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About the Institute

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.

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London:

Printed by Edward Couchman, 10, Throgmorton Street,

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THIS Work, which has now been carried on in uninterrupted Monthly Numbers, and with much satisfaction to its Subscribers, for a period of nearly Forty Years, is at present deprived, in consequence of the declining health of its late conductor, Dr. SIMS, of that gentleman's useful and valuable labours. It is hoped, however, that the publication will not be considered to suffer, either in scientific importance, or general interest, when we announce that, Dr. HOOKER, the Regius Professor of Botany in the University of Glasgow, has undertaken to become its Editor. Dr. HOOKER's own "EXOTIC FLORA" will be discontinued, and the same pains will be devoted by him, as well to the Descriptions, as the Drawings and Dissections of the Plants, which have preceded, amongst naturalists, so long, and with such a reception for that Work.

Numerous as are the publications which have been modelled on the plan of the *BOTANICAL MAGAZINE*, it should not be forgotten, that its excellent author, Mr. WILLIAM CURTIS, was the first to lay the foundation; and that his Work has been carried down to the present period with the most unvarying punctuality, extending now to Fifty-Three Volumes, and containing no fewer than Two Thousand Seven Hundred accurately coloured Figures of the Plants that have been cultivated in our gardens; and that it has also been offered to the Public at a much cheaper rate than any of its contemporaries.

At its commencement, Mr. CURTIS destined it to include principally the most showy and commonly cultivated flowers of our collections: now, a wider field is open to us, and by the present happy state of peace, and our more extended commerce, we have daily pouring in upon us, new vegetable riches from foreign countries, which are highly deserving a place in this Work, and many of which will soon become common in our parterres and shrubberies. Among so much novelty, since a selection must be made, preference will be given to such species as are the most striking, or from some circumstance or another, possess the greatest interest. Those Plants which have escaped the notice of Mr. CURTIS and Dr. SIMS, and which are frequent in our gardens, will yet find a place in its pages, and nothing will be omitted which can, in any way, add to its utility and importance.

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The Proprietor respectfully informs those Ladies and Gentlemen who become Subscribers to the New Series, and who are not in possession of the Old, that they may have, in Numbers or Volumes, of one or more at a time, any part of the former Series, and that imperfect sets will be made good at the Warehouse where the Work is conducted.

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