

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation  
Carnegie Mellon University  
5000 Forbes Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213  
Contact: James J. White  
Day Phone: 412-268-2434  
Email: [jw3u@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:jw3u@andrew.cmu.edu)  
Web site: [huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu](http://huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu)

For Immediate Release

HUNT INSTITUTE PRESENTS  
*AMERICAN BOTANICAL PRINTS OF TWO CENTURIES*  
27 APRIL TO 31 JULY 2003

Pittsburgh, PA—The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation presents *American Botanical Prints of Two Centuries* from 27 April to 31 July 2003. The exhibition includes a sampling of two centuries of American printed plant images, from utilitarian to creative.

The 19th century in America was one of practical botanical printmaking. From the lowliest school textbook to the grandest exploration report, images of plants were required as illustrative extensions to the text and ranged in size from tiny text figures to large folio plates. Various printmaking processes were employed that required the manual skills of artists, engravers, lithographers, colorists, etc. By the end of the century, photography and photo-mechanical processes had been developed that entirely eliminated the need for hand-worked printmaking methods in the production of utilitarian botanical illustrations. Included are 19th-century prints by George Cochran Lambdin, William Sharp, Isaac Sprague and Frederick A. Walpole.

The 20th century saw artists indulging in printmaking purely for art's sake, and the flower and plant portrait provided a rewarding inspiration for many. Included are 20th-century prints by Elfriede Abbe, Henry Evans, Ralph Griswold, Vaino Kola, Warren Mack, Stanley Maltzman, Barry Moser, Joe Price and Richard Ziemann.

A full-color, illustrated catalogue with biographical data and a concise bibliography will be on sale at the Institute. 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 p.m.–5 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m.–4 p.m. (except 11, 18, 25, 26 May; 4, 6 July). The exhibition is open to the public free of charge. For further information, contact the Hunt Institute at 412-268-2434.

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was founded in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971, the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography, and the Library. The current collections include approximately 28,000 books; 24,000 portraits; 30,000 watercolors, drawings and prints; and 2,000 autograph letters and manuscripts.

#####