

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
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For Immediate Release

HUNT INSTITUTE PRESENTS
BOTANICAL WATERCOLORS FROM THE NATIONAAL HERBARIUM NEDERLAND
29 APRIL to 30 JULY 2004

Pittsburgh, PA—The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation presents *Botanical Watercolors from the Nationaal Herbarium Nederland* from 29 April to 30 July 2004. This selection of 43 watercolors and five red chalk drawings, spanning the 17th through 19th centuries, is on loan from the collection of the Nationaal Herbarium Nederland, Leiden University branch, Leiden. This will be the first time works from this collection will be seen in North America. Among the artists represented are Pierre-Joseph Redouté (1759–1840), Abraham Munting (1626–1683), Laurens van der Vinne (1712–1742), Johan Christian Peter Arckenhausen (1784–1855), Carel Boschart Voet (1670–1743), and Nicolaas Meerburgh (1734–1814). Some of these paintings were made from specimens in the botanical garden developed at Leiden University in the early 1590s. They depict plants from Southeast Asia, the Mediterranean, North America, and particularly South Africa. Except for some images published in modern facsimiles, only four of these paintings previously have been published. Nowadays the paintings are part of the Leiden University branch, which coordinates activities of the Nationaal Herbarium Nederland.

A full-color, illustrated catalogue accompanies the exhibition. The catalogue includes two essays, one by Pieter Baas, director of the herbarium, and one by Erik de Jong, professor of Garden History and Landscape Studies and Associate Director at the Bard Graduate Center, New York.

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 31 May and 5 July); Sunday, 1 p.m.–4 p.m. (begins 6 June–25 July, except 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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