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NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, April 19: David E. Finley, Director, announces the opening, on April 22nd, at the National Gallery of Art, of a special loan exhibition of Flower Prints, 'Original Botanical Drawings and Color-Plate Books from the collection of Mrs. Roy Arthur Hunt of Pittsburgh. Mrs. Hunt has formed, over a period of years, an outstanding library of books, prints and drawings related to the art of Botanical Illustration. The exhibition includes examples of Botanical Drawing from the 15th century to the present day. The earliest drawing in the exhibition is a charming anonymous 15th century English watercolor of a garden at Winchester. The main emphasis in the exhibition, however, is on the great period of botanical illustration which took place in the 18th century in England and France.

One of the most celebrated of all flower painters was Pierre-Joseph Redouté. His famous illustrated work on Roses, which was published early in the 19th century, as well as two original drawings on vellum for the volumes, are included in the exhibition. Another very interesting group of six delicate drawings is by Pancrace Bessa, who worked for Charles X of France. The drawings belonged at one time to the Duchess of Berry, who was the sister-in-law of Teresa Christina, second empress of Brazil. The drawings, until very recently, were in Brazil in the possession of Paulo de Campos Porto, former Director of the Rio de Janeiro Botanical Garden.

Mrs. Hunt will lecture at the National Gallery on Sunday afternoon, April 22nd, at 4:00 o'clock. Her subject will be "Highlights of Botanical Drawing".

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