

**Subject:** Re: Biodiversity Heritage Library Scan Request  
**Date:** Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 15:02:19 Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** Marcus Simpson  
**To:** Biodiversity Heritage Library Feedback  
**CC:** Crowley, Bianca

Thanks for the note. Will write more later. Just now on southern Ecuador in a torrential downpour at a jungle lodge.

Mark

On Thu, Mar 19, 2015 at 9:22 AM, Biodiversity Heritage Library Feedback <[feedback@biodiversitylibrary.org](mailto:feedback@biodiversitylibrary.org)> wrote:  
Dear Mark,

You will be pleased to know that these items were recently scanned, and should be available in the BHL in a week or so. We scanned two copies of t.1 and t.2, and both are now available at the Internet Archive (IA) as listed below:

- <https://archive.org/details/Histoirenaturelt1c1Viei>
- <https://archive.org/details/Histoirenaturelt2c1Viei>
- <https://archive.org/details/Histoirenaturelt1c2Viei>
- <https://archive.org/details/Histoirenaturelt2c2Viei>

Soon, clicking "This book is available with additional data" at the Biodiversity Heritage Library in the IA record, will take you to the item in BHL, with all the value added features of being a part of the BHL corpus, including scientific name recognition. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you also, for your query concerning the inclusion of artwork into the BHL. The BHL is aware of the number and variety of artworks and other 'non-book' formats that have strong relevance to users of our collection. Our focus has traditionally been on published works, though now we are incorporating more manuscript materials, including field books, correspondence, and the like. However, stand-alone artwork is currently beyond our scope.

There are many technological challenges and collection development considerations that must be overcome and weighed before BHL would be able to incorporate artwork into our current architecture and mission. However, please know that the idea is under discussion for some future grant project or other expansion of the BHL project, if funding and development allow.

I am copying Bianca Crowley, BHL Collections Coordinator and head of the BHL's Collections Committee which has taken up this discussion for the BHL. I expect your use case and suggestions concerning the incorporation of artworks into the BHL corpus will be of interest to them.

All the best,

Jacqueline



Biodiversity Heritage Library

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On Fri, Jan 23, 2015 at 1:20 PM, Marcus Simpson <[mbsmjw63@gmail.com](mailto:mbsmjw63@gmail.com)> wrote:

Jacqueline,

Thanks for the follow up. I look forward to seeing this Vieillot in BHL.

I have been meaning to ask you about BHL policy regarding the scanning of unpublished original illustrations that are in archives and/or museums. Some years ago I published an article based on William Brewster's journal of his ornithological research in the southern Blue Ridge Mountains. The journal original is in the MCZ library in Cambridge. Just recently I discovered that Brewster's journals have been scanned and are now accessible on BHL. This prompts me to inquire about whether other categories of unpublished documents would be acceptable for inclusion in BHL.

So my question is whether original art work might be a candidate for scanning. As a particular case, I am interested in the bird drawings of John Abbot. (Abbot is best known for J. E. Smith and Abbot Rarer Lepidopterous Insects of Georgia). There are sets of Abbot's watercolor bird drawings in a number of libraries around the world, including a collection in the Smithsonian. A few are in private hands and museums. Regardless of whether sets in private collections (including art dealers) would ever be available for scanning, I would imagine the SI set and perhaps those at the British Library, University of Georgia, and Harvard would be possible.

I have attached two articles on Abbot's birds that I published some years ago. That research involved a considerable amount of travel and direct examination of most of the major collections then available. Lots of fun on the one hand, but expensive on the other. I also had the advantage of a nearly complete set of Abbot's bird drawings on color slides that were copied from the Elsa Allen papers at Cornell.

From the standpoint of the particular institutions, having scanned copies available would reduce the risk of damage that occurs when the drawings are handled by researchers. The question of copyright ownership for such material might be problematic in some cases, but I would assume that could be determined as needed.

Regards,

Mark

On Tue, Jan 20, 2015 at 11:52 AM, Biodiversity Heritage Library Feedback <[feedback@biodiversitylibrary.org](mailto:feedback@biodiversitylibrary.org)> wrote:

Dear Mark,

Thank you for submitting your request for scanning to the Biodiversity Heritage Library. Your request for Louis Jean Pierre Vieillot's *Histoire naturelle des oiseaux de l'Amérique septentrionale* was received. This item has been in our queue for some time, and we hope that we will be able to add a copy to the BHL in future.

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide a timetable for when the material might become available. Many factors, such as the condition, location, or rarity of the items requested, contribute to the speed with which we can fulfill requests. Please keep in mind that our ability to fulfill requests is limited to the collections of the [BHL member institutions](#). To receive notification as to when new material becomes available online, please subscribe to the [RSS feed](#) of recent additions to our collection.

Again, thank you for submitting your request to BHL. We are excited about the opportunity your feedback gives us to strengthen our ever-increasing digital collection. Each additional request we receive for an item in our queue helps us to prioritize our digitization efforts.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline

Jacqueline E. Chapman  
Digital Collections Librarian



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