

The botanical etchings, donated to the UCF Library by Tom Wentworth and Linda Rudd, were purchased at the Louvre museum in Paris by Tom when he visited in the early 1980s. The etchings in the UCF Library are from a collection of copper-plate engravings made by various artists who were commissioned by French King Louis XIV to represent various botanical subjects. A framed contemporary poster about this collection of prints is included with the donation of selected prints.

The works are sold by a branch of the museum's shops called the "Chalcographie du Louvre." The goal of the Chalcographie, established in 1797, is to make available to the public high-quality artwork made from original copper plates engraved by artists through the centuries. By reprinting from the museum's large collection of these copper plates, the Louvre makes etchings using traditional methods, ensuring that the prints are of the same high quality as those made at the time the plates were engraved.