



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
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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.

After July 1 I will no longer be connected with Yale University School of Forestry. A part of my new work will be concerned with the production problems of tropical woods. I intend, also, to maintain an interest in wood anatomy.

It is my hope that my many friends throughout the world will extend to my successor the generous cooperation they have given to me.

My best regards.

ROBERT W. HESS

New Address:

The Mengel Co.
Louisville 1, Kentucky
U. S. A.

May 25, 1951

YALE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF FORESTRY
NEW HAVEN 11, CONNECTICUT

ms. unrec'd
2/27/48

February 16, 1948

Dr. Paul H. Allen
Botanical Museum of Harvard University
Oxford Street
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

Dear Dr. Allen:

I am sorry to learn that you may not be able to visit us soon. I am in no position to criticize as I have been trying to get to Harvard for nearly three years and can't seem to make it. If at all possible please be sure and stop in even if only between trains on the way to New York.

Unfortunately I have been given an appreciable amount of teaching to do and have been unable to keep up with the requested identifications of tropical woods. There are at least ten lots of wood ahead of me, not to mention numerous individual samples. Some of these are well over a year old and the situation seems to be getting worse. If you wish to add your collection to that group you may receive an identified set eventually. I am inclined to think, however, that it would be better to build the collection in Costa Rica.

TROPICAL WOODS is available at a subscription rate of \$1.00 per year. I am having your subscription entered for the March 1 issue.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Robert W. Hess

Robert W. Hess
Associate Professor of Forest Products
(Editor, TROPICAL WOODS)

RWH:mkh

February 4, 1948

Dr. Robert W. Hess
Associate Professor of Forest Products
Yale University School of Forestry
New Haven 11, Connecticut.

Dear Dr. Hess:

Your very kind contribution of the Brazilian reprint describing the chain saw method of collecting plant specimens reached me via St. Louis shortly before our leaving the Canal Zone. It is very greatly appreciated, and I believe will be the basis for better collections in the future. Many thanks.

I am here at Harvard working up the orchids for the Flora of Panama, and although it now seems relatively close to your establishment, there seems so much to do that I am beginning to wonder when I will be able to see you. Among the many things that I hope to do while in the United States was to see you about a batch of Panamanian wood specimens which I brought with me. They are the miscellaneous lot which you saw, and unfortunately none of them have vouchers of herbarium material, so that they are exactly the sort of odd nuisance such as you must see hundreds of each year.

Do you have the time to go over these, if I send them to you, and return to me a named set, you to keep all the considerable duplicates, or are you already snowed under with similar lots? Since I expect to return to Costa Rica and be working for awhile on a small timber wood project, such a set of specimens would be very valuable to me there, but I realize you may very likely have previous jobs in progress that would make your undertaking them now impossible. If you can do anything with them, I will send the lot to you, and hope that I can see you myself later on.

While I'm in the process of writing, just how does one get on the mailing list to receive *Tropical Woods*? If you will enter my name, and let me know how much the subscription rate is, I will send a check to cover.

Most sincere regards,

Paul H. Allen

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YALE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF FORESTRY
NEW HAVEN 11 CONNECTICUT

October 6, 1947

Dr. Paul H. Allen
Missouri Botanical Garden
2315 Tower Grove Avenue
St. Louis 10, Missouri

Dear Dr. Allen:

The reference to the chain saw for making
herbarium specimens is as follows: "Como Herborizar
Material Arboreo" by M. Kuhlmann, Instituto de Botanica,
Sao Paulo, Brazil, 1947. Presumably you have received
this reference at the Botanical Garden. The excellent
illustrations show the method clearly. It would seem to
me, however, that a thicker chain saw would be more
satisfactory for hard material.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Hess

Robert W. Hess
Associate Professor of Forest Products

RWH:mkh

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