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Ex libris : 01/03 (Winter 1978)

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Calendar of Library Associates Events & Activities
For Quarter II, 1978 (January 5 to March 27)

January 5-March 15 Exhibit: "Botanical Panorama: A Selection of Early Botanical Works from the University of South Florida Collection.

March 16 Library Associates reception and open-house in the Special Collections Department, USF Library.

Further information relative to given events or activities is given in the "Events and Activities" section, page 3.

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Cover: Title page from Clusius' Rariorum Plantarum Historia (1601); see article beginning on page 5.

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Ex Libris

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Ex Libris is published quarterly by the USF Library Associates, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida.

Please address suggestions and comments to J. B. Dobkin, Executive Secretary, USF Library Associates, USF Library, Tampa, Fla. 33620.

All illustrations in this issue of Ex Libris are reproduced from works in the Special Collections Department of the University of South Florida Library. Photography is by the photography department of USF’s Division of Educational Resources.
Major Acquisitions

ONE of the brightest spots in our acquisitions picture since the last issue of *Ex Libris* has been our progress in developing the Library's holdings of 19th Century American literary works. In addition to many fine gifts from private sources, the USF English department made available resources from its library fund allocation for the acquisition of material for our 19th Century American literature collection. Particularly encouraging has been progress towards our goal of a comprehensive collection of American fiction of the 19th Century. Among the books acquired this quarter were first editions of works by such writers as James Fenimore Cooper and Mark Twain. With continued support, our collection of 19th Century American literature promises to be one of major stature.

Growth has also been encouraging in the University's general rare books collection. Continuing their generous support for the Library, Dr. and Mrs. David P. Wollowick donated seven folios (numbers 7-14) of *Topolski's Chronicles*. Covering the period 1958-1967, each of these portfolios of drawings by the British artist Feliks Topolski are hand-printed, signed, and numbered. Together with the Topolski folios previously donated by Dr. and Mrs. Wollowick, the Library now has a splendid run of these important works.

We have also received a gift of twenty-five issues of *Moscow News*. Published in Moscow, this English-language newspaper was the weekly edition of the *Moscow Daily News*. The collection covers the period 1936-37, giving valuable insight into the Soviet version of life in Russia during the Stalinist era. Due to the fragility of newsprint (and, no doubt, to the unpopularity of Communism in America at the time), original issues of *Moscow News* for this period are not common. We are most grateful to Mrs. Catherine Dahl for her generosity in donating these issues to our collection.

During the past quarter we were fortunate in acquiring several fine specimens of early printed works. Of particular note was a volume entitled *Ex Paluti Comoediis xx*, published by the famous Aldine Press at Venice in 1522. This interesting work is an edition of the comedies of Roman dramatist Titus Maccius Plautus (254-184 B.C.). Another early book acquired was J. Bingham's *Historie of Xenophon*, printed in London by John Haviland in 1623. Bingham's book was the first published English translation of Xenophon's *Anabasis*.

Also received for the rare book collection was a first edition of *Receuil D'Etampes Representant les differents Evenernents de la Guerre*. Published in Paris in 1784, this
work is an illustrated history of the American Revolution. Among its 16 fine engraved illustrations is the first appearance of the famous plate showing Galvez at the siege of Pensacola in 1781.

A copy of the first edition of E. E. Cummings’ work *EIMI* was presented to the Library by Ms. Barbara Deane. Published in 1933, only 1,381 copies of the first edition were printed. The copy donated, number 519, is signed by Cummings.

Among the many items acquired during the last quarter for our Florida collection were two particularly notable collections of photographs. The first of these was an album of 100 Florida views dating from circa 1895, primarily taken in the Pinellas-Pasco region. Each view has an identifying caption and is labeled either "along the route of the Plant System," or "along the route of the Sanford & St. Petersburg Railroad." The photographs were made by a Mr. Stokes, whose office was in Mohawk, a small town formerly located in Lake County. Of particular interest are the many fine views of St. Petersburg and Tarpon Springs to be found in the collection.

The second major group of Florida photographs acquired was an album of 130 views ranging in date from the 1870's to 1923. These views related mainly St. Augustine, Ormond, Daytona, and the St. Johns River area. Each item includes a descriptive annotation. Accompanying the album were a number of rare and interesting paper-bound Florida guide books and tourist brochures dating from the 1880's and 90's. All in all, the album and its accompanying collection of Florida pamphlets made a most useful addition to our Florida Collection.
Permanence and Your Gift

IT IS NOT EASY in these days of rapid change to find a haven of unchanging excellence. The buildings we knew as children, that seemed so grand and glorious, have in many cases been deemed unprofitable and thus expendable. The respected business firms that catered to our needs and pampered our whims, too often turned out to be dinosaurs of the marketplace and they are gone. The slower paced times before the days of instantaneous world-wide communication and the possibility of instantaneous world-wide atomic destruction are now lost and but regretted memories.

Where, then, can we find continuity and a haven in this maelstrom of change? Where better than in the special collections area of the library. Here the assembled wisdom of the centuries still clothed in its original raiment awaits our leisurely perusal. Microforms, reprint editions, and all of the other stars of the media parade have important places in our educational system and provide much needed material that would not otherwise be available. Despite its obvious utility the new does not completely replace the old. The original type, paper, and binding lend much to the bare outlines of the text. Notes of an author or contemporary reader add a dimension that we can ill afford to lose. The feeling of closeness to the author is lost when we are denied access to original editions of his work. Handling the manuscript letters in our collection we gain a special sort of insight into the social milieu that was home to many 19th Century American authors. The very handwriting and stationery lends a sense of closeness and intimacy otherwise impossible.

When your gifts come to our Library you can be sure that they will be maintained as a valued and lasting part of our cultural heritage. We feel that our security, temperature and humidity control, and specialized knowledge of antiquarian materials all contribute to the survival of the research material in our care. While a few pieces of paper or a few old books may not in themselves be of particular interest, when placed with numerous other items in the same subject area they can form part of a collection of great value to scholars. We must think of the generations of students and faculty to come and work toward creating the tools for their research. What we fail to acquire today may well no longer exist tomorrow.
Associates Events and Activities

Library Associates Book Sale
The first annual Library Associates book sale (November 9-10) was a resounding success, both for the Associates and for the hundreds of persons who picked up book bargains. By the end of the sale, the bulk of the eight thousand volumes on hand had been sold. The proceeds of the sale will go far toward supporting the programs of the Associates during the forthcoming year. And, as a fringe benefit, thousands of good books that would otherwise go unused are now in the hands of Tampa's reading public.

Through the good offices of Dr. Fred Pfister, staff for the sale was provided by volunteers from the USF Department of Library, Media, and Information Studies. A portion of the sale's profits will go to the department in return for the splendid service rendered by the volunteers. Although many individuals contributed to the success of the sale, particular mention must be made of Mr. Horst K. Joost's outstanding services. A professional bookseller, Mr. Joost volunteered to price and arrange the thousands of sale books. This proved to be a herculean task involving many long hours of patient labor. A great debt of gratitude is owed to Mr. Joost and all the others who donated time and books to make the Associates book sale such a splendid success.

The sale for 1978 will be held in the University Center Ballroom on November 5, 6, and 7. Although over one thousand fine books have been gathered already, we will need the support of our members and well-wishers if we are to make the 1978 sale even bigger than our first effort. Donations, large or small, of books for the sale are badly needed. If you have unwanted or unused books that you might wish to donate to the Associates, please contact Mr. J. B. Dobkin or Mr. Paul Camp at 974-2731. A gift of books to the Associates will not only help further our goal of a better library for the University community, but will also get good books to readers who can use them.

Marshall McLuhan Dinner
A buffet dinner sponsored by the Library Associates was held in the University Ballroom on the evening of November 26. Addressing the Associates was noted author and media specialist, Dr. Marshall McLuhan. The evening's program also featured a most entertaining musical program presented by the USF Opera Workshop, arranged by Ms. Annamary Dickey of the University's Music department. Ms. Dickey's courtesy in providing such an enjoyable addition to the evening's entertainment is most deeply appreciated. To commemorate the evening, a copy of an attractive and amusing keepsake edition of Cinderella, or the Little Glass Slipper was given to each guest. The edition was printed for the occasion by Konglomerati Press, and was based on a specimen in the USF collection published by W. B. Sprague of Albany, New York, sometime around 1840.

Author's Brunch
On December 11, Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Clendinen sponsored a meet-the-authors brunch at La Cave Restaurant for the benefit of the Associates. Guests of honor at the reception were noted Bay area writers Jack McClintock and Howell Raines. Mr. McClintock's new work, The Book of Darts, is the first book ever written on the history and play of dart games. Mr. Raines is the author of the popular novel Whiskey Man. Proceeds from tickets to the event went to the Library Associates treasury through the
great kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Clendinen, who personally met all expenses for the brunch. Their generosity is most deeply appreciated.

**Special Collections Open House**

On March 16, 1978, there will be a sherry-and-biscuit reception for Associates members and their guests in the Special Collections department on the fourth floor of the University Library. This will be a splendid opportunity for an intimate, behind-the-scenes look at how a rare book department operates. In addition to guided tours of the Special Collections department, there will be a show-and-tell program about the department's services and the many rare or unusual items housed there. Many visitors will be surprised to discover the range and depth of rarities in the collection. During the open house, guests will have the opportunity of examining such things as a four thousand year old Babylonian tablet, an Egyptian papyrus, early American children's books, and such bibliographic curiosities as fore-edge paintings. Also to be seen will be autographs of famous persons from Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain to the Kennedys, not to mention a fortune or two in Confederate money. All told, the occasion should be entertaining, informative, and perhaps even educational. The event is free of charge for Associates members and their guests, though reservations are required so that we may know how many visitors to plan for. Reservations may be made by calling 974-2731. All members of the Associates are cordially invited to attend what promises to be one of the most memorable events we've sponsored.
Exhibits

EXHIBITS of rare and unusual items from the University's collection are displayed in the Library on a continuing basis. Display areas are located on the fourth floor of the main library building, both in the lobby and in the Special Collections reading room. Exhibits are changed quarterly.

Current Exhibit: On display until March 15 will be a selection of books and illustrations from the University's extensive collection of early botanical works. Included are many of the landmark publications in the development of systematic botany, ranging in date from the 16th to the 19th Century. Many of the works are beautifully illustrated, some with hand-colored plates of considerable artistic merit.

Quarter III (March 27): "Florida in Pictures, 1885-1925." Through the vivid medium of contemporary photographs, this exhibit will present a picture of Florida life in the pre-boom era. Most of the structures and views portrayed in the photographs and postcards comprising the exhibit either no longer exist or have changed beyond recognition. Through these visual records, however, the exhibit will portray the life-style of a Florida now lost beyond recovery. The exhibit will be on display from March 27 to June 7.

Quarter IV (June 19): "Thomas Bird Mosher and the Mosher Press, 1891-1922." The Library is fortunate in having an extensive collection of books published by the Mosher Press, perhaps the paramount private press in the history of American printing. Established in Portland, Maine, in 1891, for thirty years the Mosher Press produced "choice and limited editions" of books notable for their typographic excellence. In addition to producing beautiful examples of the typographer's art, Mosher played a major role in introducing the works of important British writers to Americans. The display will be on view from June 19 to September 1.
ONE OF MANKIND'S most insatiable urges is the quest for knowledge. In order to understand his environment and himself, man has had a need to organize and classify. One may argue that systematics started with human speech since the naming of abstract concepts and individual items are means of classification. Since plants were an omnipresent and an extremely important part of man's environment, systematic botany in a broad sense developed very early.

Although little is known about the botanical knowledge of pre-literate man, much can be inferred. Those who gathered food were by necessity practical plant taxonomists. Through experience they learned which plants were edible and which were not. It can be said that those who failed to learn this basic taxonomy failed to become our ancestors.

Existing "primitive" societies possess linguistic means for accurate distinctions between the kinds of plants. These methods are often very sophisticated.

The period of history when man could read and write, but before the advent of the printing press, saw the rise of the intellectual and social basis for what is now our civilization. The advent of writing was unquestionably one of the greatest breakthroughs of ancient man for it provided a means of recording and recall at a later date. It must be emphasized that at the time writing was done "for the record." It was not new information nor new interpretations, but was general knowledge of the people of the times. "Publication," on the other hand, meant an oral presentation of new data and it may have been some time before it was regarded as "common knowledge" and written down or recorded, if ever. What this means is that the writing which was done quite likely was derived from the experiences of preliterate man.

The first attempts at systematizing botanical knowledge are generally credited to the golden age of Greece during the 4th Century B.C.

Theophrastos (ca. 370-285 B.C.) was the first great botanical writer and is usually referred to as the father of botany. Theophrastos studied with Plato and Aristotle. After the deaths of these two great men, he became head of the Lyceum with its gardens and libraries in Athens. He produced over two hundred written works during his lifetime, although most of these survive only as fragments or in quotations from other writer's works. In his well-known Historia Plantarum he described over five hundred species of plants. These he classified into four groups: herbs, sub-shrubs, shrubs, and trees. He also laid the foundations for many of the basic concepts of modern botany, such as floral morphology, sexual and asexual reproduction, and the various kinds of tissues. Students of the writing of Theophrastos will note that his sentences are often terse and sometimes rather vague. It has been suggested that his botanical writings were not meant to be read, but were in fact lecture notes.

Caius Plinius Secundus or "Pliny the Elder" (A.D. 23-79), a Roman scholar, produced one of the more influential botanical works, Historia Naturalis. In this work he attempted to record everything about the world. Of the 37 volumes of the work which survive, 16 dealt primarily with plants. His botanical writings are essentially agricultural and medicinal in nature. However, he mentions nearly one thousand species of plants. In his works he perpetuated many errors of his predecessors. However, they are encyclopedic in
scope and were held in the highest esteem for more than a thousand years. His *Historia Naturalis* was one of the earliest books to be printed by movable type in the 15th Century. It is unfortunate that Pliny had an untimely death during an eruption of Mount Vesuvius.

Pedanios Dioscorides (1st Century A.D.), presumably was a contemporary of Pliny. He was of Greek ancestry and served as a military physician under Emperor Nero in the Roman Army. His most important work, *Materia Medica*, is an account of about six hundred plant species used for medicinal purposes which he derived from firsthand observations as a practicing physician. His book is divided into chapters in a rather haphazard manner, but many of the plants were placed, at least superficially, in groups according to natural relationships. Since the *Materia Medica* dealt with human medicine and was easily understandable, it became a very important work. The possession of a copy of *Materia Medica* was a virtual guarantee of fortune and success. With it one could practice pharmacy or medicine since he had the single most important source book available on the subject.

ABOUT A.D. 512, the Byzantine emperor, Flavius Olybrius Anicius, had a beautiful manuscript copy of Dioscorides’ work prepared as a gift for his daughter, Princess Juliana. This manuscript became known as the *Anicia Juliana Codex* and is today housed in the Imperial Library in Vienna. The *Anicia Juliana Codex* is now available in facsimile and in translation. Most of the plants illustrated may be identified with certainty as plants living today. The *Anicia Juliana Codex* attracted the attention of scholars all over western Europe, and many came to Constantinople and later to Vienna to study it. A copy of a translation of the *Codex* came into the hands of Pierandrea Mattioli, a 16th Century Italian herbal writer. Mattioli noted the fact that his own herbals were ultimately derived from *Materia Medica* of Dioscorides. It is great tribute to Dioscorides’ fame and influence that Mattioli, one thousand five hundred years later, would proclaim his own work as being derived from his *Materia Medica*.

During the Middle Ages, following the decline of the Greek and Roman civilizations, little significant botanical progress was made. It was a matter of course for people to simply defer to the ancients whom they assumed were infinitely wiser and more cultured. The early herbals were simply recopied for centuries with few additions or improvements. The only botanist of note was Albertus Magnus (ca. A.D. 1200-1280). He
was given the title of "Doctor Universalis" by his contemporaries and was called the "Aristotle of the Middle Ages." He was elevated to sainthood by the Church of Rome. St. Albert, as he was also called, was a prolific writer and his books on botany are only one of his many contributions. Although his actual contribution to botanical knowledge is hard to assess, in an era of general ignorance St. Albert was a shining light. He is probably best remembered for his classification of plants in which he recognized two major groups of flowering plants, the monocots and dicots, and the separation of the vascular plants from the nonvascular plants. These are basic distinctions which are used today.

The ancient and medieval botanists felt they were writing in the realm of "common knowledge" and there was little originality in their thinking. With the coming of the Renaissance, the cultural and intellectual nature of Europe changed. People now sought originality in all manner of personal expression.

One of the most significant impacts on systematic botany was the development of the printing press. Printing made books relatively inexpensive and readily available. As a result, the literacy rate increased manyfold. Medical-botanical books became quite popular during the early days of printing. The discovery of misconceptions in the older works prompted scholars to publish their own books or "herbals." The popularity of these herbals, and the ease with which they could be published, permitted botanists to propose various relationships among plants and to devise nomenclatural schemes.

The best known and most influential herbalists were three Germans: Otto Brunfels (1488-1534), Jerome Bock (1489-1554), and Leonhart Fuchs (1501-1566).


Bock's first herbal is his *Neu Kreuterbuch*, published in 1537. Although it contains no illustrations, it has many technically accurate descriptions of plants based on firsthand observations. His *Kreuterbuch*, which is actually the second edition of the former work, appeared in print in 1546 and contained 477 woodcuts. There were eight further editions of this work.

Fuchs' *De Historia Stirpium Commentarii Insignes* (1542) contains 509 full page woodcuts of plants. Some rare copies of this work contain hand-colored illustrations. The woodcuts were later used by Fuchs in his *Neu Kreuterbuch*. There exists in Vienna a manuscript for a revised edition of his *De Historia Stirpium* with 1,525 woodcuts.

What made Brunfels, Bock, and Fuchs different from their predecessors is that they were original in their thinking. They admired the ancients, but did not consider them the ultimate authority and based their decisions on original observations.

A few other well known herbalists were the Dutch, Charles de L'Ecluse (1526-1609), and Rembert Dodoens (1517-1585), the German, Valerius Cordus (1515-1544), and the British, John Gerard (1545-1612).

IN ADDITION to the printing press another very important development, the science of navigation, took place at this time. This naturally led to the botanical exploration of the New World. Toward the beginning of the 17th Century, large numbers of plants were being described from the New World. As the number of plant species increased, there became an evident need to expand and revise the classification systems.

Andrea Caesalpino (1519-1603), an Italian physician, was one of the early systematists who attempted to produce a new expanded concept of classification. He
based his system on the assumption that certain features of a plant were more meaningful than others. Caesalpino's major contribution to the literature was *De Plantis* (1583), a work consisting of 16 books; the first a general work on the theoretical aspects of botany, and the others containing descriptions of about 1,520 species.

Gaspard Bauhin (1560-1624), a Swiss botanist, published what was the most comprehensive work at the time, *Pinax Theatri Botanici*. This work was an account of all species of plants known at the time, approximately six thousand in number. It also listed the different names that had been used for each species by other botanists before him. Bauhin was the first botanist to firmly establish a clear concept of a genus and species. He also used a binomial nomenclature, although not consistently. These are basic concepts which we consider obvious today.

The Englishman, John Ray (1627-1705), was another influential systematic botanist. He published numerous works, but is perhaps best known for his *Methodus Plantarum Nova* (1682), and *Historia Plantarum* (1686-1704). He produced a system in which plants which looked alike were grouped together. Although this is obvious to us today, it was a new idea at that time. Even though his system contained a number of peculiarities derived from a mixture of new and old systems, it was a major step in the right direction. In his *Historia Plantarum*, he accounted for approximately eighteen thousand species of plants.

Pierre Magnol (1638-1715), a French contemporary of Ray, found Ray's system to be too cumbersome and divided the plants into 26 major groups which he called families. The family concept as put forth by Magnol is basic to an understanding of modern systematics. Although we have greatly modified the original groupings proposed by Magnol and expanded them upwards to over three hundred, we still use his basic ideas.

Joseph Pitton de Tournefort (1656-1708) was a student of Magnol. Tournefort's *Elements de Botanique* (1694), illustrated with 451 copper engravings, included 698 genera and 10,145 species. He later enlarged the text of this work and republished it as *Institutiones Rei Herbariae* (1700). The *Institutiones* was less sophisticated than Ray's *Historia* and was structured on a mechanical basis designed to identify the plants at hand, somewhat like keys found in identification manuals today.

THE THEORETICAL works of Ray and others had made great strides toward providing a sound basis for systematic botany. However, exploration of the New World, the Far East, and Africa had increased the number of known species of plants to unmanageable proportions. The then available systems could not accommodate the diversity of plants and it became obvious that a great reorganization would have to be undertaken.

This brings us to an important milestone in the history of systematic botany, that of
the advent of the Swedish botanist Carl von Linne (1707-1778). He is perhaps better known by his Latinized name, as Carolus Linnaeus. Several books and countless scientific papers have been published on Linnaeus and his works. He is unquestionably the most influential person in modern systematic botany.

Linnaeus, the son of a parson, received clerical training at the University of Lund and the University of Uppsala, later taking a degree in medicine at the University of Harderwijk in the Netherlands. While attending the University of Uppsala, he published his first paper, one dealing with sexuality in plants. He later elaborated on this theme which became the foundation for his proposed classification system. His interest in plants and the university garden endeared him to Olaf Rudbeck, an elderly professor, who helped him financially and used him as an assistant.

Under the sponsorship of the Academy of Sciences of Uppsala, Linnaeus undertook a botanical expedition to Lapland in 1732. He traveled 4,800 miles in five months and collected 537 plant specimens. One plant which he named *Campanula serphyllifolia* turned out not to be a *Campanula* at all and was renamed *Linnaea borealis* by the Dutch botanist, Jan Gronovius, in honor of Linnaeus.

While in the Netherlands, after completing his medical degree at the University, Linnaeus published his *Systema Naturae* (1735), a brief work consisting of eight folio sheets, setting down the basis for his classification system. This work went through 13 editions during his life and several further editions by various authors after his death.

Linnaeus served as the personal physician to George Clifford, a rich hypochondriac. Under the patronage of Clifford, Linnaeus had time and money to pursue his true interest, botany. In 1737 he published his *Genera Plantarum, Flora Lapponica,* and *Hortus Cliffortianus,* all major works.

Upon the death of his former teacher, Rudbeck, Linnaeus returned to Uppsala to fill the Chair of Medicine at the University. Due to Linnaeus' attraction as a teacher, the enrollment at Uppsala tripled. Linnaeus served as major professor for 180 students. The ultimate contribution and influence of many of these students forms the backbone of modern systematics. Among the students of Linnaeus were Peter Forskal, Fredrik Hasselquist, Peter Kalm, Carl Thunberg, and Daniel Solander. With the publication of his *Species Plantarum* (1753), the starting point for the system of priority used in our present-day nomenclature of higher plants is established. Here for the first time we find a consistent use of the binomial system of nomenclature.

The system of classification used by Linnaeus is simple and artificial. Plants are divided into groups according to the number and arrangement of flower parts. This simple but effective system became very popular with botanists who had to deal with many new species.

Linnaeus and his immediate predecessors were concerned with the mechanisms of
classification. They assumed that species were fixed entities. They did note, however, that some plants were more clearly related to each other than to others, but this was of little concern to them.

**BY THE LATE 1700's**, sufficient information had accumulated for the taxonomists to be more concerned with the ultimate purpose of their work. A good cataloging system had been devised by Linnaeus, but now it was evident that it was little more than just that. It did not accurately show biological relationships.

The de Jussieu family of France had four members who became important botanists: Antoine, Barnard, Joseph, and Antoine-Laurent. They were all associated with the Royal Botanical Garden in Paris. Probably the most significant of the four is Antoine-Laurent in whose *Genera Plantarum Secundum Ordines Naturales Disposita* (1789), was presented a natural approach to classification. This meant that plants which looked alike were classified together. There was no basic scientific dicta supporting this concept of a natural system. This would come a century later with the elaboration of the theory of evolution. Botanists of the time accepted the idea of a system with its basis in intuition and observation, rather than one which was fundamentally artificial, such as that of Linnaeus.

The Swiss-French family de Candolle was another great family. Augustin Pyramus de Candolle (1778-1841), in his *Theorie Elementaire de la Botanique* (1813), developed his morphological approach to systematics. However, he and the other de Candolles are most noted for their *Prodromus Systematis Naturalis Regni Vegetabilis* (1824-1873), which was an attempt to write a flora of the whole world. Augustin de Candolle worked on the *Prodromus* from 1816 until his death in 1841, then his son, Alphonse (1806-1893), worked on it until 1873. After that a series of monographs was published by Alphonse and later his son, Anne Casimir (1836-1918). The great *Prodromus* was never completed.

Throughout the early and middle years of the 19th Century, the natural system of classification became firmly entrenched. Most botanists were satisfied with the system and spent their time using it to prepare floras of the various regions of the world.

The last and most complete pre-evolutionary natural system was that proposed by George Bentham (1800-1884), an eminent British amateur botanist, and Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker (1817-1911), the Director of Kew Gardens. This work, *Genera Plantarum* (1862-1883), is still a very useful work consisting of very precise generic descriptions arranged in a system derived from that of A. P. de Candolle.

**IN 1859** Charles Darwin published his monumental *On the Origin of Species*. This gave rise to a whole new concept of systematic botany; one based on evolution. One era had come to an end and another was beginning.

It is perhaps appropriate to digress briefly at this point to touch upon the topic of floras. This is a vast subject about which much has and still could be written. I'll briefly mention only a couple of the more beautifully illustrated works at this time.
One magnificent work is that of Mark Catesby's *Natural History of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands* (1731-1743). The magnificent plates were made in the field and were based on fresh material. The work consists of two folio volumes and an appendix. Each volume contains one hundred hand-colored plates and the appendix has twenty such plates. Linnaeus based several new species of plants on Catesby's illustrations. The work is, as the name implies, a natural history work, and contains illustrations and text of various other subjects as well as botanical ones.

Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859) and Aimé Alexander Bonpland (1773-1868), a German and a French naturalist-traveler respectively, spent several years traveling and collecting in tropical America. As far as taxonomy is concerned, their principal work is *Voyage aux Regions Equinoctiales du Nouveau Continent, fait en 1799-1804, partie 6, Botanique. Section 3, Nova Genera et Species* (1815-1825). This is a seven-volume work published simultaneously in quarto and folio editions. It contains seven hundred plates, beautifully executed. Carl S. Kunth, a German botanist, was responsible for most of the text in this work.

The University of South Florida Herbarium Library includes a valuable collection of rare botanical works dealing primarily with systematic botany. This library is largely a gift of Dr. George R. Cooley, an ardent student of botany and friend of former University President John Allen. The USF Herbarium and Library originated at Chinsegut Hill in February, 1958. It was believed by Dr. Cooley that in order to do any serious taxonomic work, one needed a good library and this included the classics. During his many travels about the world, Dr. Cooley purchased both books and specimens which he in turn gave to the Herbarium. By the time the new University was ready to receive students at the Tampa campus in 1960, the Herbarium already contained approximately twenty thousand specimens and the nucleus of a good botanical library. The first director of the Herbarium was Dr. James D. Ray, Jr., now dean of the College of Natural Sciences. He was succeeded by Dr. Robert W. Long in 1965. Upon Dr. Long's unexpected death in 1976, the present director was appointed.

Because of the value of the USF Herbarium rare book collection and its deterioration through the years, it was recently transferred to the Special Collections department of the USF Library. Through the cooperation of the Special Collections department and an agreement with the directors of the USF Library and the USF Herbarium, the books will be housed and preserved in the USF Library, but will remain the property of the USF Herbarium. Through funds provided by Dean Ray of the College of Natural Sciences and the USF Library, the books will be properly restored and cataloged. Many of the works described in this article are part of the USF Herbarium or the USF Library Special Collections holdings.

*The Executive Secretary*
Any person who wishes to help in furthering the goals of the USF Library Associates is eligible to become a member. Regular, sustaining, patron, corporate, and student memberships are available on an annual basis (September 1 to August 31). Student memberships are open only to regularly enrolled students of the University of South Florida, and are valid only so long as the member remains a regular USF student. Life memberships are also available to interested persons.

Membership in the Associates includes a subscription to *Ex Libris*, a journal of articles and news about Associates activities, library developments, and other topics likely to be of interest to Bay area bibliophiles. The member is also entitled to attend all Associates functions and, in addition, is eligible for book loan privileges at the University Library, subject to prevailing library regulations.

So, if you are interested in helping us to obtain a better library for the University and its community, and want to participate in the many services and activities offered to members by the Library Associates, please use the membership blank below and become one of us today.