 24-26, 2008. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
National Children & Youth Garden Symposium.
“Growing Fertile Minds and Communities.”
http://www.ahs.org/youth_gardening/national_youth_garden_symposium.htm

July 26-30, 2008. Vancouver, British Columbia.
Joint meeting of the Canadian Botanical
Association, American Fern Society, American
Society of Plant Taxonomists and Botanical
Society of America.
“Botany without Borders.”
<http://www.botanyconference.org>

August 26-30, 2008. San Francisco, California.
Annual Meeting of the Society of
American Archivists.
“ARCHIVES 2008: Archival R/Evolution
& Identities.”
<http://www.archivists.org>

CBHL Board Meeting

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seed money was returned to CBHL, along with any additional profit, as a donation to CBHL.

This year the procedure was changed as the Treasurer established a temporary CBHL bank account (with seed money transferred from the general account) for the host to use for all meeting income and expenses. With this change, all meeting income will be considered as part of the CBHL gross income, and will possibly trigger the need for CBHL to file an income tax return in 2009. However, as a nonprofit, no tax will need to be paid.

The Board, including the Treasurer, agreed to test this new procedure. Although it will create additional duties for the Treasurer (who will track how much extra work is involved), it is thought this approach will ease much of the financial and accounting burden on the host institution. The Board, with feedback from both past and future

hosts, will evaluate the process after the annual meeting.

Members' News

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I had some bad news from OCLC. We received \$10,000 more from the Good Family Foundation to continue with our retrospective conversion. I had asked OCLC if we could just continue with our current work plan. It took them several months of non-contact and then the e-mail arrived that they are no longer doing retrospective conversion. I'm looking for a new vendor now.

How We Succeed

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Two additional articles you may find interesting:

ALA, Reference and Users Services Association, Rethinking Resources Sharing Policies Committee. *It's time to think again about resource sharing: a discussion paper.*
http://www.ala.org/ala/rusa/rusaourassoc/rusasections/stars/starssections/committeesa/rrscomm/RethinkingResourceSharing_rev6-1-2005.pdf

Posner, Beth. Library resource sharing in the early age of Google. *Library Philosophy and Practice 2007* (LPP special issue on libraries and Google).
<http://www.webpages.uidaho.edu/~mbolin/posner.htm>

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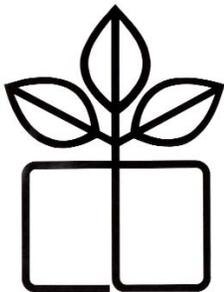
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