



Greetings to Our Many Friends

Although 1971 has ended much too quickly, the year has been highly eventful and productive for us. One of the more significant aspects has been our change of name from the Hunt Botanical Library to the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a change brought about by the need to recognize our increased expansion of activities in all areas. This institution is now much more than a library. Today, it is an important center of many activities in botanical, bibliographical, and historical studies. While our collection of books continues to grow and stands as a major area of interest and we have added two full-time librarians to the staff, the Hunt Botanical Library as originally conceived is now only one part of the Hunt Institute.

As in past years, our collections again have been enriched through generous gifts. Among these were art objects and paintings, as well as books. The Pittsburgh Bibliophiles contributed a six-volume set of Jaume Saint-Hilaire's *La flora et la pomone français*, in honor of Dr. G.H.M. Lawrence.

Significant acquisitions during the year included a copy of James Bolton's *An history of fungusses . . .*, Halifax, 1788-91, together with the original drawings prepared

by Bolton for this book. A collection of fern books, consisting of more than 70 titles, was purchased early in the year and contains many volumes published within the *Bibliographia Huntiana* period (1730-1840). Later in the year, we were fortunate in obtaining an almost complete set of Humboldt, Bonpland, and Kunth's *Nova genera et species plantarum . . .*, 1799-1804. Two volumes are from the folio edition with the rare hand-colored plates.

In an effort to make our facilities more familiar to the public, a large number of groups, organizations, and societies were encouraged either to tour the Institute or hold meetings here. These included library school students from the University of Pittsburgh, as well as groups from nearby high schools and colleges. A number of garden clubs held their meetings in our lecture room and were given short tours explaining our activities, facilities, and functions.

Each year, at least two exhibitions of botanical art are staged at this Institute. In April, drawings and paintings,

mostly of tropical plants, by Marion Ruff Sheehan, of Gainesville, Florida, were featured. Mrs. Sheehan is known for her botanically accurate representations of plants, and her illustrations appear in numerous scientific publications, as well as books. Our fall exhibition, currently on display, presents some of the most finely detailed representations of natural history subjects known to us. This exhibition, "Animal, Vegetable, Mineral," by Claus Caspari, of Munich, Germany, will be open to public viewing until mid-April 1972. Since our last International Exhibition in 1968, we have been acquiring work from botanical artists and illustrators not already represented in our collection in preparation for the 3rd International Exhibition, scheduled to open in October, 1972.

Research work for the production of *Bibliographia Huntiana* continues. In March and April, Günther Buchheim, Senior Bibliographer at this Institute, visited foreign-based staff members to discuss progress and future plans for the project. Nina Smith, who returned home to Washington, D.C. after completion of her work in Stockholm, spent the summer at Yale University's Sterling Memorial Library. Ida Langman took

up residence in Madrid at the end of January and worked in Spanish and Portuguese libraries until August. She then returned to her home in Philadelphia and continues to work on books and journals available in the United States. During the year, libraries in East Berlin, Stuttgart, Tübingen, Freiburg, Hamburg, Geneva, Rovereto, Modena, and Reykjavik were visited by other members of the *Bibliographia Huntiana* staff.

Following past tradition, this year's card reproduces an original painting by Mrs. Hartwell W. Priest, of Charlottesville, Virginia. As the woodland setting, Mrs. Priest chose Sugar Hollow, a part of the Blue Ridge Park System. Dried pine needles and a light scattering of snow provide a wintery background for the plants represented: Partridge Berry, Rattlesnake Plantain, Wintergreen, and Pipsissewa.

At this time, we extend not only our sincere thanks for the many courtesies and considerations received during the year, but also our warmest greetings of the season and for the coming year.

Gilbert S. Daniels, *Director*
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Documentation

