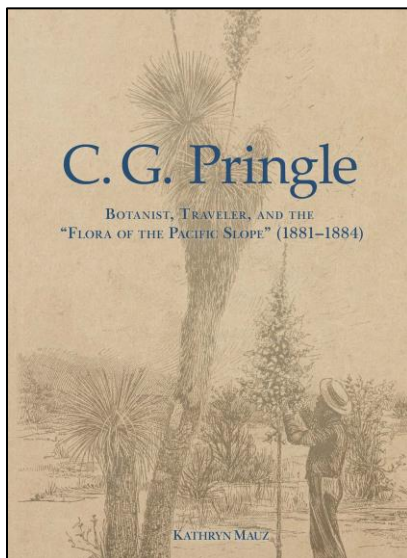


# NYBG

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***C. G. Pringle: Botanist, Traveler, and the “Flora of the Pacific Slope” (1881–1884), Available from NYBG Press, Is Nominated for Prestigious Botanical Literature Award***

Using Herbarium Specimens, Contemporary Accounts, and Correspondence, This Richly Illustrated Work Retraces the Early Expeditions of a Premier 19th-Century Plant Collector



**Bronx, NY**—NYBG Press is pleased to announce that one of its titles, ***C. G. Pringle: Botanist, Traveler, and the “Flora of the Pacific Slope” (1881–1884)*** by Kathryn Mauz, has been nominated for the 20th Annual Literature Award of the Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries for outstanding contributions to the literature of horticulture or botany.

*C. G. Pringle* is a reconstruction of the early expeditions of Cyrus Guernsey Pringle (1838–1911), a premier 19th-century North American plant collector who is best known for his quarter-century of fieldwork in Mexico. Before Pringle embarked on that work in 1885, however, the Vermont native laid down the foundations of his long, prolific career of plant discoveries during a decade of work and expeditions in the United States.

The Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries, an international organization concerned with the development, maintenance, and use of libraries of botanical and horticultural literature, will announce the winners of its 20th Annual Literature Award at its annual meeting, May 14–18, 2019, in Phoenix, Arizona.

The story of C. G. Pringle's early life and work has not been written until now. Not given to self-promotion, he was reluctant to publish autobiographical accounts or even to record his travels for posterity.

As Mauz recounts, Pringle participated in three scientific efforts of national scope beginning in 1875—the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition, the 1880 census of American forests, and the Jesup Collection of North American Woods. Each opportunity was critical not only to his developing expertise in field botany but also to expanding his network of scientific colleagues.

*C. G. Pringle* then retraces his travels and discoveries in the western United States and northwestern Mexico—the Pacific Slope—between 1881 and 1884. Pringle's itinerary is documented in more than 2,700 plant specimens, contemporary accounts, correspondence among more than 20 of his friends and other scientists, and additional primary sources. Photographs, period maps, prints, and plant specimens vividly illustrate the places, plants, and time period. Among the photographs is a previously unpublished series that Pringle took in 1884 in the deserts of Arizona and Sonora, Mexico.

The region where Pringle worked has changed dramatically since the early 1880s, Mauz notes. Coastal salt marshes, desert rivers, inland dunes, redwood forests, and the surroundings of some of the West's largest cities have all been greatly disturbed, and some of the species he collected are now of conservation concern. "Because he traveled so widely, Pringle's finds were not only floristically relevant, but undoubtedly factored into evolving understandings of plant species' relationships and geographic distributions," she writes. "His collections were often among the earliest from the localities where he worked. Many of the plants are still represented in those landscapes today, while others are relics of environments that no longer remain."

***C. G. Pringle*** is volume 120 of the NYBG Press series *Memoirs of The New York Botanical Garden*, which publishes original botanical research by members of The New York Botanical Garden staff or by botanists who have collaborated in one or more of the Botanical Garden's research programs. It is also number three in the Press's Heritage Series, a subseries of the *Memoirs* that focuses on the history of botanical science.

### **Praise for *C. G. Pringle***

The author is to be congratulated for researching and giving us this remarkable account and tribute to Cyrus Guernsey Pringle. The iconic photographs from the late 1800s are fantastic and silently tell of Pringle's botanical achievements. If you like history, particularly botanical exploration and history, then you will want a copy for your personal library.

—Barney Lipscomb, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas, U.S.A.

## About the Author

Kathryn Mauz, Ph.D., investigates topics in historical ecology, incorporating fieldwork, museum specimens, and archival resources. She is a graduate of The Colorado College, completed her Ph.D. at the University of Arizona, and currently lives in her home state of Colorado.

## About NYBG Press

Since 1896 NYBG Press ([nybgpress.org](http://nybgpress.org)) has been publishing books and journals based on original research by scientists from around the world. The mission of NYBG Press is to put information in the hands of those engaged in exploring, understanding, and conserving plants and fungi. Areas of focus include floristics, systematics, economic botany, ecology, evolution, conservation, and ethnobotany. A growing list of books for general readers includes field guides and botanical history.

**Ordering Information:** *C. G. Pringle: Botanist, Traveler, and the "Flora of the Pacific Slope" (1881–1884)* is available through NYBG Press (\$129.99, hardcover). To order, go to [nybgpress.org](http://nybgpress.org) or call 718.817.8721.

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The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants, an educational institution, and a scientific research organization. Founded in 1891, the Botanical Garden is one of the world's preeminent centers for studying plants at all levels, from the whole organism down to its DNA. Garden scientists conduct fundamental research on plants and fungi globally, as well as on the many relationships between plants and people. A National Historic Landmark, the Garden's 250-acre site is one of the greatest botanical gardens in the world and the largest in any city in the United States, distinguished by the beauty of its diverse landscape and extensive collections and gardens, as well as by the scope and excellence of its programs in horticulture, education, and plant research and conservation. Learn more: [nybg.org](http://nybg.org)

The New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458

The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden's general operating funds is provided by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.

**Contact:** Stevenson Swanson, 718.817.8512/8616, [sswanson@nybg.org](mailto:sswanson@nybg.org)