
Wild Flowers of Western Pennsylvania and the Upper Ohio Basin. Volumes I and II. Text by *O. E. Jennings*, Watercolors by *Andrey Avinoff*. University of Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh. First edition limited to 3,000 copies, 1953. Vol. I, Text lxxv+575 pp.+150 maps. Vol. II, xvi+200 color plates+explanations. \$60.00 the set.

Wild Flowers of Western Pennsylvania and the Upper Ohio Basin is one of the most remarkable botanical publications of all time. It is the result of the life work and planning of a highly competent, Ohio-born botanist, Otto E. Jennings, cooperating with the Russian-born artist and entomologist, Andrey Avinoff, director of the Carnegie Museum for nineteen years. These volumes, however, would not have been possible without the support of the Carnegie Institute, the University of Pittsburgh and The Buhl Foundation of Pittsburgh, who enabled the University of Pittsburgh Press to publish this monumental work for the public at a price far below the cost of printing.

The format of both volumes are masterpieces of design. The type face is of the beautiful Janson monotype. The paper was specially made for durability and opacity for type and appropriate to watercolor technique. The book page is $10\frac{1}{4}$ " x 14", allowing for the plant illustrations to be life-size and for adequate spacing. The process used in reproduction of the watercolor plates was the Sheet-fed Gravure of the Beck House in Philadelphia. The binding is washable, durable, gray-green linen, stamped with gold, and shows top skill in its manufacture.

The Flora covers parts of six states, including western Pennsylvania, southwestern New York, northeastern Ohio, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia. Volume I, the descriptive text gives accurate information for 2,260 species and 541 of their varieties and forms, including 135 plant families—nearly half of the 300 flowering plant families known for the world—and 706 genera. Habitat descriptions, range of distribution from counties in the regional range studied to international, and complete keys help to identify the species. Distribution maps show where 146 rare flowering plants and those with distinctive range pattern are to be found in the six states. This study, made by Dr. Jennings, is one of the most comprehensive ever made for a single botanical region.

Volume II is composed of 200 plates which are life-size gravure reproductions of the original watercolor illustrations of 253 species of flowering plants, painted by Dr. Avinoff. The paintings are quite lifelike and accurately done in great detail. They were made from living specimens collected and selected by Dr. Jennings. It has been predicted by Dr. Gordon Bailey Washburn, Director of Department of Fine Arts, Carnegie Institute, that "The time will surely come, as it already has with Audubon's great folios, when the plates alone will be framed as works of art".

GLENN W. BLAYDES