

Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
5th Floor, Hunt Library
Carnegie Mellon University
4909 Frew Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890
Contact: Scarlett Townsend
Telephone: 412-268-2434
Email: huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu
Web site: <http://huntbot.andrew.cmu.edu/HIBD/Home/News.shtml>

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HUNT INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES ROGERS McVAUGH GIFT

Pittsburgh, PA—The Hunt Institute is honored to announce that the late taxonomist and botanical explorer Rogers McVaugh (30 May 1909–24 September 2009), a member of the original Hunt Botanical Library advisory board and a longtime supporter of the Hunt Institute’s mission, has bequeathed the remainder of his academic research papers and books to Hunt Institute. Dr. McVaugh was internationally renowned for his expertise in Compositae, Myrtaceae, Campanulaceae, woody Rosaceae, and the flora of Mexico, as well as in botanical history and nomenclature. He spent much of his career at the University of Michigan, where he was curator of vascular plants (1946–1979) and director of the herbarium (1972–1975). He retired in 1979 and moved to Chapel Hill, where he was appointed research professor of botany at the University of North Carolina and where he continued to work for nearly 30 years. He published about a dozen books and 200 shorter articles in the history of botany, floristics and systematic botany. His many awards included the Merit Award (1977) and the Centennial Award (2006) from the Botanical Society of America, the Gold Medal for “Mérito Botánico” from the Sociedad Botánica de México (1978), the Henry Allan Gleason Award from the New York Botanical Garden (1984), and the Millennium Medal from the International Association for Plant Taxonomy at the International Botanical Congress in 1999. He was also the first recipient of the Asa Gray Award (American Society of Plant Taxonomists, 1984), the Luz María Villarreal de Puga Medal (University of Guadalajara, 1993), and the Cuatrecasas Medal for Excellence in Tropical Botany (Smithsonian Institution, 2001).

The donation includes McVaugh’s professional library, his work on *Flora Novo-Galiciana*, his research files on botanical exploration, and correspondence and notes from his years at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The books and papers will be deposited in the Institute’s Library and Archives, respectively. This gift adds to the archival material previously donated by Dr. McVaugh, which includes his 1944–1979 correspondence and his collection of group and individual photographs of botanists and explorers (HI Archives McVaugh Collection no. 322).

We appreciate Dr. McVaugh’s longstanding commitment to the Hunt Institute, and we are committed to making the collection open to researchers upon request. Please contact the Library or Archives to make an appointment.

The Hunt Institute is located on the 5th floor of the Hunt Library building at Carnegie Mellon University. Hours: Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–noon and 1–5 p.m.; readers’ hours in the Library, 1–5 p.m.; additional gallery hours on Sunday, 1–4 p.m. during exhibitions. 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 dedicated 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 29,000 books; 30,000 portraits; 30,000 watercolors, drawings and prints; and 2,000 autograph letters and manuscripts. The Archives specializes in biographical information about, portraits of and handwriting samples from scientists, illustrators and all others in the plant sciences. The Archives is a repository of alternate resort and as such has collected over 300 institutional and individual archival collections that may not have otherwise found an easy fit at another institution. Including artworks dating from the Renaissance, the Art Department's collection now focuses on contemporary botanical art and illustration, where the coverage is unmatched. The Art Department organizes and stages exhibitions, including the triennial *International Exhibition of Botanical Art & Illustration*. The Bibliography Department maintains comprehensive data files on the history and bibliography of botanical literature. Known for its collection of historical works on botany dating from the late 1400s to the present, the Library's collection focuses on the development of botany as a science and also includes modern taxonomic monographs, floristic works and serials.

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