

**PENN STATE UNIVERSITY PRESS**

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www.psupress.org

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August 10, 2007

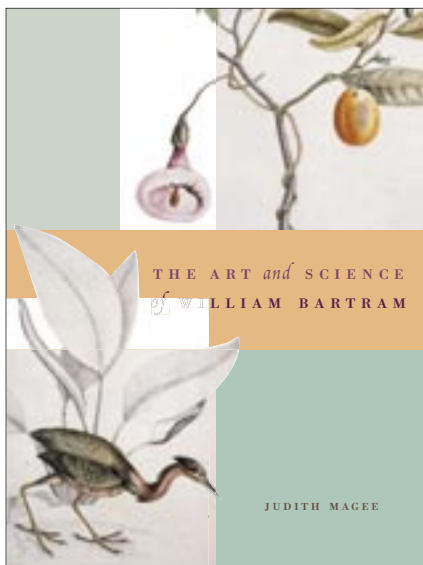
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Author is available for interview. Call for additional information.

**NEWS RELEASE**

**THE ART AND SCIENCE OF WILLIAM BARTRAM**

**Judith Magee**



University Park, PA—In Charles Frazier’s 1997 National Book Award winning novel *Cold Mountain* the hero, Inman, begins his quest through the American south armed only with a pistol and a tattered copy of *William Bartram’s Travels*. Bartram’s *Travels* continues to be renowned as an example of early-American travel writing, as an important historical document of the American South and its native peoples, and as an essential scientific documentation of the region’s flora and fauna. Unfortunately, Bartram’s considerable artistry as a naturalist-illustrator is less well known in the United States, as the bulk of his illustrations were sent to his patron in London and are now stored in the Natural History Museum. In *The Art and Science of William Bartram* Judith Magee brings together, for the first time, all sixty-eight drawings by Bartram held at the Natural History Museum, along with works by some of the most well-known natural history artists of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The volume explores Bartram’s writings and artwork and reveals how influential he was in American science of the period.

The son of legendary botanist John Bartram, William inherited his father’s love of nature. This led him to explore the environs of the American Southeast between 1773 and 1777. Here he collected plants and seeds, kept a journal of his observations of nature, and made drawings of the plants and animals he encountered. These drawings reveal an ecological understanding of nature that only truly developed in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Along with presenting this art, *The Art and Science of William Bartram* recounts Bartram’s life and his famous journey. The book goes on to show how Bartram was an inspiration to a whole generation of young scientists and field naturalists. He was an authority on the birds of North America and on the lifestyle, culture, and language of the indigenous people of the regions through which he traveled, and his writings influenced Wordsworth, Coleridge, and other writers and poets throughout the past two hundred years. Now, with this book, Americans have a chance to enjoy Bartram’s art as much as they do his writing.

ISBN: 978-0-271-02914-6  
110 illustrations

cloth • \$45.00  
276 pages • 9 x 12

Co-published with the  
Natural History Museum, London

- more -



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### THE AUTHOR

**Judith Magee** is Collections Development Manager in the Library of the Natural History Museum, London. She has acted as picture researcher for several publications and has contributed to *Plant Discoveries: A Botanist's Voyage Through Plant Exploration* (2003) and *Great Naturalists* (forthcoming).

"This well-written, accessible, and scholarly book does a splendid job situating William Bartram in the larger context of the Enlightenment, Romanticism, and the rhetoric of European and American natural history."

—Randall C. Griffin,  
Southern Methodist University