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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.

Tillandsia angustata
Guacamaya a
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Helen O'Gorman



Helen O'Gorman

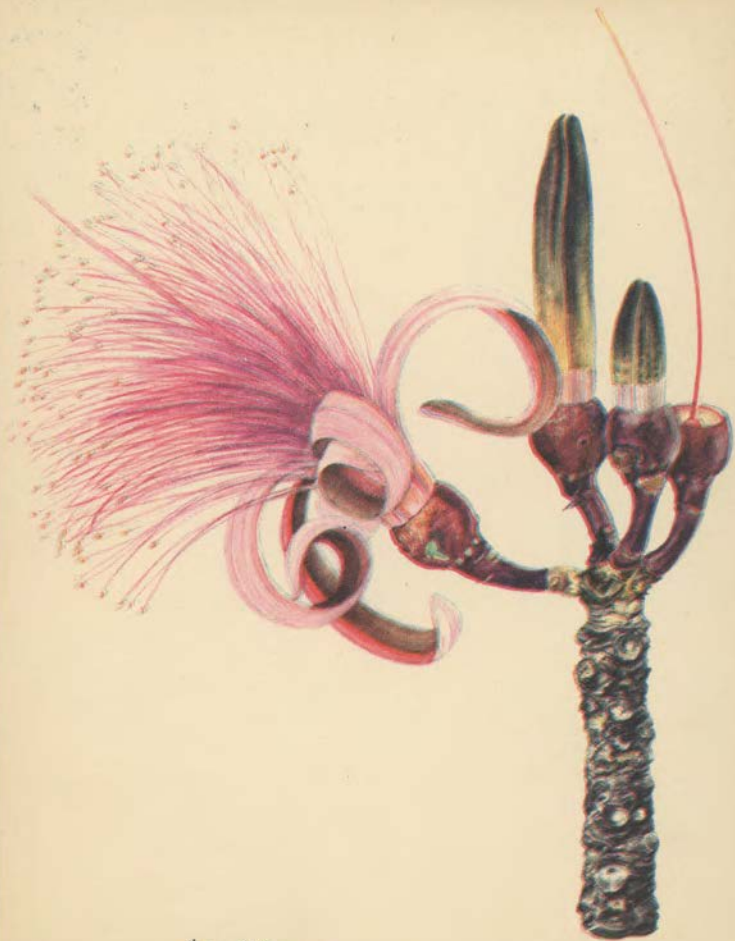


Helen O'Gorman



Helen O'Gorman

Erythrinum americanum . Colorin . Coral Tree



Helen O'Gorman



Helen O'Gorman

Euphorbia pulcherrima . Flor de noche buena . Poinsettia



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Delonix regia - Flamboyant - Royal Poinciana

Milla biflora

Estrella

Mexican star flower





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Ipomea arborescens - Casahuate - Morning Glory Tree



Tagetes erecta
fls de muerte
marigolds

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Helen O'Gorman

Dear Mrs. Langman -

Delighted To hear you
liked the calendar - Helen
referred your letter To
me - This card could
be used For mailing ^{to} your
list - Forward list To
me & I will handle
the mailing - Have wrote
up a blurb for the back
of the card with all
essential details & will
mail one to you -
Many thanks - Ella Turok

Ipomea arborescens

Casahuate

Morning glory tree

Registrado. Hecho en México

Rio Amazonas to
MEXICO 5, D.F.

→ publisher of the
O'orman
book

Ida Langman
3509 Baring St.
Philadelphia 4
Pennsylvania
U.S. A.

Calzada San Jerónimo 162
San Angel, Mexico 20, D.F.
February 9, 1962.

Dear Lola,

Ever since returning from our vacation of two weeks on the lovely beach at Puerto Vallarta I've been "snowed under" with work. I wanted to find out what was being done at the University of Mexico on the Spanish edition, which Cella sold to them, and it took me a couple of weeks running around to find who was in charge (I still don't know for sure) & who would be doing the translating. I wanted to get the corrections of the book to them before the translator started. I found they were working from galleys and those not even the final ones (!) and that they had no copy of the glossary or Index or Bibliography & that they wanted to have a copy of the book to work from. Naturally. But Cella says she gave someone there the book and won't give another copy! I found the person (the 3rd one to try it) who is doing the translating & he doesn't know ~~the~~ any botanical terminology & doesn't even have the glossary. He was asking me how to translate those botanical words! So for the last two days I've been deep in a Spanish Botanical dictionary putting the English botanical words into Spanish for them. Also I am putting the corrections I made of the book on the galleys they are using for translation.

I went to see Cella the other day, yesterday in fact, and she tells me you offered very kindly to send us a list of corrections of the book. That would be wonderful of you and I'd appreciate it a lot. I am enclosing a list of the ones I made, which I wish you would check to see if they are the ones you saw, or if you found many more. Most of these seem to be typographical errors made between the galleys & the book as most are not in the galleys at all.

I did change the color of the *Crythrina* as your observation was very correct - only the branches are gray - but, since the trunk varies so much in different locations, I decided to omit the description of the color. The trunk varies from a rosy, soft brown to yellow & even greenish yellow, right here on the campus of the University.

The large, shaky handwriting in stark black on each plate still bothers me very much and the 3 or 80 mistakes

Send them to me not to Cella please!

in spelling in these. They were insisted upon by Ella
& I was ordered to do them larger than my handwriting
to be reduced to the very small size we had on those loose
trial plates we did before the book, and in gray not black.
Also my signature was to be very small. As they were
ordered to be done in one night & I worked at them
until very late they should have been carefully proof-
read, especially since after all the hurry they were not
used for almost a year! The shaky part I was assured
would not show when it would be reduced so much.
The book as a whole is so very elegant and well done
that I try not to see these things which bother me.
Ella certainly had many hurdles - ~~no~~ one who doesn't
know the problems of working here can't even guess -
and deserves a great deal of praise. The errors in printing
are very few, after all, when one considers that the printers
do not even know the language, I do mind the omission
of parts of sentences especially page 192 where the meaning
becomes so unbotanical, & the change made of a sentence
to a different meaning: "Stock of all kinds are found of it" on
page 34. These were alright on the last galley I saw!
What a shock these things give one when one sees them for
the first time after working on something for so long! I
suppose it always happens to a certain extent.

But the present problem - the Spanish edition - which I
can't control is very frustrating. Ella doesn't seem to have
the slightest interest in seeing it done right - only in getting
her money out of it. I guess she feels she's done one book
& is fed up, but I do wish she hadn't sold them the plates
& the rights if she didn't take some responsibility. I gave
up all rights to Ella for the 1st 5000 copies of which
the 2000 sold to the University are a part. I only got
six copies & have had to buy a good many to give to
people who helped me over the many years I worked
at the book. For me the satisfaction of doing it & seeing
it done & done so well repays me very much.
That is why the lack of coordination & planning for
the Sp. edition is hurting so much. I can't imagine why
the University Press doesn't get some Spanish speaking,
botanically trained student to translate for them if they
want to do it.

2) Well, these are my problems and I shouldn't wish them on you even for the reading. I only wanted to give you some idea of what's preoccupying my mind. And I do want you to know how much I'd appreciate your help in correcting mistakes you notice. I'd especially appreciate your giving me these corrections before the translation is finished if possible, especially any big, awful mistake you might find.

We loved Puerto Vallarta & the rest came just in time for me. I had not gotten over the devastating effects of the bout with pneumonia & pleurisy I had in October and I just had to get down. I had pushed myself at work for so many deadlines (last summer had to lengthen half the descriptions in 20 days so that the pages of descriptions would look more uniform!) that I had worn myself down to a nervous wreck with no resistance to anything. But Puerto Vallarta was so restful - nothing to do there but walk or hike, boat, swim, sit on the sand or ride horseback - a real simple life with no thrills, just perfect for Bunny & me. It's such a lovely place, I hope it never gets spoiled, but just a week after we were there Aleman visited it & liked it & promised to help develop it, so the papers said - as he's head of Turismo now,* that probably spells the end!

I'm wondering how your book's publishing is getting along. I hope you'll soon come back to Mexico. It's getting a bit too messy politically and all of us are a bit on edge. Juan is very unhappy & for the first time would like to leave Mexico. I can say no more - it's a long involved situation which can't be explained in a letter. One thing which may tell you something of the picture is that the Catholics are becoming very very strong here now, i.e. in opposition to Lopez Mateos. Probably we can thank the bearded one for that.

All the best to you and Oscar for the New Year & always -

Let me hear news of you soon.

Affectionately, Helen