



PINUS sylvestris. C.B.P.

G. W. Gilbert pinx. 1789.



To our many friends:

As in previous years, our card this year reproduces an original painting from our collection. This is one of more than 200 original water colors by the outstanding German-born botanical artist, Georg D. Ehret (1710-1770), which were generously donated to this Library in 1968. This choice for our annual message is particularly appropriate since 1970 is the bicentenary of Ehret's death. The picture's hand-lettered caption, *Pinus sylvestris* C. B. P. refers to a description in the *Pinax* (1623) of Caspar [Gaspard] Bauhin. The plant depicted is known today as *Pinus pinaster* Aiton. In Aylmer Bourke Lambert's *A Description of the Genus Pinus*, published in London in 1803, the illustration of *Pinus pinaster* is an engraving made from an original Ehret drawing which may well have been the same one which we have reproduced here. The provenance of our Ehret drawings is unknown prior to the time when they came into the family of the donor. The discovery of the similarity between our painting and the reproduction in Lambert's work may be the key to unlocking this mystery.

Our collections have continued to grow, and among the many additions received during the year were the manuscripts and drawings of the work on algology of Dr. William Randolph Taylor. These were presented to the Library by Dr. Taylor. The archival preservation of such material has become an increasingly important function of the Library. In this regard, a previously unannounced area of activity has been the beginning of a collection of tape recordings of interviews with leading botanists. The acquisition of these oral history records gained impetus with the availability of many foreign scientists during the XI International Botanical Congress held in Seattle last year. Beginning with that base, our collection now includes taped interviews with more than fifty senior botanical scientists from around

the world. A significant addition to our collection of botanical art has been the deposit at the Library of a collection of 145 paintings made in India for Sir Mountstuart Grant-Duff. These paintings were commissioned by him when he was governor of Madras in 1882 and are placed here by his granddaughter, Mrs. Christopher E. Fremantle.

As our collections grow we are in need of expanded facilities to house them. In June of this year we occupied additional space on the third floor of the Hunt Library building and have re-organized and consolidated our biography and iconography collections in this area. Plans for the construction of a special room to house the Strandell Collection of Linnaeana have been completed by the architects and construction is planned for early next year.

Work on the production of *Bibliographia Huntiana* continues. In February a survey was made of libraries in Japan, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. The result has been the establishment of an office in Japan, and work is already under way for the preparation of BH entries for the more than one thousand botanical works published in Japan between 1730 and 1840. This effort is being directed by Dr. Kankichi Sohma of Tohoku University. A further effort will begin early next year to check an important collection of early botanical works in the library of the National Taiwan University in Taipei, Taiwan. In April we received a research grant from the National Science Foundation for partial support of the *Bibliographia Huntiana* program during the next three years. This grant will ensure a continuing level of effort during this time, which should result in the completion of all field work for the project by the end of the three-year period. Activities in European centers continued during the year. Mrs. Nina Smith, who has worked in the Scandinavian countries throughout the year, will be returning to her home in Washington, D. C. by year-end. Mrs. Ida Langman, who joined our staff in August, will be working in Spain and Portugal in the near future.

The Library's Spring exhibition of botanical art featured a retrospective showing of the work of the Swiss artist, Mrs. Lotte Günthart. Mrs. Günthart is best known for her water colors of roses, and indeed the rose is a center of interest for the Güntharts

who are much involved in international rosarian activities. The exhibition clearly showed that Mrs. Günthart's skills go far beyond her beautifully executed rose portraits. In October the work of another Swiss artist, Jack J. Kunz, went on display at the Library. The deposit at the Library, on indefinite loan, of these water colors by the St. Regis Paper Company, was reported last year. This collection will remain on display until April 1971. The preview opening was given further significance by the simultaneous release of a new book published by the American Heritage Press. This book, *The Secret Life of the Forest*, illustrated with some of the same Kunz paintings, was written by Richard M. Ketchum, a former Pittsburgh resident and an old friend of the Hunt family. Still a third exhibition is being shown concurrently with the Kunz paintings but will last only until the end of this year. This is a collection of ceramic mushrooms created by Mrs. Gene Williamson of Oxford, Ohio. These mushrooms, produced life-size and colored by ceramic glazes, represent high standards of both scientific accuracy and ceramic art.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Hunt Botanical Library. As is true of many organizations, the exact instant which constitutes the founding action can be chosen from among a number of events. I would choose to mark the founding of the Library with the arrival in Pittsburgh of Dr. George H. M. Lawrence and his full-time assumption of the duties of Director in August of 1960. His stepping down from the position of Director as of 1 November 1970 does not mean that he has left the Library, but only that he has been freed from administrative duties so that he may continue an active and productive association with the Library as Research Fellow in Botanical History. The thorough foundation which he has laid down in the last ten years will continue to guide the activities of the Library.

The growth of our collections and the success of our research efforts are due to the many courtesies extended to us by our friends everywhere. We thank them all sincerely, and extend to each of you our best wishes for the coming year.

1 December 1970

Gilbert S. Daniels, *Director*
Hunt Botanical Library