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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.



# NEWSLETTER

## Of The Arboretum of The Barnes Foundation

MERION, PENNSYLVANIA 19066

NUMBER 20: MARCH 1978

### A VISIT TO EGYPT AND GREECE

JOHN M. FOGG, JR.

Although no regular mid-winter Arboretum tour was scheduled for 1977-78, a small group of us participated in a visit to Egypt and Greece, including Crete.

Departing from Philadelphia on Friday, December 16, we arrived in Cairo late the following evening, only to be informed that in order to join our tour of the Nile Valley, it would be necessary to leave the hotel by five o'clock the following morning.

We were air-borne when the sun came up and we had our first glimpse of that fabulous river which constitutes the life-blood of Egypt. We had been told that approximately 90% of the country's nearly 400,000 square miles was occupied by desert, but this has to be seen to be fully appreciated. From our plane the river could be seen far below as a sinuous green strip surrounded on both sides by limitless miles of undulating tawny sand (Fig. 1). This was but a small portion of the Libyan Desert, the easternmost of North Africa's great sandy wastes.



Fig. 1. The Nile at Abu Simbel



Fig. 2. The Temple of Rameses II at Abu Simbel

Our destination that day was Abu Simbel, some 750 miles due south of Cairo and close to the Sudanese border. It was here, over 3,000 years ago, that the temples and colossal statues of Rameses II and his wife Nefertari were constructed, and it was here in the 1960's that the rising waters of the Nile threatened to drown these gigantic monuments.

In what has been described as the greatest concerted archaeological effort in the history of mankind, seventeen nations contributed funds, brains and manpower to move these irreplaceable figures to a place of safety. This unprecedented feat was accomplished by cutting the statues into blocks and reassembling them farther up the slope, beyond the danger of inundation (Fig. 2). This must certainly be accounted a supreme example of engineering skill.

MEMO

FROM

JOHN M. FOGG, JR.

Dear Otto:

Thanks for  
suggesting we  
look into the  
matter of Library  
Rate. It works!

Jack

However, the rate  
just went from 9¢ to 11¢!



# NEWSLETTER

## Of The Arboretum of The Barnes Foundation

MERION, PENNSYLVANIA 19066

NUMBER 19: SEPTEMBER 1977

### THE SONORA—CHIHUAHUA DESERT TOUR

JOHN M. FOGG, JR.

The 1977 spring tour of the Arboretum School was mainly an extension of the 1975 tour, but also for the first couple of days a duplication of the earlier one.

This may be clarified by pointing out that the 1975 tour originated in San Diego, California, and terminated in Tucson, Arizona, whereas the present tour started in Tucson and, after traversing much of New Mexico and western Texas, including Big Bend National Park, ended in El Paso.

In both cases the genesis of these tours derived from the fact that my wife and I participated in the biennial conventions of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America. In 1975 these meetings took place in San Diego and, following its termination, our tour members met us there and we proceeded to visit Joshua Tree National Monument, Death Valley, Hoover Dam, the Desert Botanical Garden at Phoenix and several interesting gardens in the Tucson area. Since the details of this tour are rather fully described in Number 15 of this *Newsletter* (September 1975) only passing reference to it will form a part of this narrative.



Fig. 1. View in La Placita, Tucson



Fig. 2. Garden of the Arizona Growers, Tucson

A few words are in order concerning the setting of the 1977 Convention. Our hotel, the Marriott, is an integral part of a modern and very imaginative complex known as La Placita, in Tucson. This is a kind of bazaar comprising some 80 shops, restaurants, offices, apartments and a U.S. Post Office. In short, it is a self-contained village, embellished by pools, waterfalls and fountains, descending and ascending stairways and ramps, outdoor tables and benches and an attractive planting of ground-covers, vines, shrubs and trees. (Fig. 1). Among the last-named was a smallish tree with very narrow, trifoliate leaflets and pendant clusters of whitish fruits which greatly resembled those of our eastern poison sumac, *Rhus Vernix*. Not any of the local botanists attending the convention could name it for us, which was not surprising, since it is a native of South Africa, and was later identified by one of the growers of exotics as *Rhus lancea*.

The program for the Convention was, as usual, beautifully organized and highly diversified. Also, it was more international in character than is usually the case. There