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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.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
MEMORANDUM

3-18-78

Dear Joe -

Bravo! Keep reading.

Had a couple out last year as per
enclosed.

It so happens our pres.

Tim Schaefer is going to Oregon

to be on a panel discussion of the

storage thing. He believes as you &

I do that books should be

present!

Best regards to you both.

Lance

TULANE UNIVERSITY

NEW ORLEANS, LA. 70118

Department of Biology

9 January 1978

John E. Beaumont
1718 Palmer Avenue
New Orleans 70118

Dear Mr. Beaumont:

Last evening I was talking with George VanSchaack in Eugene and he mentioned you and your proximity, your longtime friendship with him and your interest in Tulane from various associations. Clearly we should meet and I suggest that perhaps you may be able to come around to Dinwiddie Hall, third floor, room labelled "Herbarium" to meet for a chat and a look-around. I think it would be advisable to pick up the phone (865-5191) and determine if I will be on hand. Next week I will be in Santa Fé for a talk at the School of American Research on "Botanical discovery of America" and there will be other occasions for my absence from Dinwiddie, but I look forward very much to meeting you.

Sincerely

Joseph Ewan
Richardson Prof. of Botany
Emeritus

✓ bc: G B Van Schaack

TULANE UNIVERSITY

NEW ORLEANS, LA. 70118

Department of Biology

9 January 1978

Dr. Paul Lawrence Farber
1220 SW 37
Corvallis, Oregon 97331

Dear Colleague:

Believing we have a good many areas of mutual interest, I am writing to introduce myself and perhaps this summer we may meet.

I notice that you are interested in Buffon; I have been looking into William Smellie and his Philosophy of Natural History and I presented a paper at Edinburgh last summer on the topic (abs herewith). I would be interested in your appraisal of Smellie's use (or abuse?) of Buffon. He certainly contributed to an interest in the Frenchman thru his translation of Buffon but the edition must have been small for the book is very uncommon I have found. I presume the Lilly Library of Ornithology owns a copy?

I have a special interest in the history of ornithology and this is accompanied by a good deal of birdwatching -- I have been a member of the Cooper Club for many years. Incidentally, I regret that Mayr's edition of Streesemann's history dropped the nice plates of the original German edition. Too, if you did not acquire a copy of the facs ed of Willughby's Ornithology, publ in England, I recommend it highly--fine book in every way and modestly priced at about fifty dollars.

Next summer I will be teaching the history of biology at the University of Oregon and I am sure in the course of the session there will be a chance to visit Corvallis. Perhaps you have some historic books in your personal or the University Library that carry provenance of interest; I am always on the lookout for such records. Dickey Coll. at UCLA, for example, holds Thomas Pennant copies of interest to the historian of biology.

Cordially yours,

Joseph Ewan
Richardson Prof. of Botany
Emeritus

bc: G B Van Schaack

Selected Bibliographies from ARCHON



Beebe's third bookplate, depicting a Tetrapteryx overlooking a jungle sunrise or sunset. According to Beebe, the meaning of the alphabet border is: "Right there you have the foundation of every book in the Western world."

William Beebe (1877-1962) *An Annotated Bibliography*

TIM M. BERRA

"William Beebe was a most unusual man in that he successfully essayed the role of scientist as well as popularizer of science. He was a rare bird: a true Twentieth Century naturalist. The great quantity and diversity of his written work make it almost certain that much of it would be consigned to oblivion except for a bibliography such as this. The man was both a initiator and an individualist of his time, so social historians must be grateful for the completeness of this volume. Scientists, too, will find it a most useful bibliographical tool. Finally, there are the librarians, school children, and even poets who may wish to read what an acutely sensitive, blithely unselfconscious, eloquent man had to say about a myriad of things—some commonplace but unseen and others gone forever." James W. Atz, *Curator, Department of Ichthyology, The American Museum of Natural History.*

This first bibliography of William Beebe's works, published on the centennial of his birth, annotates the 825 articles he wrote for periodicals from *Atlantic Monthly* to *Zoologica*. The various editions and translations of his books are noted for the book collector, and editor Tim M. Berra also provides selected criticisms of Beebe's books, which were reviewed by a veritable "Who's Who" of natural historians. Indexed too are Beebe's reviews of natural history books, and all of the eighty-seven species of fish he discovered are described. Rounding out the strictly bibliographical are illustrations, including copies of Beebe's bookplates; selected references to Beebe; and biographical sketches.

A cursory glance at some of the entries here illustrates the scope of Beebe's writing. His extraordinary ease in combining his enthusiasm for the natural world with his flair for writing produced not only popular, but also technical and philosophical essays. That Beebe was a master of the essay is borne out by the frequent appearance of his articles in essay collections for students of literature.

But Beebe's literary success was a small measure of his highly acclaimed professional status. He led more than fifty scientific expeditions to such zoologically enticing places as Mexico, India, the Orient, Trinidad, British Guiana, Venezuela, Galapagos Islands, Haiti, and the bottom of the sea. This last adventure made Beebe's name a household word: in 1934 he descended to a record depth of 3028 feet in the bathysphere off the coast of Bermuda. Through this—on par with William Beebe's literary and scientific achievements one may document the life of a unique and now extinct species of naturalist, and will find within the reasons for his broad appeal.

Tim M. Berra is Associate Professor of Zoology, Ohio State University, and is a member of the editorial board of *Copeia*, the journal of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists.

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Tim dedicated the book to me w/ a
warm paragraph of gratitude as his
graduate advisor.

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Prof. Joseph Ewan

WILLIAM SMELLIE'S PHILOSOPHY OF NATURAL HISTORY (1790-1799) AND ITS
IMPACT ON AMERICAN ACADEMIES

The Philosophy of Natural History by the Scottish printer, naturalist, and antiquary William Smellie (1740-1795) was the first biology text to be used in American academies. First published in Edinburgh in 1790 the first American edition appeared in Philadelphia the next year. Fourteen editions were published including those in Dublin and Berlin with the ninth American printing in 1863. The 22 chapters of the original work stressed the life relations of animals and man including ontogeny, feeding habits, sexual and seasonal changes, gregariousness, effects of domestication, longevity, and the "progressive scale of animals." Smellie asks "why animals prey upon one another, but seldom on their own species--advantages derived from this seemingly destructive institution of Nature." The Boston physician John Ware issued eight editions of Smellie extensively adapting Smellie's text to the American scene. The influential North American Review fostered the 1824 Ware edition, finding the principal defect to be the unsatisfactory classification of animals. At Harvard lessons in natural history were recited in drill-master form from Smellie in Thomas Nuttall's, and later Asa Gray's classes. The principal competitor in American academies was William Paley whose Natural Theology stressed the design in nature as evidence of God's direct intervention in earthly affairs. Paley was struck by the care bestowed by the Creator on the most trifling part of the organism. Paley's Natural Theology published in 1802 was patterned on Smellie to which he referred relative to sensitivity and the Venus fly-trap. Smellie's mild opposition to the Sexual System of Linnaeus, earlier raised in the first edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica which he edited, must have contributed to the rise of the Natural System in Britain that gained acceptance in the early Nineteenth Century.

Bernard Woodward mentions the many misfortunes that beset Smellie including his unsuccessful bid for the post of professor of natural history at the University of Edinburgh over Rev. John Walker, whose scientific qualifications were inferior to Smellie's in the opinion of Jardine and others. Did Smellie's defeat in Edinburgh provoke the publication of his Philosophy of Natural History the influence of which in American classrooms, even when diluted with alterations made by Ware, was so prominent?

TULANE UNIVERSITY

NEW ORLEANS, LA. 70118

AC 504 865-6226

Department of Biology

Mardi Gras, 7 Feb 1978

Dear George,


Yesterday I posted your postal, with info that we have signed on for Bootka. I have already agreed to talk at Boulder on our return flight from Vancouver -- see schedule inclosed -- so our visit in April must precede the Conference. Ed Thatcher's letter came in same mail ~~with~~ with yours and I have written him on this head. I hope it will be possible to reschedule the dates.

Incidentally this Bibliog of Cook done at Mitchell Library, Sydney, is a gem and very reasonable. I recommend Univ Library purchase a copy if not on its shelves. Will be a brick in any remarks on Cook monument. Maggs offers it. See xerox.

Must be on to other letters but

with every good wish!

as ever



Joseph Ewan