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For Immediate Release

HUNT INSTITUTE PRESENTS
ORDER FROM CHAOS: LINNAEUS DISPOSES
28 APRIL TO 31 JULY 2002

PITTSBURGH, PA—The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation presents *Order from Chaos: Linnaeus Disposes* from 28 April to 31 July 2002. Swedish botanist Carolus Linnaeus (1707–1778) devised comprehensive, consistent schemes for classifying and describing plants and animals and for assigning two-word scientific names to all species, thus laying the foundations of modern biological taxonomy. Pages of manuscripts, plant portraits, portraits of botanists and rare books from the Institute's Archives, Art Department, and Library, including the Strandell Collection of Linnaeana, highlight the achievements of Carolus Linnaeus in the broader context of botany over two millennia.

The first section of the exhibit sets the stage by showing the importance of classical science in shaping subsequent science in the West; the continuity of science through the cultures of the Mediterranean area; the recovery of ancient writings during the Renaissance and the resulting scientific crisis; and the beginnings of a search for a new botanical system. Four pages of a 13th-century Arabic manuscript are displayed here for the first time at Hunt Institute, along with several leaves from a 15th-century incunabulum herbal, *Gart der Gesundheit*, and a number of books from the 15th and 16th centuries.

The second section shows how Linnaeus drew on the work of his predecessors and contemporaries and developed a coherent system for describing and naming organisms that has continued into the present. It also shows how Linnaeus' students travelled the globe to explore and collect information and specimens, and how aspects of the Linnaean system have enabled amateurs and professionals worldwide to identify, name and describe plants for more than two centuries. On display are key works by Linnaeus including his *Species Plantarum* (1753) and *Genera Plantarum* (1754), which are the starting points for botanical binomial nomenclature. Also displayed are books by some of his contemporaries and students, along with portraits and biographical information, and selected examples of post-Linnaean works showing how aspects of his system have been used from the 18th century into the present day.

The exhibition coincides with an invitational workshop, *Linnaean Nomenclature in the 21st Century: A Workshop to Integrate Traditional Nomenclature and Phylogenetic Classification*, being held at the Institute on 26–28 June 2002. Co-sponsored by the Hunt Institute and the Department of Botany, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, the workshop will develop specific recommendations for a workable integration of traditional

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Linnaean nomenclature and modern phylogenetic classification such that the advantages of both are retained.

The exhibition is 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. The Institute does not have Saturday hours. The Institute will be closed 12, 19, 26 and 27 May, 26–28 June and 4 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.

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