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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

7735 Clover Lane Dec. 17th 45
Upper Darby Pa

Dear Helen -

at last I have good news
for you! - We have located Yuri,
and tho she is suffering from the
terrible conditions in post-war Japan,
at least she is alive and well.

I've thought of you so often this
past year, only my many tasks
connected with setting up business
with 2 young wild ducks scavenging
about, have made letter writing
almost an impossibility. - I wish I
had a photo of us all, to send along -
but alas we have none that does
not insult one member of the family
or another! - After Xmas we are
having a family portrait taken, and if
it comes out well, I shall certainly
send you a copy - I do so want you

to see us, pretty much as we are now!

I hope all your family is well,
Helen - I know you and your
husband must be awfully busy
with the school down there - But the
work must be really interesting. -

To go into a little more detail about
Yuri - She, Fufusceli, his 70 year
old mother and the 2 children -
Nanaka, aged 10 and George not quite
2 - were repatriated from China
last year - they had nothing and
no place to go - Some of F's
relatives in a fishing village kept
them alive the first winter and
now they are both working at Yuri as
in a teaching school (English) part time.

They are having a hard time, but
are looking forward to getting packages
we are sending them to help them
along.

Poor Yuri feels terribly because

she seems to have lost her American citizenship. — She
wants to come back to the United States. — It seems
she voted in the last national elections unaware
that that would cause her to loose her citizenship
here. — I wonder if you might know someone who
might be able to help her, Helen —!

We are sending our letters to you addressed to
a. J. — Colonel Robert W. Gallagher — 43061224
Shikoku M.G. R&G. APO 317
9/10 p.m. SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. —

this boy comes for a nearby town, Chester, and to me
enough to help in the exchange of letters which otherwise
would take so long. — He befriended Jesuscelis
when they were working together in M.G. headquarters!

Yuri's address is

229 Matsushima - cho

Takamatsu - shi

Kagawa - ken

You are the first person she asked
about - and I sent her your address last
Friday! Perhaps you will hear
from Yuri any day!

There is sad news from my
mother's home - grand Uncle Masata
died last year and his 3 sons were
killed in the war -

Please forgive the appearance of
this letter, Helen - It is written
as my young scamps - one 4, the
other 10 are gallying about pretending
to be a zoo - I shall not attempt to
describe the confusion!

Please write if you find time -
and please don't miss when you visit
the States next - we'd so love to see you!

Our very best wishes for a grand Christmas season to
you all. -
Love, Max.

Saturday Dec. 22nd
[1948]

Dear Helen,

How very very glad we were to receive your letter for we have thought of you often and with a feeling of warm friendship since your visit to us in our Lansdowne home so many years ago! - It would have been wonderful to have been able to see you again while you were in the States - but hearing from you is the next best thing - - (I know how out of the way Philadelphia is.).

Much has happened to us during these hard years of war, but mother and father and Warwick (Aunt) and I have weathered the storm as well as most. - Of Yuri - we can only guess a tragic story. - We have heard nothing since she was ill with chilled fever after the birth of her baby girl. Before the war my mother's people tried to find out from Lubuscecki what had happened, and we have tried by Red Cross - to no avail. - In my own mind I am quite sure she never recovered from that fever and was - plained circumstances caused her husband to be loathe to communicate with us. - My mother says

nothing to indicate she doubts you is still living -
but we just don't say anything about it for surely
she must inside herself - realize the probability. For
my mother's sake it is really kinder that no definite
news comes there - if the so-likely worst has occurred. -
Really, Helen, I dread the day when mail is per-
mitted between the U.S. and Japan for many reasons -
my parents had people in Nagasaki, and Kurume -
in fact all of Kyushu, ^{and it} was terribly bombed -!

So turn to news of myself. I must tell
you that I have been married $3\frac{1}{2}$ years and have
a baby girl who will be 2 in January. My husband
is in the army, stationed now in the Philippines. - For
the 'duration' (until Jack is home again) I am with
the folks. Perhaps you know that I had 3 years at
Temple U. art school and have been working off and
on since then as a commercial artist with the Ransley
Glass Company. (I left when I married - but went
back part time to keep busy while my husband
had to be in the army.) - Bud is now teaching
at Penn (Chemistry) and he plans to go to
Minnesota next term where he is offered an
assistant professorship.

Do write again soon, Helen, and let us know
how you are and what you are doing now.

affectionately

May.

P.S. Very best Holiday wishes!

Dear Helen,

Mrs. L. J. [Apr 17-48]
7135 Clove Lane Pa also Mrs. A
upper Darby Pa

I was so pleased to get your letter this morning and I can just imagine how glad Yuri will be when your reply reaches her! We have received quite a few notes from her this past month and I can report that everyone is well tho they lack so many necessities. —

It is so sad to read what Yuri tells of her little Georgie who has just learned to walk at eighteen months and whom she nearly lost upon several occasions — It's a wonder he even survived this past year because Heaven alone knows what they were eating after the repatriation. —

Your determination to get Yuri home cheered us no end for she had just sadly written that there is no hope for her American citizenship — She

repeats over and then over again
that she longs to be home with the
children (she never mentions F's. coming
to the U. S.) — of course I don't know
but I suspect that while Yurie would
dutifully stay with him indefinitely —
parting with him would appear possible to
her. — Certainly I am prejudiced in
the matter, for as you know none of us
ever liked the man ever before he insulted
good Uncle Masata! —

We have been sending warm things
and food as well as letters thru good
Corporal Gallager. — The things should
arrive much faster by army post and
also there is less danger of their being
stolen this way. — You kindly ask
about sending things — I don't know
of any organizations that ship things
to Japanese natives — What Yurie
has asked for are the following articles:

1. Soap
2. matches (not allowed)
3. flour
4. sugar
5. fats
6. hard candy
7. sewing thread
8. shoes
9. candles
10. milk

I really imagine anything would be appreciated for they have so little. I sent some of my woollens - Someone else gave a coat for Nanako - Some of my Constance's baby shoes went along for George - a little food reached them and you never heard such expressions of gratitude. - I really wept - some of Yuri's thank you letters were so pathetic!

Mother is a new woman since we found Yuri and Father is so happy tho he can't sleep night thinking about how she was and in suffering and his

poor undernourished grandchildren.

When I look at my Johnny who weighs 33 lbs. at 14 months and breaks all my furniture as he gallops and pounds and pushes and smashes — and who walked at 10 months — I feel as badly about Georgie! —

Well Helen, this note is being penned just before bedtime so it may be awfully hard reading in places. — My writing never very legible is a justified excuse at the end of a day of wrestling with my household chores and 2 wild wild wild Indians: and of course, tonight it is even worse than usual because John put my arm out of joint as I was trying to restrain him from moving my sofa to and fro — he doesn't look like one, but he'd make a crackerjack Japanese wrestler!

I'll be so glad if you are able to come up this fall' — It's been so long since you visited us in Lansdowne —

I was only 15 then - now I am 26 -
Yuri says I still seem a schoolgirl to her
- but those schoolgirl days seem mighty hazy
to me now.

Please write me whenever you are able -
I'm awfully anxious to hear about your
work with the school - It must be really
fascinating! - Give my regards to all
your family - I surely hope the Malaria
has been completely routed (My husband
got it in the Philippines and I know it's a
nasty disease).

My mother, father and husband
all wish to be remembered to you. -

Love

May.