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FRIENDS OF ANDERSEN HORTICULTURAL LIBRARY



Minnesota Landscape
ARBORETUM



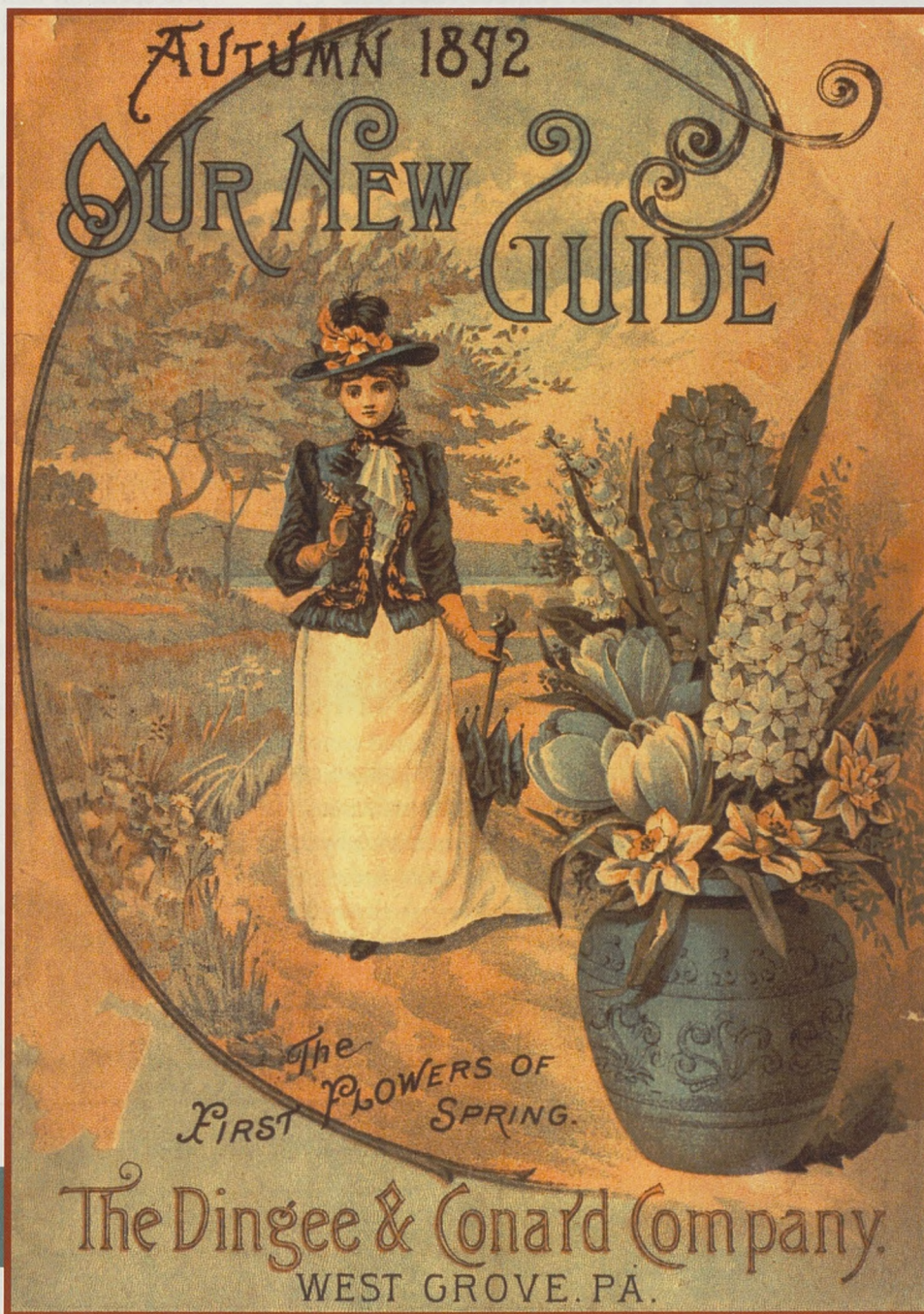
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

LIBRARIES

News

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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**FRIENDS OF ANDERSEN
HORTICULTURAL LIBRARY NEWS**

Andersen Horticultural Library
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum
3675 Arboretum Drive
Chaska MN 55318
(952) 443-1405

Subscription only: \$10.00 per year.
Membership in AHL Friends
(includes Newsletter): \$10.00
individual; \$15.00 household

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS: FRIENDS EVENTS

Thursday, October 4
3:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Friends Annual Book Sale
Friends & Arboretum staff ONLY

Friday, Oct. 5 - Sunday, Oct. 7
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Friends' Annual Book Sale
More about the sale on page 6.

Monday, October 22 (note that meetings are the 4th Monday, not the last Monday)
Regular Meeting, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
Speaker: Stan Tekiela,
"Hummingbirds"

Stan Tekiela, award-winning writer, naturalist, and wildlife photographer will speak on hummingbirds. Several of his books will be available for purchase and signing.

Monday, January 28
Regular Meeting, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
Speaker: Gregory Brick
"Mushroom Caves"

Greg Brick, hydrogeologist, award-winning spelunker, and author of *Subterranean Twin Cities*, will speak on local mushroom caves. Copies of his book will be available for purchase and signing.

LIBRARY EVENTS [Free for Friends of AHL]

Wednesday, Oct. 3, 12-1pm Inside the Collection: Out of the Woods
AHL Librarian Kathy Allen will share some unique and finely illustrated works including a multi-volume set of wood slices from hundreds of different trees and a volume of portraits of majestic trees in their pastoral surroundings.

Wednesday, Nov. 7, 12-1pm Inside the Collection: Look at a Book
Sometimes the design and construction of a book is as interesting as its contents. We will see some exquisite examples, including a volume of *The Highgrove Florilegium* wrapped in its own handmade blanket, a book created in 1651, and fine printmaking examples by artist and book maker C.B. Sherlock and wood engraver Gaylord Schanilec.

Wednesday, Dec. 5, 12-1pm, Inside the Collection: Curator's Choice
The librarian has selected a number of choice items from Andersen Horticultural Library's climate-controlled "vault." They are currently her favorites for their beauty, design, rarity, or just plain quirkiness. In addition to books, an array of antique seed and nursery catalogs and miscellaneous objects will be shared.

Wednesday, Jan. 16, 8:30-done. Miserable Day. More on p. 5.

COVER IMAGE

Dingee & Conard catalog, Autumn 1892. Our 60,000th catalog! See story, p. 4.

PONDERINGS FROM PAUL

BY PAUL SCHLICK, PRESIDENT

Ponder: to quietly probe the depths of knowledge in hope that wisdom might rise to the surface.

Okay, so where did this summer go already? Wherever it went, I hope it left you with pleasant memories and gives way to a long and lovely autumn.

This was the Summer of Weddings for Judy and me. We attended four or five—I've lost count—but I think we're done for the year. They were all lovely affairs and we were pleased to be included. One couple exchanged vows at a small vineyard high in the hills outside the little town of Los Olivos, California, not far from Santa Barbara. It was very picturesque, with a mission-style winery surrounded by steep hills covered with neat rows of vines, and the weather was perfect. The groom (our nephew) and several others were transplanted Minnesotans and more than once mused on how they missed Minnesota except, of course, for the winters. Once settled into the habit of southern California's endless perfect days, they couldn't imagine coming back.

Call me crazy, but I can't relate. Especially now as we head into a glorious season of change, perhaps the best part of our year. Oh, I admit the season after autumn has its drawbacks but I also look forward to cozy fires and warm fleece and snowshoes and the beautiful patterns of nature in a stark landscape, like the bold shadows of leaf-bare trees that

the full moon etches onto a snowy canvas. Besides, what do Californians do for small talk?

"Well, looks like another warm, sunny day, alright." "Huh? Who are you?"

And those poor TV weather people! Southern California has to be a backwater for weather broadcasters, unlike here where they sometimes have the only



piece of the news worth watching. Our weather people are feisty, too. I'm reminded of a snowy day in November 1983 and being trapped in a stalled, miles-long line on I-35W while the predicted 4 inches quickly inched toward 12. Cars got stuck; others ran out of gas. While I sat there, in my mind I drafted a letter to Dennis Feltgen, head weather guy for KSTP-TV whose advertising back then emphasized their large staff of 11 professional meteorologists. When weather erupted, Dennis would broadcast from the weather war room,

staring wide-eyed into the camera while relaying the latest prophecy from Color Weather Radar. When I finally got home, after 6 hours, I typed up my letter. I reminded him that Minnesotans are a pragmatic bunch, that we realize weather can be unpredictable and that I didn't blame the good folks at his station for my ugly commute, but as a suggestion couldn't they save a lot of money with only 5 or 6 meteorologists and still be just as inaccurate? I also complimented him on their use of technology to make such nice color charts and graphs. I mailed it the next day. His reply arrived a few days later, a two-pager typed by Dennis himself. It was clear that he was not nearly as amused by my letter as I was. I miss Dennis.

Anyway, we're staying put. Sure, there are advantages to living in a snow-free habitat (see "stalled, miles-long line ..." above) but for now Judy and I will make do with layers of fleece, down comforter, warm boots, lots of soup and hearty foods, a cord of firewood, snowshoes, good tires, a trusty snowblower, good books, hot chocolate ... and possibly a couple of airplane tickets if it gets really bad. And, come March, we'll be right here to experience yet another glorious season of change. Until then, see you at the book sale!

Keep in touch,

Paul

WHAT'S NEW AT THE LIBRARY

From 0 to 60 [thousand] in 38 years...impressive!

July 18th marked a milestone for Andersen Horticultural Library (AHL). That afternoon we processed the Autumn 1892 Dingee & Conard catalog (pictured here and on the front cover), the 60,000th item in the historic seed and nursery catalog collection.



Back cover, Autumn 1892 Dingee & Conard catalog

AHL's Historic Seed & Nursery Catalog Collection is one of the largest in the country. Catalogs in the collection range in date from 1828 to the present and represent all fifty states, plus twenty-six countries.

That the "collection" stood at zero when the library opened thirty-eight years ago and is now one of the largest in the country is truly impressive. This feat can be attributed to two very special people: Library co-founder, Elmer Andersen, who felt the Library

should be known for something, and librarian June Rogier, who established the historic collection.

Recently, the collection has been used to answer questions about when the Mikado tomato was introduced, when American chestnut trees were no longer available commercially, and how soybeans transitioned from being seeds that farmers would collect from their own plants to seeds that were sold by seed companies.

In July librarian Kathy Allen attended a meeting held at the New York Botanical Garden for institutions with the largest known seed & nursery catalog collections to discuss best practices for moving forward with cataloging and digitization of these valuable items.

Dingee & Conard, or, War and Peace/Harmony

Some time after 1862 Charles Dingee (1825-1912) and Alfred Conard (1835-1906) established the Harmony Grove Nursery in West Grove, Pennsylvania. Later incorporated as the Dingee & Conard Co., they published the first gardening catalog with "roses by mail a specialty."

After a falling-out in 1892, their once harmonious relationship ended. Charles Dingee's obituary (*National Nurseryman*, Jan. 1913)

states that he sold the business to relatives in 1903. It also notes he was close personal friends with journalist and politician Horace Greeley, as well as noted author and nurseryman Peter Henderson, among others. A further observation, "He was the last living witness to the Christiana riot [September 11, 1851], which has come to be known as the forerunner of the Civil War. He was present on the occasion when the riot took place."

Alfred Conard went on to partner with others; his side of the business changed its name to Conard & Jones, then to Conard-Pyle.

Decades later, Robert Pyle's friend, Francis Meiland, developed a beautiful new rose and managed to get a cutting of it flown to Pyle for safekeeping just before France fell to the German invasion in 1939. Pyle played a key role in bringing Peace to the American public - *Rosa 'Peace'*, that is - propagated from that one cutting. Pyle stated, "We are persuaded that the greatest new rose of our time should be named for the world's greatest desire: Peace." It was introduced coincidentally on the day Berlin fell (April 29, 1945), effectively ending WWII in Europe. It is one of the most popular roses of all time. Conard-Pyle is still in business and well-known for its hybrid roses.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF MEMBER!

We are so pleased to welcome the newest addition to the staff of Andersen Horticultural Library. Gretchen Burau (née Wagener) started at AHL on July 16. She works Thursdays, Fridays, and every other weekend. In addition to staffing the front desk, Gretchen is a natural at seed and nursery catalog indexing - great news for us and for users of our Plant Information Online database (plantinfo.umn.edu).

Gretchen has undergraduate degrees in studio art and music and a Master of Fine Arts in Visual Studies. She is working toward a Master of Arts in Art History at the University of St. Thomas (UST). In addition, she studied fresco restoration in Florence, Italy and finished a fresco painting internship with Mark Balma this July.

Gretchen is a whiz at time management, being one of the busiest people we know. She teaches piano to several students in Waconia, teaches online Art History courses for Crown College, and is Assistant Curator for the American Museum of Asmat Art at UST. This past summer she was invited to paint at the Governor's Residence for a benefit, she has an article coming out in Studio Visit Magazine this winter, and when she finds time (and good weather) she enjoys painting at the Arboretum.



Oh, and she works half-time at Andersen Horticultural Library!

Gretchen says, "My grandfather gave me a deep appreciation for nature. He had a beautiful garden and worked at a nature center just outside Peoria, Illinois, where we would frequently visit."

Gretchen has been coming to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum since she was a young girl. She remembers participating in two "ice castle" art conferences for high school students, where their work was shown upstairs in the Snyder Building. For the past seven years she has taught art classes at the Learning Center. She adds, "The Arboretum has always been a special place for me and I'm so excited to be working in the Andersen Horticultural Library."

Inside the Collection

The Library has many special treasures - Nakashima furniture, wonderful volunteers, beautiful space, etc. Some treasures are kept away from sight (and heat and humidity) for their own protection, notably rare books.

The Inside the Collection series is a chance to see and learn more about some of these special books. Friends of AHL are encouraged to come to these events (no registration necessary; non-Friends must register and are charged a fee). Dates are listed on p. 2. Call or email the Library (952-443-1405; HortLib@umn.edu) closer to the event for room information.

Misery Loves Company!

Our annual "Miserable Day" will be held on Wednesday, January 16. The Library will be closed so that staff and volunteers can clean, oil, and polish all of the Nakashima pieces to better preserve them. Lunch is provided by the Library. It's a wonderful opportunity to spend quality time with the Nakashima furnishings and with Friends/friends. There will be a sign-up sheet at the October 22 meeting, or contact the library (952-443-1405; HortLib@umn.edu) if you plan to attend.

SUPPORT THE LIBRARY AND

...at the Friends of AHL Annual Book Sale!

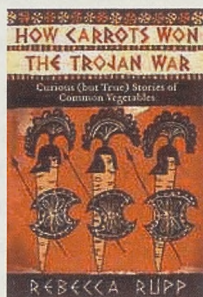
Stock up for winter reading, discover treasures, and find great holiday gifts! Mark your calendars for October 5-7. If you'd like the best choice, plan to come Thursday, October 4th, 3:30-7:00 p.m., for the Friends' preview and sale. Want the best bargain? Come Sunday, October 7, for the bag sale - \$2 buys you a bagful!

Kudos

So much goes into a successful book sale. The Librarian would like to thank: the Friends of AHL, who continue to support this great effort; the Library Assistants who receive and count every book donated throughout the year and get their exercise carrying them all downstairs; the tireless Chair of the Book Sale Committee, Susan Cross, and her team of volunteer sorters; Helen King for sending thank you letters; Richard Isaacson & Jim Berdahl for their work with special books; the Arboretum staff & others who move every box of books from the basement to the Snyder Auditorium tables on sale day; the staff & volunteers who work the sale; and Mike Zins who recycles unsold items after the sale. Last but not least, a huge "Thank You!" to the many people who donate books and to the hundreds who purchase them! There would be no sale without YOU!



... here at AHL with a few good books!*



How Carrots Won the Trojan War: Curious (But True) Stories of Common Vegetables, by Rebecca Rupp. North Adams, MA: Storey Pub., 2011. 376 p.

How Carrots Won the Trojan War is a delightful look at how plants have impacted human endeavors. It is easy to pick up for a few minutes or to read the whole way through. With easy conversational style, hundreds of bizarre facts, and chapter titles like, "Chapter Nine, In Which an Eggplant Causes a Holy Man to Faint, plus, A Trek along the Silk Road, The Ashy Apples of Sodom, Dining at Delmonico's,

Thomas Say's Beetle, A Pot of Magic Molasses, and A Condiment for Cannibals," Rupp lures one into reading just a little bit more. An index makes it easy to pinpoint just how carrots had *anything* to do with Trojan War. It also gives page references for herbalist Leonhart Fuchs, nurseryman Bernard M'Mahon, the Landreth Seed Company, giant pumpkins, and multiple other topics that fit very nicely with the collections of Andersen Horticultural Library.

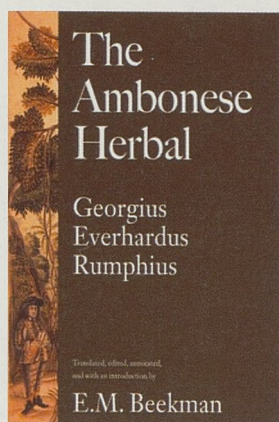


Natural Companions: The Garden Lover's Guide to Plant Combinations, by Ken Druse; botanical photographs by Ellen Hoverkamp. New York: Stewart, Tabori & Chang, 2012. 256 p.

Garden books by Ken Druse are not to be missed, not only for the information he imparts, but for his readable, witty style. This one is no exception. As helpful and interesting as the text is, the stunning photographs and digital scans of plants created by Hoverkamp make this an exceptional book. Beautiful!

* Both titles are also available at the Arboretum Gift Store.

YOUR READING HABIT...



The Ambonese Herbal: being a description of the most noteworthy trees, shrubs, herbs, land- and water-plants which are found in Amboina and the surrounding islands according to their shape, various names, cultivation, and use: together with several insects and animals / by Georgius Everhardus Rumphius; translated, annotated, and with an introduction by E.M. Beekman. Yale University Press, 2011.

This 6-volume set, the work of Georg Eberhard Rumpf (1627-1702) - better known as Rumphius, - at long last opens this great work to English speakers. It contains a wealth of information on plants indigenous to the area commonly known as the Spice Islands in Indonesia. What makes it invaluable (and unusual) is the documentation of how the local people used these plants 300 years ago, for everything from impotence to abortion, from

acne to making schoolchildren smarter! It is surprisingly entertaining reading, even poetic at times. The German-born "Pliny of the Indies" was one of the greatest naturalists of the 17th century. He had a talent for languages, construction, drawing, soldiering, and of course botany. He led quite an interesting life, much of it spent working for the Dutch East India Trading Company in Indonesia.



House in which Rumphius lived.

Rumphius persevered in compiling this work despite going blind in his early 40s, losing his beloved wife and daughter in an earthquake a few years later, and then losing all of his drawings when his house caught fire. He had the drawings redone and five years after the fire sent half the manuscript to Europe. The ship carrying it sank.

In 1697, after 37 years of work, the manuscript reached company headquarters. The company, concerned about trade secrets, forbade publication. The volumes were eventually published after his death, in Dutch, from 1741 to 1750. This original edition

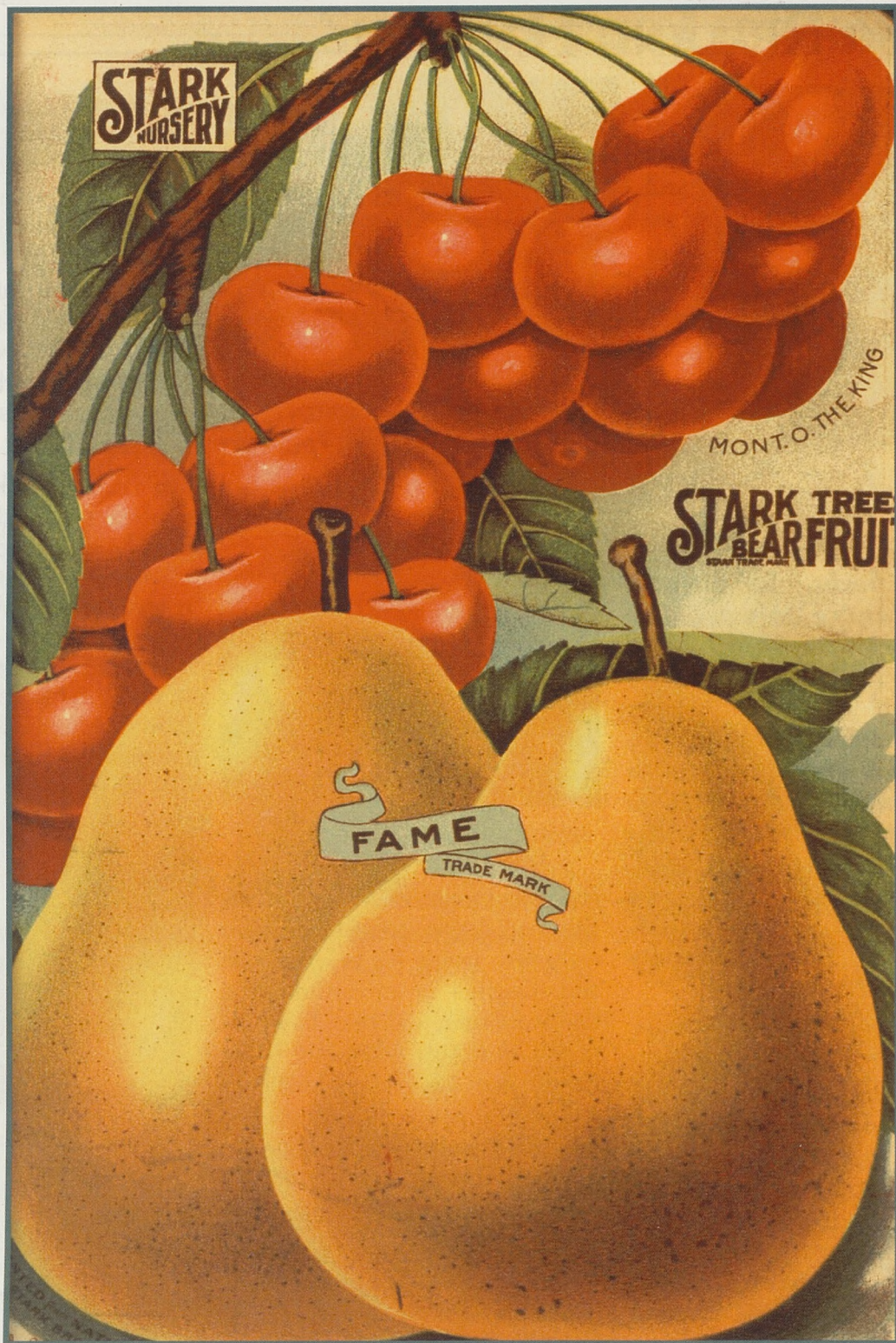
can be seen at the Wangenstein Historical Library of Biology and Medicine, located on the East Bank of the U of M Twin Cities campus. It contains the first descriptions of tropical orchids in a Western language. E. M. Beekman, a Dutch scholar who spent many years translating Rumphius' work into English, died before these volumes were published in 2011.

The seeming curse on this work appears to be lifted at last. In June 2012, at the annual meeting of the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries (CBHL) in Montreal, *The Ambonese Herbal* was named one of two 2012 CBHL literature award winners. AHL Librarian Kathy Allen won the complete set in a raffle at the CBHL meeting



Street in Ambon. Both images courtesy of Tropenmuseum of the Royal Tropical Institute (KIT)

Read more about Rumphius and *The Ambonese Herbal* in "Rediscovering Rumphius," by Richard Conniff at <http://environment.yale.edu/magazine/fall2010/rediscovering-rumphius/>.



Cherries & Pears. From a Stark Bro's Nurseries & Orchards Co. nurseryman's plate book, 1896. This and other plate book images are digitized and on display in the Library and walkway between the Snyder and Visitor Center buildings.