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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.

Gray Herbarium



Harvard University

REED C. ROLLINS, DIRECTOR
ROBERT C. FOSTER, ACTING CURATOR
FRANCIS WELLES HUNNEWELL, RESEARCH ASSOCIATE
EDITH SCAMMAN, RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

A. HUNTER DUPREE, RESEARCH FELLOW
MARJORIE W. STONE, LIBRARIAN AND BIBLIOGRAPHER
PATRICIA A. LEWICKI, ASSISTANT BIBLIOGRAPHER
MICHAEL CANOSO, HERBARIUM ASSISTANT

22 Divinity Avenue

~~70 GARDEN STREET~~

CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS, U.S.A.

May 7, 1954.

Dr. Paul H. Allen, Director
Fairchild Tropical Garden
P. O. Box 407
Coconut Grove, Florida.

Dear Dr. Allen:

Thank you very much for your letter of April 26, calling my attention to the fact that you had not received the Kodachrome slides you had previously loaned to Mr. Lane.

I have, again, talked with Mr. Lane. He claims he has sent the slides, by registered mail, and insured for fifty dollars. He has immediately started a tracer on these from this end and also tells me that he has written you concerning them. If you have not already received them, I hope you will let me know if and when they arrive.

I am very sorry indeed about this whole affair and hope it will not influence you adversely so far as the rest of our establishment is concerned.

With all good wishes,

Cordially yours,

Reed C. Rollins

RCR:c

Reed C. Rollins.

May 6, 1954

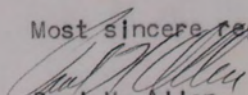
Dr. Reed Rollins
Gray Herbarium of Harvard University
Cambridge 38, Mass.

Dear Dr. Rollins:

You will doubtless be as relieved as I am to learn that all of the negatives and Kodachrome slides were received today, in good condition. Many thanks. I have found in sorting through the lot that there are a number of duplicates, evidently ordered by Lane, together with a few of my own, which I am returning to him as a gift by today's mail.

Mr. Lane tells me that he still has the preserved material, which I do not want any more. You are perfectly welcome to all of it for class work if it is of any use to you. You may be sure that your efforts in my behalf have been very greatly appreciated, and I will be glad to reciprocate in any way that I can.

Most sincere regards,



Paul H. Allen

April 26, 1954

Dr. Reed C. Rollins
The Gray Herbarium of Harvard University
Divinity Avenue
Cambridge 38, Mass.

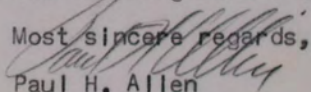
Dear Dr. Rollins:

Since some three weeks have passed without any word from Mr. Lane, I should suppose that as usual he has no intention of doing anything about the set of negatives and Kodachrome slides.

I think under the circumstances that we had better proceed along the lines mentioned in my letter of April first, and hire someone from the Student employment service to stay with him until something materializes. As I told you before, it is worth up to \$10.00 to me to have the job done.

I am particularly sorry that you have had to become involved in all of this, but since I cannot come to Cambridge personally I don't know anyone else to fall back on. All of this started in good faith, on Dick Howard's recommendation of Lane as a promising young chap worthy of encouragement and help. I wouldn't have such a flea in my ear about it excepting that many of the pictures were taken in exceedingly isolated places. I am unlikely to ever see again, and hence irreplaceable. I suppose the moral if any is don't lend negatives to nobody, which I should have learned long before this.

Most sincere regards,


Paul H. Allen

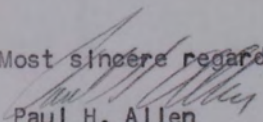
April 1, 1954

Dr. Reed Rollins
Gray Herbarium of Harvard University
79 Garden Street
Cambridge 38, Mass.

Dear Dr. Rollins:

I am extremely sorry to have to make a nuisance of myself again regarding the Heliconia negatives and slides on loan to Irwin Lane. Since I have never to date had so much as a single line from him in answer to my various letters, I consider it completely hopeless to depend on any action from him through ordinary means. If you find you have the time to do so, this will serve as your authorization to telephone the student aid office and contract for the services of someone at not in excess of \$1.50 per hour, who will be expected to arrange a meeting with Lane, get the material, and forward it to me here. I am willing to pay up to a maximum of \$10.00 for the job, simply because the pictures can no longer be replaced.

Most sincere regards,


Paul H. Allen

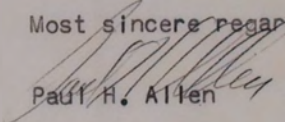
December 17, 1953

Dr. Reed Clark Rollins
Gray Herbarium of Harvard University
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Dr. Rollins:

On June 14, 1952 I left a fair number of negatives and Kodachrome slides with a young chap named Irwin Lane, who was working on Heliconia. My understanding with him at the time was that he was to have duplicates or prints made of anything of use to him, and that he would return the originals. I have written him on two or three occasions while we were still in Costa Rica, but to date I have not had any reply. I wonder if you could tell me if he is still with you, or if he is not where he might be reached at this time.

Most sincere regards,


Paul H. Allen

Gray Herbarium



Harvard University

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79 GARDEN STREET
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS, U.S.A.

December 22, 1953.

Dr. Paul H. Allen,
Fairchild Tropical Garden,
P. O. Box 407,
Coconut Grove, Florida.

Dear Dr. Allen:

Mr. Lane has gone home for the holidays but he will be back in early January and I will confront him with the proposition you have mentioned in your letter of December 17th. Lane may not have gotten the kodachrome slides duplicated as yet, although I have not heard him mention this particular project specifically. I know he does not intend to retain the slides without your permission and probably has overlooked the fact that there has been a long time lapse since you loaned them to him. In any case you can expect to hear from me or from him shortly after the holidays.

Sincerely yours,

Reed C. Rollins

Reed C. Rollins.

RCR:c

Gray Herbarium



Harvard University

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Divinity Avenue
~~79 GARRY STREET~~
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASSACHUSETTS, U.S.A.

Dr. Paul H. Allen,
Fairchild Tropical Garden,
P. O. Box 407,
Coconut Grove, Florida.

Dear Dr. Allen:

Thank you for your letter of April 1. I have called Lane in and have sat on him very hard. I hope you will hear from him and receive the slides within a few days. If you do not, please let me know, for I shall certainly want to bring some disciplinary action upon him if he is not willing to reply to your letters and send back the slides. He claims to have written to you in Costa Rica and received no reply. I regret very much that he has been so negligent but I trust we can take care of the matter between the two of us.

Sincerely yours,

Reed C. Rollins

RCR:c

Reed C. Rollins.