

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
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For Immediate Release

HUNT INSTITUTE PRESENTS
THE FLOWERING AMAZON
MARGARET MEE PAINTINGS FROM THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW
12 May 2005 to 31 July 2005

Pittsburgh, PA—The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation presents *The Flowering Amazon: Margaret Mee Paintings from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew*, from 12 May 2005 to 31 July 2005. For more than two centuries, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, has recorded in watercolor the blooms, fruits, and foliage of new or rare plants from around the world. *The Flowering Amazon* is drawn from the rich collection of botanical illustrations preserved in the Kew Archives and features the exquisite paintings of orchids, bromeliads, and other plants by the renowned British artist and explorer Margaret Ursula Mee (1909–1988). Praised by botanists and art critics alike, Mee's works record the extraordinary beauty of Amazonia and include several now-extinct species. *The Flowering Amazon* features thirty spectacular watercolor drawings and field sketches by Mee, as well as native Brazilian artifacts, plant models, and specimen sheets from the Kew Herbarium. Originally exhibited at Kew in a private showing for His Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, the exhibition began its two-year tour of the United States in spring 2004 at the New York Botanical Garden. A limited quantity of the catalogues produced by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, to accompany the exhibition will be available 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. (except 30 May and 4 July); Sunday, 1 p.m.–4 p.m. (begins 5 June–31 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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