

Indian Oak of Interest

ROSS GOODRICH

An oak from India, *Quercus incana*, has begun to attract attention in the Arboretum. For a long time unnoticed, it is now large enough (18' tall) to show its character and charm. Its color at first glance is similar to the native live oaks, but darker green, and in a breeze the undersides of its long leaves give the tree a silver effect. This specimen, one of three seen in the valley area, seems to be characteristic in shape; it is slightly ovoid with an open framework of branches. It has been evergreen, shedding its leaves in a short period in the winter when most of the new growth is coming on. In the search for plants to fill specific needs this oak would seem to be ideal for the patio.



Quercus incana, an oak worthy of more attention and use; however, patience is needed for its culture.

Photo: Denis Kucera

Its good features: slow enough growth to be easily controlled (about 2' per year), a dense enough shade to be really cooling, discreet enough about dropping leaves to be used on a terrace or near a pool, and few natural enemies. The only damage so far noticed has been a slight chewing some years by fuller's rose weevil.

The tree is native to the temperate Himalayas of India, at altitudes of 4,500-7,000 feet, where it reaches a height of 80 feet.

Source of the Arboretum specimen: Willard Hagen.

Arboretum Gardener

Pacific-Asiatic Section

THE HUNT BOTANICAL LIBRARY

Carnegie Institute of Technology

The Hunt Botanical Library at Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburgh, Pa., celebrated its formal dedication and opening on 10 October 1961.

This library, founded by Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt (Mrs. Roy A. Hunt), comprises a series of interrelated collections: books, botanical prints and paintings, portraits of botanists and their autograph letters, and manuscripts. The books, numbering in excess of 8,000 volumes, are mostly botanical and horticultural, but also well represented are the herbals, early agricultural works, and volumes on bibliography, the graphic arts, and the fine arts.

Originally a private botanical library—it is believed to have been the largest of its kind in the world—it is now a separate administrative unit of Carnegie Institute of Technology and is directed by George H. M. Lawrence. Its program for research and service has been formulated to develop it as an international center for bibliographic work in the fields of botany and horticulture.

The collections and work spaces occupy about 10,600 square feet of area which comprises the penthouse of The Hunt Library building, a five-floor building given by Mr. and Mrs. Hunt. The lower floors of the building serve as the main library of the university.

The Hunt Botanical Library has a staff of nine, including a full-time master book-binder who operates a fully equipped bindery for restoration and conservation of its rare works.

The Library program follows recommendations of an Advisory Committee, which is composed of six specialists and the trustees of The Hunt Foundation. The specialists are:

Mr. John S. L. Gilmour, Director, University Botanic Garden, Cambridge, England;

Dr. Mildred E. Mathias, Professor of Botany and Director of the Botanic Garden, University of California, Los Angeles;

Dr. Rogers McVaugh, Professor of Botany, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan;

Dr. Harold W. Rickett, Bibliographer, New York Botanical Garden, New York;

Dr. Reed C. Rollins, Asa Gray Professor of Botany and Director of the Gray Herbarium, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.;

Dr. Frans A. Stafleu, International Association of Plant Taxonomists, Utrecht, Netherlands.

On the recommendations of this Committee, Director Lawrence announces adoption and activation of the following projects:

1. Continuation of the *Catalogue of Botanical Books in the Collection of Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt*. Volume I of this Catalogue was distributed in 1958. Volume II was distributed early in November 1961. Volume III, now in progress, will be followed in close succession by two projected volumes that will comprise a Supplement.



Goodrich, Ross. 1962. "Indian oak of interest." *Lasca leaves* 12(Winter 1962), 19–20.

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