

## **A charming suite of flowers by one of Redouté's finest students**

Henriette Vincent, *Études de fleurs et de fruits peints d'après nature*. Paris, 1820. 17 1/4 inches x 11 1/4 inches (438 x 286 mm), 5 pages, 48 color-printed plates.

Madame Henriette Vincent (1786–1830) was one of the many female pupils of Gerard van Spaendonck and Pierre-Joseph Redouté. Like Strutt's *Sylva Britannica*, her work is of no special botanical significance. Its qualities are instead decorative. Unhampered by a quest for scientific exactitude or illusions of comprehensive coverage, the artist was able to choose her subjects as a bee or hummingbird might select its flowers. The result of this dilettante approach is one of the most delicate and beautiful flower albums in that great era of the folio florilegium.

This copy from the Chicago Botanic Garden Library is bound in contemporary red skiver-backed boards and contains 24 color-printed stipple plates, finished by hand, and a further 24 in outline (before stippling). It bears the bookplate of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society "Albert C. Burrage Fund December 1936." The wealthy orchidologist, and sometime president of the Society, donated \$50,000 in 1930 to establish a library and prize fund. There is a pencilled collation note at the end (48 plates) signed on behalf of M.B. (almost certainly Martin Breslauer).

Nissen 2066, Dunthorne 319, Sotheby's De Belder catalogue no.375.

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