

gardener's book nook Marty Figley

For all who love nature and beauty, two recently published books will appeal. These books, published by Harry N. Abrams, Inc. \$16.95 each, feature the works by some of the world's greatest natural history illustrators, based on collections of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London. Either or both would make memorable gifts to be enjoyed for years.

"Ehret's Flowering Plants" by Gill Saunders, shows us 46 of Georg Dionysius Ehret's (1709-1770) exquisite watercolors. Although he worked in various gardens at an early age, he much preferred painting. Ehret was able to draw the plants botanically correct, without losing the pure beauty of the subject. He

worked closely with Carl Linnaeus, the scientist who's classification of plants is still used today.

Ehret also painted many specimens with great accuracy that physicians could correctly identify plants used in medicine. He was an illustrator for travel books, consequently his paintings depict many plants from foreign countries, these were published in the "Plantes Selectae," a 10-part series published over a period of 23 years. Many of these illustrations are included in "Ehret's Flowering Plants."

The author is curator in the department of designs, prints and drawings, Victoria and Albert Museums.

THE SECOND BOOK in this series, "Gould's Exotic Birds," has illustrations of many birds based on research and drawings by John Gould (1804-1881). This taxidermist and ornithologist sketched many of the birds and used talented artists, including his wife, to produce the actual lithographs which he then published. For more than 50 years he published books depicting exotic birds doing more than 3,000 illustrations.

Gould was inspired by Audubon's paintings and Edward Lear's parrot drawings. He was especially fascinated with hummingbirds and developed special methods to illustrate their luminous quality.

Again, anyone who appreciates birds, especially of birds will enjoy this volume. The author, Margaret Lambourne, of the ceramics and prints and drawings departments, Victoria and Albert Museum, is Gould's great-great granddaughter.

Another book, "Artist's Palate," from this same publisher is a bit off the subject of gardening. But, for our many herb and vegetable gardening friends gives wonderful re-

cipes using the produce from the gardens in most innovative ways.

PARSLEY, THYME, GARLIC, leeks, tomatoes, peppers and so many other ingredients are used in the large, beautifully illustrated book.

It was assembled by Nadine Haim, food and art aficionado. The recipes literally make the mouth water while introducing us to 42 contemporary artists.

Each artist has submitted recipes which have significance and meaning to them and they explain why. Accompanying the recipes are illustrations by the artists.

Recipes such as cannaberry on toast, by Louis Pons; Paul Weisenfeld's barbecued chicken with sausages and David Hockney's Strawberry Cake will make you forget dieting. Included too, is a generous collection of recipes by Nadine Haim. One, pasta shells with walnuts and mint, is a delicious dish which can be served hot or cold. I'm glad I grow mint.

"Artist's Palate" is a jubilant combination of art and food.

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