

ARTIST BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD

Artist name: Pertchick, Bernard and Harriet

City and country of birth: Brooklyn, USA

Residence: USA

Artwork medium:

Gouache

Work reproduced in (*publications the artist was commissioned to illustrate or works authored by the artist*):

- Flowering Trees of the Caribbean for Alcoa Steamship Co.

Please include any pertinent biographical information not covered by the above categories:

Bernard and Harriet Pertchick, natives of Brooklyn, NY, were a young couple married only a few months before accepting the assignment from the Alcoa Steamship Co. to paint the portraits for Flowering Trees of the Caribbean. Neither is known to have had previous experience as a botanical illustrator, nor is either known to have executed any botanical or other art studies since then. Some of the plates were done by one, some by the other, and no one knows who did which.

Their method of operation is reported to have been to make quick sketches on location with color swatches, and to take color photographs of the same material. These, with rough pencil layouts, were transformed into the finished portraits after their return from the Caribbean. Details of the work were checked while it was in progress by staff botanists at the New York Botanical Garden.

Transcribed from copy of original by Leslie Shaver in 2023.