



Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation
5th Floor, Hunt Library
Carnegie Mellon University
4909 Frew Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15213-3890
Telephone: 412-268-2434
Email: huntinst@andrew.cmu.edu
Web site: www.huntbotanical.org

The Hunt Institute is committed to making its collections accessible for research. We are pleased to offer this digitized item.

Usage guidelines

We have provided this low-resolution, digitized version for research purposes. To inquire about publishing any images from this item, please contact the Institute.

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.

Box 11, Cashiers, NC Aug 26 1960

Mr B Y Morrison
R 1 Box 24
Pass Christian, Miss.

Dear Ben

I appreciate very much your willingness to look at my book and write some sort of peroration about it -- maybe the casual reader will need it to know what the book is about.

Herewith I'm sending the carbon copy of the 7 introductory chapters. A few minor changes have been made in the original but nothing significant. And I am sending what (for convenience) I refer to as Book 2 of the tree descriptions. Book 1 is in N.Y. There is no ORDER to these descriptions, so you might as well be reading one as the other to get a glimpse of the objective.

I'm delighted you are going to do this, rather than Geo Lawrence or some of these damned systematic botanists. I wonder how God created all these beautiful things without a systematic botanist around to tell him how. I do all sorts of things the s.b. (that means systematic botanists) don't approve of at all. For example, a little farther on, I put 8 genera in one chapter, because their FLOWERS are EXACTLY ALIKE except color & arrangement on the tree-- Pterocarpus, Tipuana, Platypodium, Vatairea, Vataireopsis, Machaerium and two others. Of course they are diff trees, they have diff pods, etc., but the layman doesn't give a damn; he thinks in terms of the flowers. This would cause a s.b. to turn over in his grave.

You'll note that a few pictures are missing -- I have them but not here and will insert later. I have some editorial work yet to do on Cassia and a few other places. Space has been left to insert the author's names after some species -- I've done this systematically (!) because the names are pretty badly mixed up. I'll do all these details when you send the stuff back to me.

167

In this Book 2 there are 62 genera (~~108~~ species described). There were 46 genera in Book 1. (I don't know how many species but at least 100). In genera like Tabebuia, who the hell am I to say which is prettiest? At the end of the book I'll have a chapter on curiosity trees which are more TALKED about than many flowering trees, but can't be classed with prettiest, like Kigelia, Adansonia, Napoleona, Durio, Chieranthodendron, Lecythis, Parkia, etand there'll be a chapter on Zone 9 trees, I call them borderliners, pretty but not strictly tropical nor temperate, like Virgilia, Castanospermum, Koelreuteria, Hakea, Sophora, Podalyria, Paulownia, ~~Virgilia~~ Pittosporum, etc.

At least 75 more genera will be included in Book 3 which now engrosses my attention. It is toughest to complete because I need so many pictures

that I don't have. I'm cajoling my correspondents all over the world to help me get them but it is a tough job. I have already finished the descriptions of the following in Book 3 and NOT A PICTURE for any of them:

Callisthene

Salvertia

Erisma

Qualea

Bowditchia

Clusia grandiflora (I may have to use pix of C. rosea)

Byrsonima goccalobifolia (" " " " B. cotinifolia)

Lophira

Physocalymma

Erblichia

Billia

Lumnitzera

Belotia

Kleinhovia (can get this pix in Fla one of these days)

Vouacapoua

Bernoullia

Exostemma

Cespedesia

Halleria

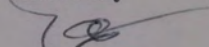
Cephaelis (o.yes, I do **have** color picture of this, but not here)

From the foregoing you will note that my book is NOT about the 200 prettiest trees, but actually about 200 genera and 400 species. But I can't see that the title is too important as to numbers.

So jump in and you'll get swamped with an abundance of flowers. But as I say somewhere in the front, don't try to master them all in a day.

My thanks again and best wishes

Sincerely



P.S. I'll write you about AHS shortly.

EDWIN A. MENNINGER
"THE FLOWERING TREE MAN"
STUART, FLORIDA

Nov. 8 1960

Mr B Y Morrison
Pass Christian

Dear Ben

Please take a quick gander at Book Two (the fat one you have) and send it on back to me as the publishers are hollering and I have some patch work that has to be done before I send it to N.Y. Meanwhile I'll send you another chunk of it when you have time to look at it. Meanwhile you can keep the introductory chapters as long as you like. I don't know whether these publishers are serious but I like to think they are.

All good wishes.

Sincerely,



Drawer 45, Stuart