

## Vorobik Botanical Art: Annotated Bibliography.

See [www.VorobikBotanicalArt.com](http://www.VorobikBotanicalArt.com) for examples of Linda Ann Vorobik's art and for upcoming lectures, workshops, and other events.

*Vorobik comments:* This is the first draft of an annotated bibliography of books that I bring to my illustration workshops. It is not a complete list of books that I find useful for learning botanical illustration. Also, although many of these books are my favorites, some are not necessarily the best references on the subject. See the comments for each entry for more specific comments.

Blackburne-Maze P. 2002. *Fruit*. Firefly Books. New York. ISBN 1-55297-780-3. *Vorobik comments:* Gorgeous color illustrations and great information on fruit; not cheap but worth the money.

Blunt, W. 1967. *The Art of Botanical Illustration*. Collins Clear-Type Press. Second Printing. *Vorobik comments:* Possibly out of print, this is a great book with a section on "how to draw plants" that is very useful, in spite of the antiquated language, that is actually quite amusing. I believe this chapter was reprinted in an updated edition of this same book, which is well worth the money.

Blunt, W. & S. Raphael. 1979. *The Illustrated Herbal*. Thames & Hudson. New York. ISBN 0-500-01226-1. *Vorobik comments:* One of many fine books available on ancient botanical art. For those interested in the history of this discipline, this is a must-read.

Brommer, G.F. 1993. *Understanding Transparent Watercolor*. Davis Publications, Inc. Worcester. MS. ISBN 87192-245-2. *Vorobik comments:* Useful; one of many books I purchased to learn watercolor.

Dowden, A.O. 1994. *From Flower to Fruit*. Ticknor and Fields, New York. ISBN 0-395-68376-9. *Vorobik comments:* Anne Ophelia Dowden, who recently passed away, is one of my favorite botanical artists. Her style is watercolor, but she uses such a dry-brush approach that her art looks like colored pencil. This volume is excellent for examples of her beautiful style, and for her descriptions of how different fruit types are formed from different flowers.

\_\_\_\_\_. 1990. *The clover and the bee*. Harper Collins, Pittsburgh. ISBN 0-690-04677-4. *Vorobik comments:* Excellent artwork, and erudite and entertaining descriptions of flower pollination.

Fratini, S. J. Lester, B. Perkins, & R. Sanders. 1987. *Painting the Enchanting World of Nature*. Watson-Guptill Publications. New York. ISBN 0-8230-3639-1. *Vorobik comments:* One of my favorite books with samples by four artists; each with step-by step illustrations of watercolor pieces.

Hickman, J. Editor. 1993. *The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California*. Jepson Herbarium, UC Press. Berkeley. ISBN 0-520-08255-9. *Vorobik comments:* The most up-to-date flora of California. Vorobik was staff artist and did much of the design work and executed about one third of the illustrations; Emily Reid was principal artist and executed about half of the illustrations.

Hickey, M. & C. King. 2000. *The Cambridge Illustrated Glossary of Botanical Terms*. The Edinburgh Building. New York. ISBN 0-521-79401-3. *Vorobik comments:* One of several useful botanical illustrated glossaries.

Hill, T. 1992. *The Watercolorist's Complete Guide*. North Light Books. Cincinnati. ISBN 0-89134-430-6. *Vorobik comments:* My absolute favorite book on working with watercolor: buy this book!

Linda Ann Vorobik, PhD; [www.VorobikBotanicalArt.com](http://www.VorobikBotanicalArt.com); [vorobik@rockisland.com](mailto:vorobik@rockisland.com); (510) 520-2423  
WA: PO Box 866, Lopez Island, WA, 98261. 360-468-3188; FAX 360-468-3198  
CA: University and Jepson Herbaria, 1001 Valley Life Sciences Building #2465, Berkeley, CA 94720-2465

- Hodges, Elaine R.S., et al, Editors. 1989. *The Guild Handbook of Scientific Illustration*. Van Nostrand Reinhold, New York. ISBN 0-442-23681-6. *Vorobik comments*: There is a new edition of this book, which can be found on line at the Guild of Natural Science Illustrator's website (I think it is [www.gnsi.org](http://www.gnsi.org), but you can also find the GNSI link on the "links" page of my website.
- Holden, E. 1977. *The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady*. Webb & Bower. Exeter. England. ISBN 0-03-021026-7. *Vorobik comments*: Lovely volume...great for inspiration for botanical art in journaling.
- Holmgren, Noel H. and B. Angell. 1986. *Botanical Illustration: Preparation for Publication*. NY Botanical Garden. Bronx. ISBN. 0-89327-272-8. *Vorobik comments*: A useful volume, although somewhat dated, for botanical illustration in the strict sense, for use in scientific books and journals. Bobbi Angell is my favorite botanical artist for pen and ink.
- Jepson, M. 1938. *Biological Drawings with Notes*. Part II. John Murray. London. England. *Vorobik comments*: A fascinating lab manual that was given to me...I would be very surprised if you could even find this volume.
- Johnson, C. 1989. *Drawing and Painting from Nature*. Design Press. New York. ISBN 0-8306-5502-6. *Vorobik comments*: My favorite book for ideas on nature sketching and journaling.
- Judd, W.S., C.S. Campbell, E.A. Kellogg, P.F. Stevens. 1999. *Plant Systematics: A Phylogenetic Approach*. Sinauer Associates, Inc. Sunderland, MA. ISBN 0-87893-404-9. *Vorobik comments*: One of several excellent taxonomy textbooks; this volume includes two Vorobik illustration plates.
- Lewis, D. 1983. *Watercolor Painting Techniques*. Watson-Guptill Publications. New York. ISBN 0-8230-5669-4. *Vorobik comments*: One of several books I purchased to learn how to paint with watercolor.
- Mee, M. 1988. *In Search of Flowers of the Amazon Forest*. Nonesuch Expeditions, Ltd. Suffolk. England. ISBN 1-869901-08-8. *Vorobik comments*: An inspiring read and lovely book. Margaret Mee is my favorite color botanical artist.
- Warr. M. 1990. *Painting Detail in Watercolour and Other Water-Based Media*. David and Charles Publishers. Devon. ISBN 0-7153-9405-3. *Vorobik comments*: One of several books I purchased to learn how to paint with watercolor.
- West, K. 1983. (Paperback) *How to Draw Plants: The Techniques of Botanical Illustration*. Watson-Guptill Publications. New York. ISBN 0-8230-2356-7. *Vorobik comments*: The number one book that I would recommend for learning how to draw plants. Also wonderful examples of pen and ink shading, although he works with light coming from the upper right, contrary to the standard of light from the upper left.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1991. *Painting Plant Portraits: A Step-by-Step Guide*. Timber Press. Portland. ISBN 0-88192-372-9. *Vorobik comments*: An excellent book for learning botanical watercolor, although West's style is to first lay down a value study of neutral tint (a gray color), and then apply the color layers. This gives the appearance of a colored black-and-white photograph, and dulls the color.

- Wiesner, D. *Tuesday*. 1991. Clarion Books. New York. ISBN 0-395-55113-7. *Vorobik comments:* The most fun children's book with *perfect* smooth watercolor washes.
- Wissman, P. & C. Xenos, Editors. 2005. North Light's Big Book of Painting Watercolor Flowers. North Light Books. Cincinnati, OH. ISBN 1-58180-625-6. *Vorobik comments:* Another botanical watercolor book...OK...I learned a few things from it.
- Wood, C.E., Jr. 1974. *A Student's Atlas of Flowering Plants: Some Dicotyledons of Eastern North America*. Harvard University, Boston. Standard Book Number 06-047207-3. *Vorobik comments:* An out-of-date lab manual with excellent pen and ink drawings.
- Wood, Phyllis. 1982 (Paperback edition). *Scientific Illustration: A Guide to Biological, Zoological, and Medical Rendering Techniques, Design, Printing, and Display*. Van Nostrand Reinhold Co. New York. ISBN 0-442-29307-0. *Vorobik comments:* The first edition of the 1994 volume. See the next entry for comments.
- \_\_\_\_\_. 1994. *Scientific Illustration: A Guide to Biological, Zoological, and Medical Rendering Techniques, Design, Printing, and Display*. 2nd ed. Van Nostrand Reinhold Co. New York. ISBN 0-442-01316-7. *Vorobik comments:* I would strongly recommend this volume for anyone interested in scientific illustration, as it covers all of the standards, rules, tools, and methods.
- Wunderlich, E. B. 1991. *Botanical Illustration in Watercolor*. Watson-Guptill Publications. New York. ISBN 0-8230-0530-5. *Vorobik comments:* A nice book with step-by-step examples of drawing and painting plants.
- Zomlefer, Wendy B. 1994. *Guide to Flowering Plant Families*. University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill. *Vorobik comments:* An excellent book replete with line drawings. I would strongly recommend this book to anyone serious about learning the botany side of botanical art. Note that most of the examples are from plants from the midwest or eastern North America.