Arnoldia Reviews


The idea of "nature printing", making prints directly from leaves or entire plants, is not a new one. Wilfrid Blunt, in The Art of Botanical Illustration, states that the process was developed as early as the 15th century and was periodically rediscovered, refined, and modified during the 18th and 19th centuries, culminating in von Ettinghausen's Physiotypia of 1853–73. Ida Geary, the authoress of the present book under notice, credits Leonardo da Vinci as the first to experiment with the process. Basically, it involves applying a pigment or some transferable substance, whether it be an ink or soot from a candle, to the surface of a pressed or living plant surface and then laying the plant on paper and pressing or rubbing an impression onto the paper.

The Leaf Book is purportedly, as the subtitle states, a guide to the plants of northern California. The book consists of a total of 261 plant prints and one drawing (of poison oak, to which the authoress states she is allergic) loosely arranged in categories, which include marine algae; fungi, lichens, and mosses; ferns and fern allies; grasses, sedges, and rushes; wild flowers; shrubs; and trees. The placement of the nature prints within these categories is something less than scientific, as is exemplified by the inclusion of a cat-tail (Typha sp.) and a bur-reed (Sparganium sp.) along with the ferns and fern allies. Each plate is labeled with a common and scientific name, along with a short caption intended to help in positive identification. The idea is that the plant prints are the main aid in identification. Unfortunately, the majority of prints are muddy and unclear, and in most instances one would have to be familiar with the plant in question before it would be recognizable in the nature print. It would seem to me that anyone interested in learning and identifying the more common plants of northern
California would be far ahead to consult one of the several pocket guides that cover the flora of the region, many of which are profusely illustrated with clear color photographs and diagnostic line drawings.

**Stephen A. Sponberg**


This is the first of a projected six-volume flora covering an area which includes all of Utah, most of Nevada, and smaller portions of Arizona, Oregon, Idaho and Wyoming. Somewhat more than half of the present volume is devoted to introductory essays, physiography, plant geography and a most useful biographical section entitled "Botanical Explorations in the Intermountain Regions" (36 pages).

The Flora proper follows the pattern of the New York Botanical Garden floras; large page size, each species illustrated, and ample ecological and other notes at the end of each description. Volume one includes the Ferns, Fern worts, and Gymnosperms (including Ephedra). It looks like an interesting and useful series for anyone interested in the plants of the West.

**Gordon P. DeWolf, Jr.**


In *Landscape Gardening* we have another beautiful coffee table book that offers a good deal of general information and sets some lovely moods with its flowing text and stunning photographs.

The author provides good introductory comments, some useful guidelines for each topic he chooses to pursue, and the photographs often furnish new ideas of ways to handle problems.

However one is left with a feeling that the essentials, the nitty-gritty stuff that makes real landscape gardening, have
been left out. The emphasis here is on the "homeowner", most certainly the suburban clientele at which this series of books is aimed. There is a quotation from Robert Roylston which doesn't seem to have influenced Mr. Crockett: "... But not everyone can have one-half to three-quarters of an acre to let nature flourish for him alone, there's not that much nature to go around. It stretches our resources too thin ..."  

Now is the time for a book that starts here and faces the needs of a community that is ecologically and sociologically concerned and active. The Time-Life editors should start publishing books with real information for us to put into practice; not picture books that are out of date as they come to the stands.

**JACK LINK**


This is the era of the reprint book. Contemporary hard-cover titles are reprinted in paper back. Out-of-print titles are reprinted verbatim. Antique books are reprinted with scholarly introductions, explaining their importance and setting them, and their authors, in the proper milieu. Cornut's *Canadensium Plantarum... Historia* has long been a sort of mythical book, mentioned with bated breath in lectures on the history of botany, or botanical art, as a milestone in human intellectual progress, as the "first North American Flora"; very rarely as containing the "first flora of Paris".

Let there be no mistake, it is good to have a reprint of Cornut at a reasonable price. It is good, too, to have the available information about Cornut brought together and digested. It is unfortunate that the introduction imputes to the plant descriptions and illustrations greater accuracy than actually exists. Many of the illustrations lack sufficient detail to be readily identifiable, and the descriptions are not very helpful. Further, in many cases the nativity of the plant is not given. We may note that Canada, the West Indies, Southern Europe and the Near East, and the Cape of Good Hope, are all represented.

It is unfortunate that the author of the introduction did not consult a botanist or horticulturist before producing his list of "probable modern identifications" of the plants mentioned and/or illustrated. Of the 78 plants cited, 20 were either unidentified, incompletely identified, wrongly identified, or incorrectly named.

9. Thlaspi luteum spanspermon = possibly a European *Epilobium* similar to *E. alpinum*, L.?

17. De Valeriana = *Epilobium*, if American probably *E. coloratum*, but it could equally well be a European species.


32. Polygonatum spicatum sterile = typical form of *Smilacina stellata* (L.) Desfontaines.

34. Polygonatum spicatum fertile = cited by Linnaeus in the original description of *Convallaria* (*Smilacina*) stellatum.


82. Rhamnus myrtifolius ex insula sancti christophori = There has been a mix-up of names between this plate and the next. This plate is *Primula vulgaris* Hudson (*P. acaulis* (L) Hudson).

84. Carchichec turcarum sive primula veris constantinopolitana = the name refers to the previous plate. This illustration seems to be a sterile twig of a *Cassia*.

95. Ranunculus latifolius multiplex serotinas = a double-flowered form of *Ranunculus bullatus* L. which seems to have been lost to cultivation for more than 200 years.

100. Edera quinquefolia canadensis = *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* (L) Planch.

124. Scordium spinosum odoratum = *Teucrium spinosum* L.


154. Narcissus pumilus indicus polyanthos = *Crinum*, possibly *C. lineare* from South Africa.

158. Narcissus iaponicus rutilo flore = *Nerine sarniensis* (L.) Herb.


165. Sisynrichium indicum = *Spiloxene capensis* (L.) Garside (= *Hypoxis stellata* (Thunberg) L.f.).
Solidago maxima americana = *Solidago sempervirens* L.

*Thalictrum canadense* = *Thalictrum cornuti* L. = *T. aquilegifolium* L. var. *typicum* Beck. f. *cornuti* (L.) Boivin a native of Europe.

Bellis Ramosa umbellifera = *Erigeron annuus* (L.) Persoon.

Calceolus Marianus canadensis = *Cypripedium reginae* Walt.

**GORDON P. DEWOLF, JR.**


Originally published in a limited edition in 1911 as Part II of the Annual Report of the New Jersey State Museum for 1910, entitled “The Plants of Southern New Jersey with Especial Reference to the Flora of the Pine Barrens and the Geographic Distribution of the Species”. The Quarterman edition has been enlarged to include a foreword of four pages by Elizabeth M. Woodford.

The pine barren area of New Jersey has long been recognized as a unique vegetational sector comprising some endemic species of plants; some with ranges northward to Newfoundland; some showing affinities on Cape Cod; some with continuous or disjunct ranges southward to the coastal plain of Georgia and Florida. Since Stone’s time, new highways have made additional areas readily accessible. A few portions of the area have been established as nature reserves, state parks, or state forests for preservation of the unusual plants and animals. Federal recognition of the sector as a landmark or national park was sought in 1967. Hopefully, this reprinting of Stone’s work will give additional impetus to steps toward preservation of the pine barrens and adjacent areas.

This reprint is well done, and the original illustrations of photographs, line drawings and paintings, not always well printed in the original, have lost but little in the current reproduction. Regrettably, no attempt has been made to bring the nomenclature up to date from that of the American Code used by Stone. The foreword suggests that the correct scientific name can be obtained, via the common name, from Gray’s *Manual of Botany*, or Britton and Brown’s *Illustrated Flora*. This is misleading since neither reference volume suggested offers syn-
onyms of scientific names, which are necessary to sort out the correct name from the several offered by Stone. Some of the common names used by Stone, checked at random, do not occur in either Gray or Britton and Brown. Reprinting of older and rare volumes is admirable. For some volumes it should be done without changes, but others like this one would be improved by at least an appendix of modern nomenclatural equivalents or the suggestion of references such as Jack McCormick's excellent "Pine Barrens of New Jersey, A Study of Significance", prepared by the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia in 1967.

Richard A. Howard