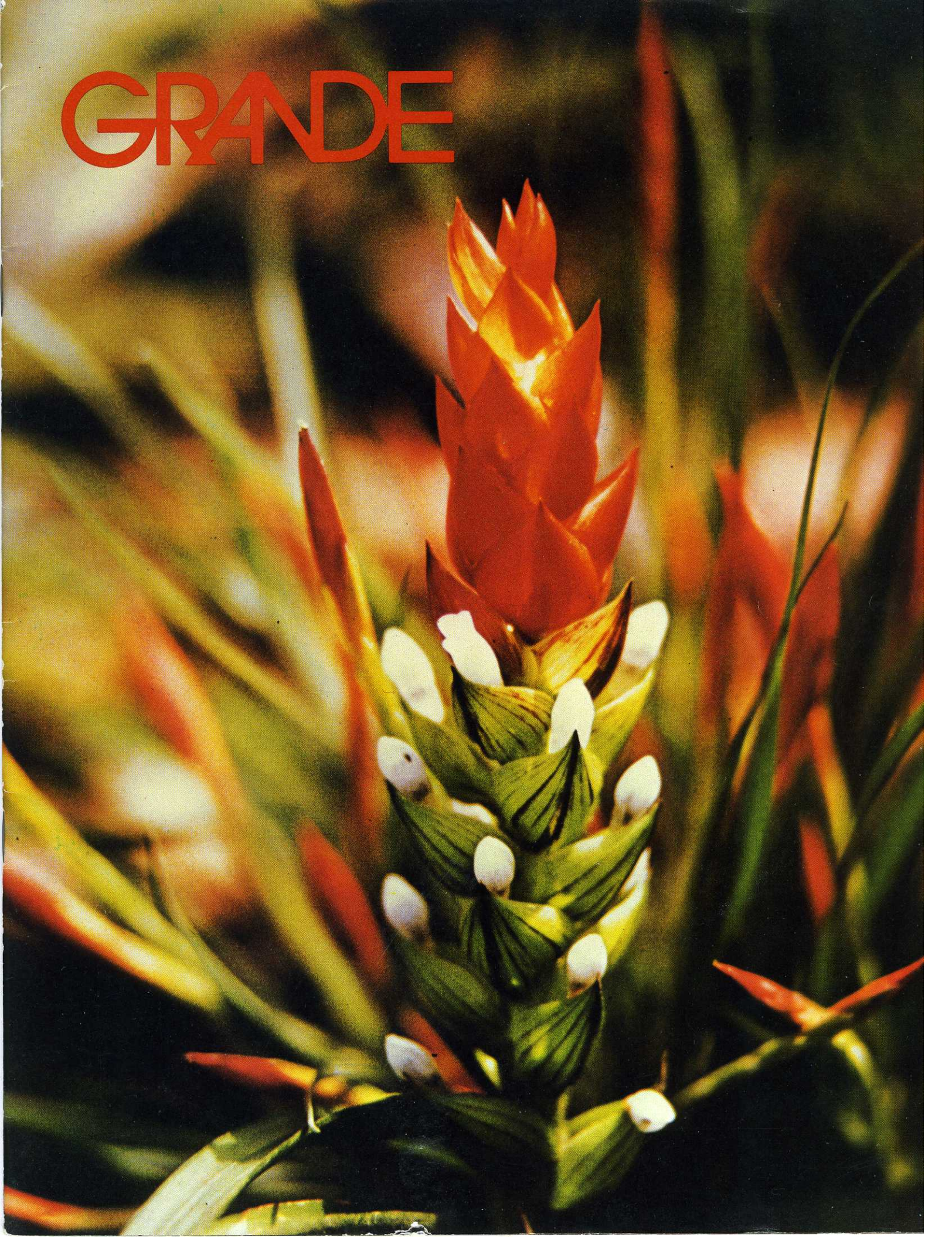
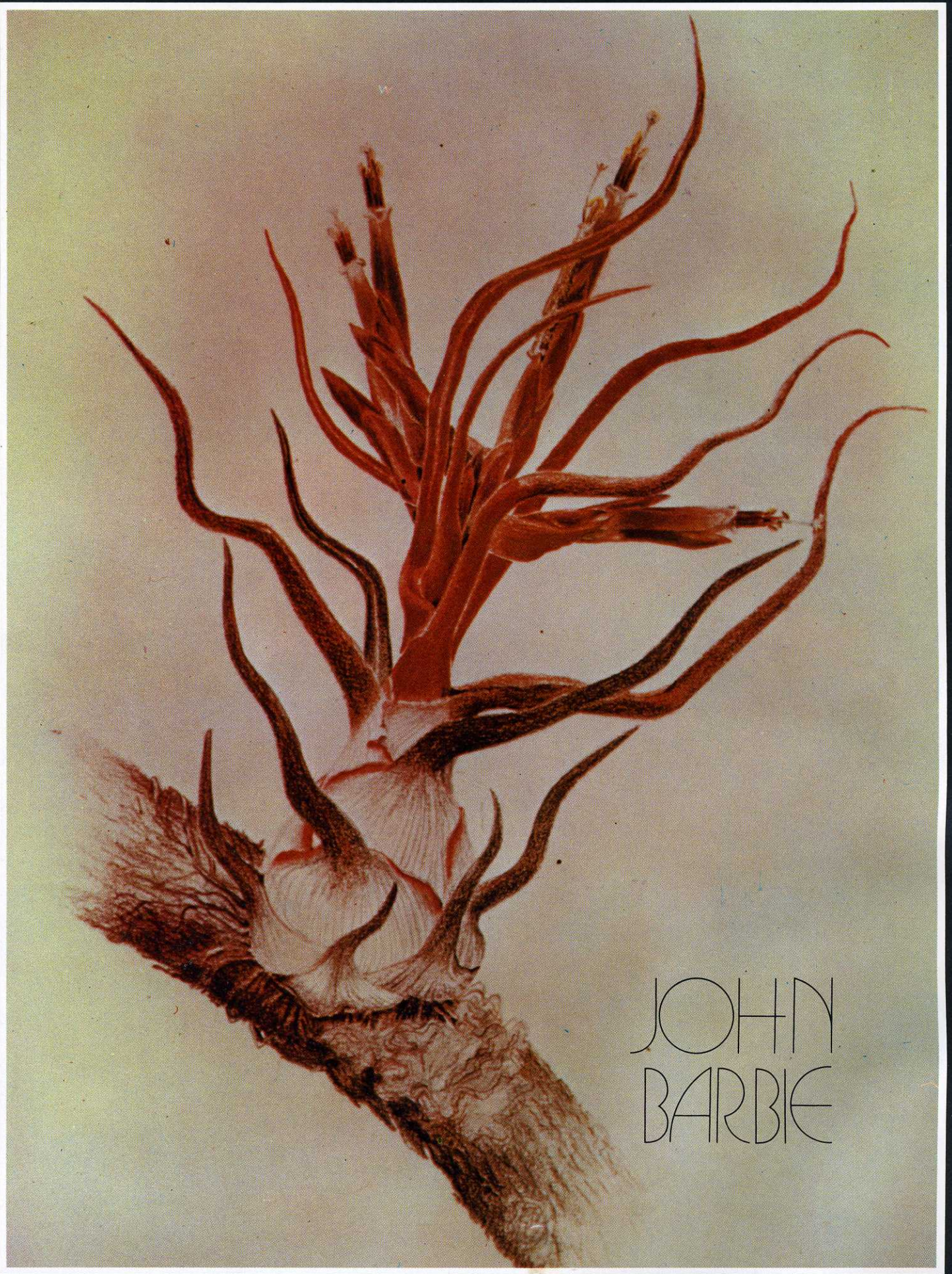
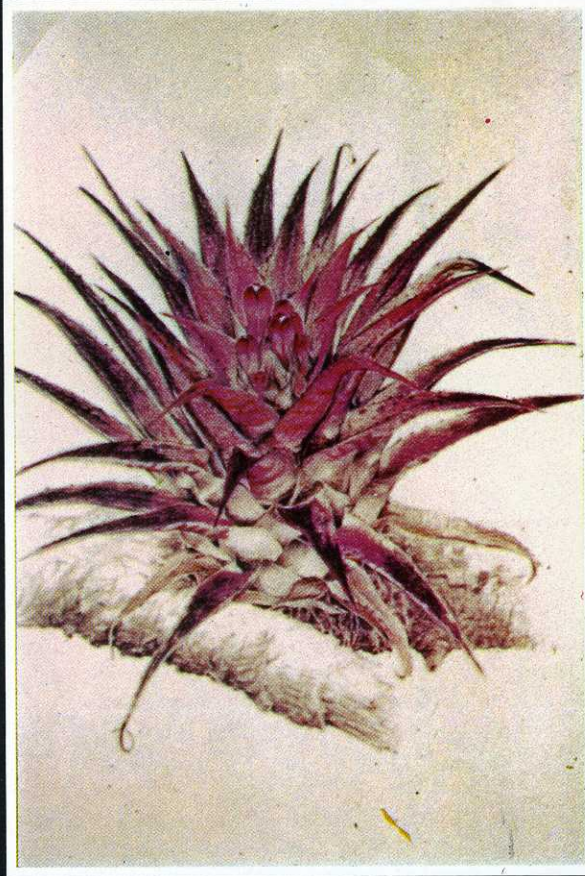
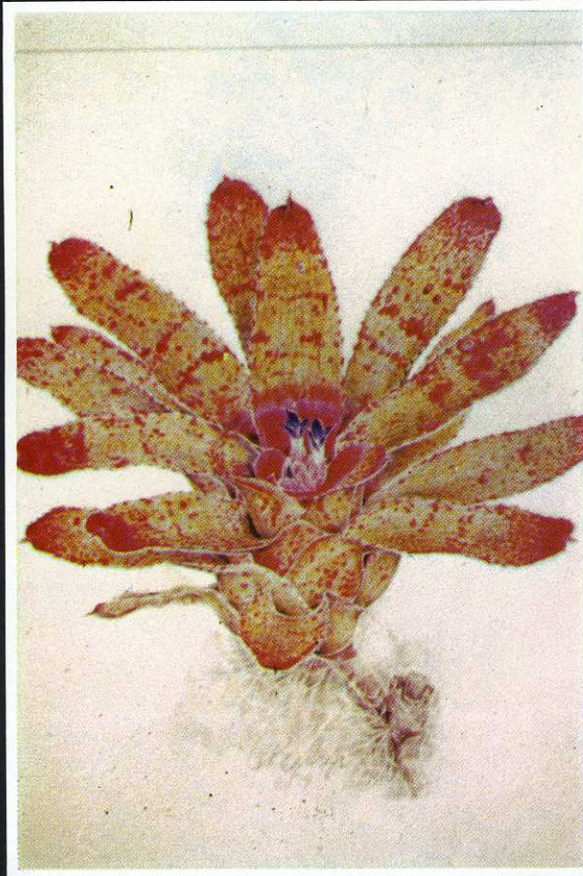


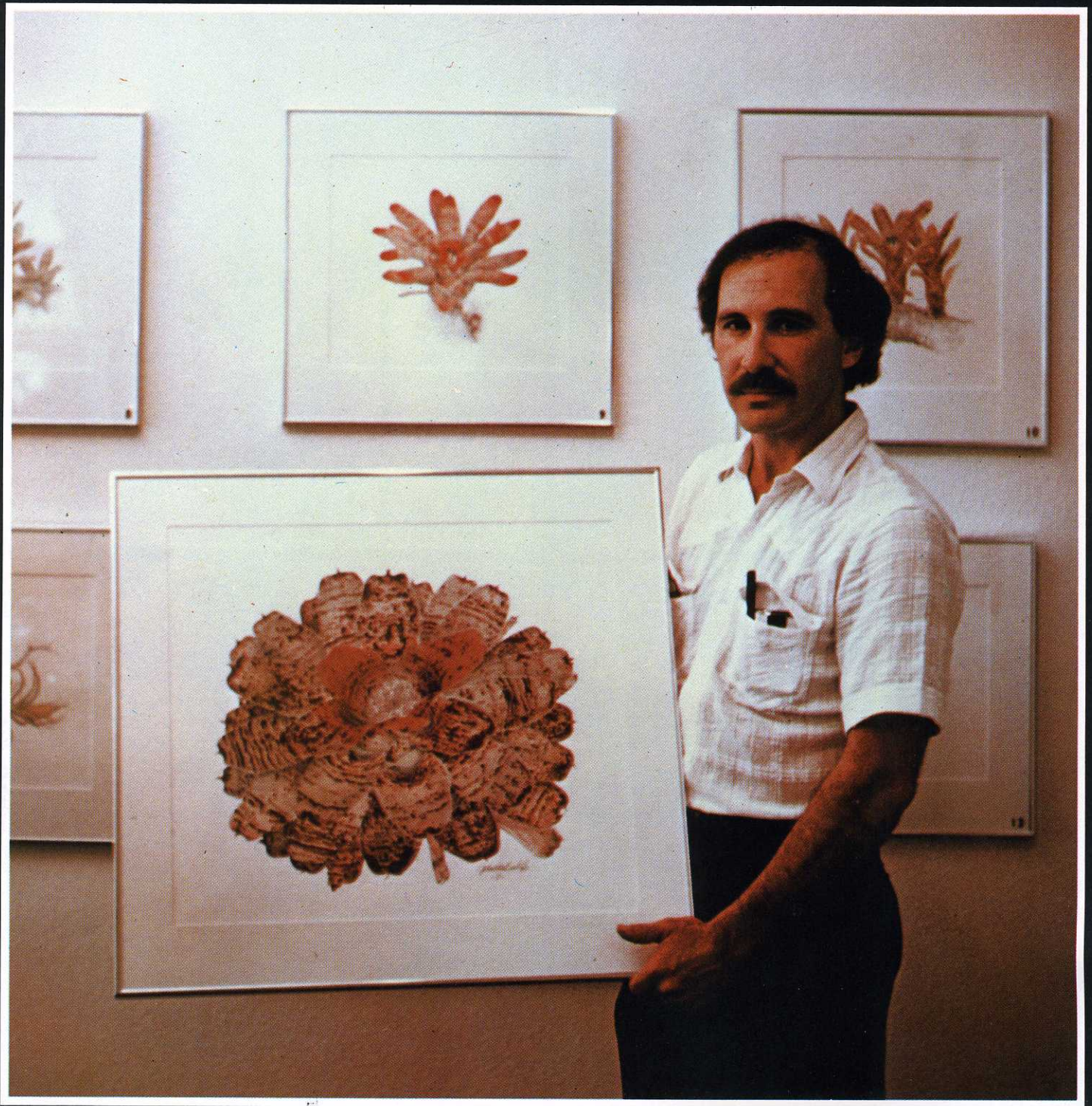
GRANDE





JOHN
BARBIE





Barbie's botanical drawings represent the 'state of the art', and surely qualify him as the 'Audubon' of the bromeliad world.

Websters unabridged dictionary defines an artist as "one who professes and practices an art in which conception and execution are governed by imagination and taste". An appropriately subjective definition, but one that allows for the inclusion of strident "professors" and mediocre "practitioners". John Barbie's definition of an artist is "one whose work is intellectually satisfying, emotionally appealing and morally compelling". John adds, "You're an artist only if someone else calls you an artist".

John Barbie IS an artist. With a degree in art education from the University of South Florida and with the high quality of his exhibits in numerous art shows, John has paid his dues to art. Perhaps more importantly though, John is an observer of nature who uses his art, through the innovative media of colored pencils on white art board, to depict the essential qualities of bromeliads in colors to be marveled at by the eye, qualities and colors which elude film and the color printing process. Even the white areas in John's work add a spatial aspect that seems to move the plants from a one dimensional plane to a three dimensional reality.

No newcomer to bromeliads, John's interest in the plants was sparked at age thirteen when he did gardening work for a local bromeliad

collector. He has known such past greats as Mulford Foster and Ralph Davis, and has been a very longtime friend of Ervin and Velva Wurthmann. With collecting trips to Ecuador and Mexico and many treks into the Everglades under his belt, it is understandable that John's passion for bromeliads lies with the plants as they are in nature — species and varieties. His love for nature is further expressed by a home that he and wife Rose are building of native cypress and cedar in a wooded glen near the Hillsborough River in Tampa.

Along with all his other activities, John is the Bromeliad Art Show Chairman for the 1980 World Conference. This first-such show will feature the works of accomplished bromeliad artists from coast to coast. Also, John's drawings have been on display at the Marie Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota during March and April of this year.

John's bromeliad drawings are, for him, an itch being scratched — his urge to see the plants depicted as they really exist. His long term ambition is to have his work published as a comprehensive gazeteer of the bromeliad family. Given the quality of his drawings, such an achievement would surely qualify him as the Audubon of the bromeliad world.

Shown with the artist on opposite page:

Neoregelia concentrica (held)
Neoregelia ampullacea var. *tigrina* No. 1
Neoregelia olens var. *vulkan*
Neoregelia ampullacea var. *ampullacea*
Tillandsia pruinosa

Shown on page 2:

Tillandsia bulbosa

Shown on page 3:

Guzmania sanguinea var. *brevipedicellata*
Aechmea nudicaulis var. *rubra*
Neoregelia olens var. *vulkan*
Aechmea recurvata var. *berathii*

GRANDE

ON THE COVER:

Photographed at Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, Florida, the cover picture shows the inflorescence of a *Guzmania monostachya*, native to Florida, grown by Joe Halton of the Selby staff. With Joe's *Guzmania* is, would you believe *ONE* plant, a *Tillandsia flabellata* grown by Andrew Price of St. Petersburg. Andy's plant, well cared for and healthy, produced not just a central inflorescence, but a branched inflorescence from every leaf axis. We eagerly await news of the inflorescence pattern of the next generation.

Photo by James V. Elmore

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John Barbie . . .
The 'Audubon' of the bromeliad world

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ON THE BACK COVER, A SAMPLER OF NEW BROMELIAD HYBRIDS

Hybrid Name	Parent Plants	Hybridizer
1. <i>Neoregelia</i> Red Apple	<i>Neo. Fosperior</i> cv 'Dexter's Pride' X <i>Neo. Green Apple</i>	James V. Elmore
2. <i>X Nidumea</i> Superstar	<i>Nidularium innocentii</i> v. <i>innocentii</i> X <i>Aechmea fasciata</i>	Nat De Leon
3. <i>Neoregelia</i> Hawaiian Sunburst	Parentage unknown	Howard Yamamoto
4. <i>Billbergia</i> Pink Champagne	<i>Bill</i> , (<i>vittata</i> X <i>horrida</i>) <i>X Bill</i> (<i>saundersii</i> X <i>euphemie</i>)	Joe Carrone
5. <i>Neoregelia</i> Ramblin' Rose	<i>Neoregelia</i> Oh No <i>X Neo. compacta</i> cv. 'Crown Prince'	James V. Elmore
6. <i>Neoregelia</i> Baton Rouge	<i>Neoregelia johannis</i> <i>X Neo. Fosperior</i> cv. 'Morris Henry Hobbs'	Charles Coolbaugh
7. <i>Neoregelia</i> Fandango	<i>Neo. Fosperior</i> cv. 'Dexter's Pride' <i>X Neo. Takemura Princeps</i>	James V. Elmore
8. <i>Vresia</i> Velva Wurthmann	<i>Vresia sintenisii</i> X <i>Vresia Nana</i>	Ervin Wurthmann
9. <i>Neoregelia</i> Avila cv. 'Pinwheel'	<i>Neo. meyendorffii variegata</i> <i>X Neo. (concentrica X carolinae)</i>	Gary Hendrix
10. <i>Neoregelia</i> Madrid	<i>Neoregelia marmorata</i> X <i>Neoregelia Avalon</i>	Charles Coolbaugh
11. <i>Neoregelia</i> Mary Elmore	<i>Neo. carolinae tricolor</i> cv. 'Perfecta' <i>X Neoregelia Painted Desert</i>	James V. Elmore
12. <i>Neoregelia</i> Fanfare	<i>Neo. olens</i> var. <i>vulkan</i> <i>X Neo. carolinae</i> var. 'Marechallii'	Joseph Carrone

Hybridizers wishing to register new hybrids may write:
Mr. Joseph F. Carrone, Registrar of Bromeliad Hybrids, BSI,
305 North Woodlawn Avenue, Metairie, LA 70001

THE CASE FOR RESPONSIBLE HYBRIDIZING REVISITED

by James V. Elmore Editor Grande Magazine

In our last issue we presented Nat De Leon's article, "The Case For Responsible Hybridizing". The piece was strongly written, minced-no-words, and hit a lot of nails right on the head. We expected it to be controversial, and it has, indeed, been so. Controversy is not necessarily an aim, but it is occasionally a function, of this magazine. And so it should be, for if we were as bland as your society newsletter, then you could save yourself ten dollars a year.

Nat De Leon named no names, but, as the old adage goes, "if the shoe fits, wear it" and many people, rumor reaches us, seemed to find they fit certain of Nat's old shoes.

In closing, Nat stated that "the remarks written here will cost me some friends. If so, then so be it". And it probably has. But he was probably better off without them anyway.

For Nat does not stand alone, nor do the principles he expounds. Before that article was ever published, its major points were adopted as policy by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies. In no show sponsored by the Council can

a hybrid of unknown parentage be eligible for a major award. And this is a policy which is being considered by, and may be adopted by, the rest of the country as well.

Among those who seem to feel that the shoe fits is commercial grower Bert T. Foster of Orlando, Florida, son of the late 'Father of Bromeliads', Mulford Foster.

Bert was so enraged that he did a very good thing: he sat down and wrote the other side of the picture, a rebuttal in the form of a very long and heated letter. He sent this letter to the Presidents of each of the bromeliad societies, urging its distribution among GRANDE subscribers.

Bert sent GRANDE a copy, too, but he did not expect us to print it. In that he was very wrong. His entire letter, set in exactly the same type face as the original, with the same sort of subheads highlighting the major points, follows on page nine.

The rebuttal speaks for itself. As Bert says in his cover letter, "my rebuttal has a few somewhat sharp edges. I apologize if anyone gets cut".

This whole matter is of greatest importance to the bromeliad world. You, the GRANDE subscriber, have a duty to yourself, and to the plants you love, to both go back and re-read the original article, to read Bert Foster's

reply, and to consider carefully and make your own decisions on these issues. And then, write GRANDE a letter and let us know what YOU think.

As you know, the Editors of Grande back Nat's presentation, and I, as a bromeliad hybridizer, personally back it. Therefore I have no additional comments to make on the major points.

There is, however, one section of Bert Foster's rebuttal that I cannot let go by without comment, and comment in the same issue as his accusations, for I find it not only personally offensive, but offensive to someone who, as Bert says, cannot speak out in their own defense.

To quote from Bert Foster's text, "*Have Gun Will Travel*", *that phrase made Richard Boone famous but nothing compared to the phrase you could attach to my father - "Have The Dirtiest Brush In Town, Will Pollinate" . . . It would have been awful, after devoting much of his life to bromeliads, for him to suddenly find out that there are only two legitimate, ethical hybridizers in the world, and that he wasn't one of them*". Unquote.

I wish to speak in defense of Mulford Foster. I did not have the honor of knowing Mulford Foster personally. But I did have the pleasure of spending several days with his lovely and devoted widow, Racine Foster, working on the GRANDE Foster memorial issue, and later photographing his art works. And among the many treasures Racine showed me was a hybridizing notebook, in Mulford's own hand, recording three full, and closely spaced pages, of the parents of crosses he had made.

It is my hope that Racine will allow us to publish these pages in the next issue of GRANDE, for the world to see, and to set the record straight.

Now I will not go so far as to say that Mulford Foster ALWAYS kept good and complete records of his hybrids, or always published them, but I believe these records prove Bert Foster's 'dirtiest brush' allegations against his father untrue, in intent, if not always in practice.

You have heard Nat De Leon, Bert Foster, and now James Elmore on the subject. IT'S YOUR TURN NEXT. No matter what you think, get out that pen or typewriter and send GRANDE a letter with your views. GRANDE belongs to, and needs the help of, the entire bromeliad world. It's time you paid us your dues.

A summation of the major points presented by Nat De Leon in his article, "The Case For Responsible Hybridizing", in Grande, Issue No. 3:

For the last several years I have noticed an increasing number of unidentified hybrids appearing. Even when they are named, they all have one thing in common, they are of unknown parentage.

This increased activity would be great for bromeliads as a whole, and would increase our knowledge on the subject, but unfortunately much of this hybridizing is done in a most irresponsible manner. The hybridizer of today, like many of the hybridizers of the past, still fails to keep records of his work. Since their numbers have now greatly increased, we can expect the mass confusion, already at an intolerable level, to also increase sharply.

The situation in my opinion has reached the critical stage. We have reached the point of no return. Unless the increase of irresponsible hybridizers and nurserymen is checked, we will not be able to cope with the mass confusion that will follow. By exposing the subject and airing it in public, I hope to show the responsible parties the errors of their ways in hope that we can restore some sanity in the bromeliad family.

Having given the matter considerable thought, I have concluded that there are basically three main reasons that would explain the mass confusion in plant names as a result of the actions of the hybridizer.

The first group of hybridizers desire to be secretive about their work. They are usually commercial growers or have commercial leanings. Such people will generally grow their seedlings to maturity.

Surely if the end result has great commercial possibilities, the hybridizer then has the first chance at remaking said hybrid in what ever quantity he so desires before releasing it. Yet I know of no hybridizer in this country, with the exception of Joe Carrone of New Orleans and myself on occasion, who has ever remade one of their hybrids. So why all the secrecy when the hybrid is released? Included here, and to be looked upon with the greatest contempt, is the hybridizer who officially names and registers a hybrid and purposely falsifies one of the parents.

The next group of hybridizers has either fouled up their marking systems somewhere between the point of pollination and the ripening of seeds or their labeling system somewhere along the line after germination.

The third group of hybridizers makes no attempt to mark or record pollinations. One segment of this group are commercial growers who freely admit that all they are interested in is producing seeds that will produce plants to sell to the general public. They say that the general public could care less about names, let alone hybrid parentage. Such growers are guided only by dollar signs, are interested only in an immediate return for their labors and generally know little about hybridizing.

I know of one grower who boasts of having some 35,000 hybrid *Neoregelia* seedlings. Yet most of these seedlings are the result of self-pollinations of anything and everything that might be in flower at the time. A worker goes around each

morning with a Dirty Brush shaking pollen. Most of the resulting seedlings are sold long before they mature to unknowing retailers or hobbyists. I have seen the results of these self-pollinations and only a very small percentage are worthy of cultivation.

An unknowing public will eventually wise up to such practices, but in the meantime the market becomes flooded with inferior plants.

As to the claim that the general public could care less, nurserymen forget that they were all once part of that general public and that yesterdays' general public are today's bromeliad society members.

There are at present far more illegitimate hybrids than those of known parents.

I keep thinking that if the parentage of all hybrids in cultivation today were known, then the hybridizer with the keen eye would be able to look over the field, study dominant and recessive traits and be able to make more predictable hybrids.

Still another problem is the offering of the same plant under different hybrid names. It is often the biggest game in town and is called, "name that hybrid". This game is played when a nurseryman finds a plant that is new or unknown to him and decides to name it even though he had nothing to do with its creation. They spend little time seeking its origin, nor do they try to find out if the plant already has a name.

I would like to propose to the International Bromeliad Society the adoption of a rule that would require the use of an F2 desig-

nation after the name of a hybrid that was a result of self-pollination, i.e., Ae. Bert

There is strong evidence that the listing of some hybrid parents is nothing more than a hopeful guess.

I will never be able to understand the inconsistency of thought of both the irresponsible hybridizer and irresponsible nurseryman. Both certainly have more than just a casual interest in bromeliads. Both are very much interested in the identification of both species and hybrids in their collections. Both speak out against the mass confusion in nomenclature. Then they turn right around and add to the confusion by their irresponsible acts.

There will always be a segment of bromeliad growers who will ask why all the fuss over correct plant names. They grow bromeliads for their ornamental value and could care less about the name. Plants, like people, need an identity. How else can we read, speak or write intelligently without this identity. And we must all be tuned to the same wave length or the identity system fails. Without this identity there would be no need for this publication and others. No need for plant societies since we simply would not be able to understand one another.

I realize that the remarks written here will cost me some friends. If so, then so be it. The time has come to stand up and be counted. The time has come to think a little more of the bromeliad family as a whole and a little less of personal ego trips or dollar signs. The time has come to restore some sanity back into our favorite plant family. It's later than we think!!

**“WE HAVE REACHED
THE POINT
OF NO RETURN”**

**“UNLESS
THE INCREASE
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GRANDE/7

Reproduced above is the now famous page 7 of GRANDE #3, which, to quote Bert Foster from the rebuttal that follows “sounds like Hitler trying to incite the Germans against the Jews.”

IN DEFENSE OF PROSTITUTION

A Rebuttal
by
Bert T. Foster
Commercial
Bromeliad
Grower

"This article is being written in defense of the irresponsible 'dirty brush' bromeliad prostitutes."

to be dominant in the more affluent of our affluent society. Pansies, gladioli, petunias, lilies, and fifty or so other flowers including most roses

This article is being written in defense of the irresponsible 'dirty brush' bromeliad prostitutes. There are many people who have to make a living growing and selling bromeliads; others have enough time and money to sit around and play with them. There is not a thing wrong with either as long as the 'haves' don't dictate how

"Mulford Foster, the Father of Bromeliads in this country, and one of the world's greatest bromeliad collectors, hybridized and sold 'bastard bromeliads'."

Isn't it fantastic that we can live in a country and in an age where everyone can express his or her opinion, likes and dislikes, philosophies, etc. in public and still remain friendly toward each other . . . most of the time. We in this complex society seem to have difficulty in understanding each other because we have a tendency to become so self-involved in our own thing that only we are right and everyone else is wrong. This philosophy seems

"There are millions of bastard people in this world — should they not be recognized because they don't know either or both of their parents?"

and probably all orchids are enjoyed by millions all over the world for their beauty, as are several hundred foliage plants including hundreds of thousands of bromeliads now sold in this country and in Europe for over 100 years. Probably few if any of the people that bought these items know their proper names. What is the world coming to! Matter of fact they could give a damn what the names are or where they came from or who mated with whom to produce what.

the 'have nots' should conduct their business. That kind of meddling is for the birds.

Mulford Foster, the Father of Bromeliads in this country, and one of the world's greatest bromeliad collectors, hybridized and sold 'bastard bromeliads'. I might add that most of the *now* experts are 'Johnnie come latelays' compared to him.

There are millions of bastard people in this world — should they not be recognized because they don't know either or both of their parents? Why are bromeliads so damn sacred that they all have to have pedigrees before the public can have and enjoy their

