

11-2015

Historical Poinsettia Display

Maggie Mason Smith

Clemson University, mason5@clemson.edu

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Recommended Citation

Mason Smith, Maggie, "Historical Poinsettia Display" (2015). *Presentations*. 63.
https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/lib_pres/63

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November/December 2015

Historical Poinsettia Display



**Photograph taken by Micki Reid,
Cooper Library Public Information Coordinator**

The poinsettia has undergone a remarkable transformation since the day some 800 years ago when the Aztecs plucked it from the wilds of Mexico to decorate their courtyards and medicate the infirm.

From November 9 to 28, wild, heirloom, and modern poinsettias in full flower will grace the lobby of Clemson University's Cooper Library for everyone to appreciate. Banners and historical documents will accompany the display to help guide visitors along the implausible route the humble poinsettia traveled from gangly Mexican shrub to iconic Christmas flower.

To coincide with this Historical Poinsettia display, Cooper Library has created an exhibit celebrating the origin of the poinsettia, its connection to South Carolina, and its rise to prominence. The exhibit will also highlight plant patents issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to protect unique features of the poinsettia, and all asexually reproduced plants.

The library has also created a display of materials for checkout. Available are books on Ambassador Joel Poinsett – a member of the South Carolina legislature and the first United States Minister to Mexico; books on horticulture, including the Ecke Poinsettia Manual; and books on Christmas traditions.



Display Description

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- Posted on Clemson University Libraries' Blog, November 10th 2015

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