Spider Literature Display In First Floor Exhibit Case

Rare books on spiders from the collection of Dr. Peter N. Witt, pharmacology, will be displayed in the Basic Sciences Building's first floor exhibit cases during the month of February. Finely detailed plates, drawn without benefit of a microscope, and several of them hand-colored, will be shown from such works as a 1618 German translation of a book by Pliny the Younger, containing probably the first description of spider behavior, first editions of the second and third systematic books ever published on spiders (Albin, 1736; Blackwall, 1861-4); what is probably the first systematic description of American spiders (von Keyserling, 1880-93); the first survey of the history of arachnology (Menge, 1866-79); and several American books on spiders, including a contemporary children's book.