

## **Julia Frances McHugh Morton (1912-1996)**

Julia Frances McHugh Morton was killed in an automobile accident last September. Julia and her late husband (Kendal), who died in 1964, collaborated on the formation of the Morton Collectanea, which she directed, and which is housed at the University of Miami. Julia was well known to all pharmacognosists and will always be remembered for her staccato presentations of slides in her scientific presentations at our annual meetings. She authored 10 books, many of which, e.g., *Fruits of Warm Climates*, are indispensable as referenced sources of chemical and pharmacologic information. As a locally, nationally, and internationally recognized authority she cheerfully shared with all her broad knowledge of medicinal and folkloric plants, poisonous species, wild edible plants, tropical fruits, agricultural plants, undesirable weeds, horticultural and landscape plants in these books and in over 100 popular and scientific publications.

Julia wrote on a variety of topics such as esophageal cancer from ingestion of herb teas in Curacao, Venezuela, China, and South Carolina; plants for survival in the jungles of Thailand and Vietnam and poisonous species in south Florida. It didn't matter what the topic was-whether plants were useful, edible, pleasurable, curative or harmful-her writings set the standard. She was a founding member of the Society of Economic Botany (SEB), a trustee of the Fairchild Tropical Garden, and a board member of several other councils and associations. Among her many honors was a D. Sc. Degree and the first "Distinguished Economic Botanist" Award from the SEB.

I last saw Julia in the fall of 1995 in Indianapolis where she was an invited speaker at the New Crops Symposium. She was as sharp as ever and, following the meeting, promptly remembered her promise to send me an autographed copy of one of her books. Her generosity and willingness to share her expertise will be missed by us all.

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